First Year Seminar A

Registration Code	0063213	**Credits**	2.0
Course Category	Basic GE,1Y Seminar		
Term (Semester) / Day / Period	G-I (1st year, Fall Semester) / Wed. / 2（10:30～12:00）		
Instructor	HUMBLET Marc Andre		
Target Schools (Programs)	Sc(P・C・B)・En(P・C・Au)・Ag(B)		

● Objectives of the course

The goal of this seminar is (1) to teach students how to search for scientific information, (2) to encourage critical thinking, (3) to improve presentation skills, (4) to nurture scientific curiosity, and (5) to promote exchange of ideas about various scientific topics. The seminar is divided into two parts. The first part provides tips on how to search for information and how to give an oral presentation. This is followed by a discussion on centered on the definition of science and the difference between science and pseudoscience. A few lectures on coral reef ecosystems will serve as examples of how science can be communicated. The students will learn about the different kinds of reefs, the biology of corals and coral reefs, the factors controlling reef growth, the present-day threats on coral reefs, and the geological evolution of reefs. Students will also be able to examine hand-sized samples of coral reef limestones and observe thin sections under a microscope. During the second part of the seminar, the students will give two presentations each about any scientific subjects of their choice related to the marine or freshwater world. The fields covered can be as varied as underwater exploration technologies, marine biology, water in the solar system, hydroelectric energy… Each presentation is followed by a Q&A session. Class participation is strongly encouraged.

● Content of the course

1. Introduction: tips on information search and oral presentation
2. What is science?
3. Science vs. pseudoscience
4. Coral reefs: diversity, past evolution and future trends
5. Lab session
6. Oral presentations by students

● Evaluation methods

There is no written examination. The grading is based on class participation (30%) and oral presentations (70%).

Students will be graded following the five-step S-A-B-C-F grade evaluation system.

S: 90-100%, A: 80-89%, B: 70-79%, C:60-69%, F: 59-0%

A student will be given an “Absent” grade if he or she submits a Course Withdrawal Request by the 15th of November. This deadline does not apply to students who drop the class part-way through for an exceptional reason (e.g. illness, accident).

Textbook	
Reference Book	