SLAPTON LEY, DEVON

DR ED TURNER (ZOOLOGY)
PROF DAVID COOMES (PLANT SCIENCES)

The course is based at the Slapton Ley Field Studies Centre on the coast eight mile east of Kingsbridge in South Devon. Several days will be spent in and around the Salcombe ‘Estuary’ which is a fully-marine, drowned river valley system, studied over many years by the Marine Biological Association. An exposed rocky shore outside the estuary will be examined in detail. The large freshwater lake at Slapton Ley itself will also be used, when tides are unsuitable for shore work, to increase the range of organisms seen.

The course will reinforce evolutionary themes brought up in the lecture course. We will examine the exceptionally rich intertidal fauna on shores near Slapton. We also plan to visit the Eden Project to study the enormous diversity of plants that grow in different biomes. We will help you revise your evolution lectures by comparing the features of various phyla found around Slapton. Talks will cover a broad range of general topics in ecology, behaviour and evolution, as well as helping you hone your identification skills. Students will be able to undertake project work which they can present at the end of the week.

Slapton Ley
16—23 March 2018
20 places available

ORIELTON, PEMBROKESHIRE

DR DAVID ALDRIDGE (ZOOLOGY)
DR SAM BROCKINGTON (PLANT SCIENCES)

The course is based at the Orielton Field Centre (Field Studies Council), which provides both laboratory space and accommodation. Visits will be made to a number of the localities around Milford Haven and the Angle and Marloes peninsulas in South Pembrokeshire. The area is exceptionally rich in rocky, sandy and muddy shores, all of which contain a huge diversity of animals and plants. There is also a wealth of woodland, freshwaters, cliffs, sand-dunes and saltmarshes.

The aim of the course is for students to experience a wide diversity of living organisms and consider evolutionary processes in the field. Throughout the week, the structure and behaviour of the plants and animals we see will be discussed from an evolutionary perspective. Daily visits will be made to intertidal, freshwater and terrestrial habitats. The organisms we see in the lab and field will be put into context during regular talks on important groups and on the evolutionary structure and dynamics of the community we experience. On the last two days, students will be encouraged to do short projects in pairs on any aspect of the course that has particularly fascinated them.

Orielton
14—21 April 2018
35 places available

Cost: £50
Students will be expected to pay by Wednesday 7th February 2018

Transport:
Slapton: students must make their own way to Totnes station.
Orielton: students must make their own way to Pembroke station.

Clothing:
Please note that warm clothing and waterproofs will be needed on the course. Boots and waterproofs may be hired at the centre for a small fee.

Applying:
Fill in the online application form on the Evolution and Behaviour Moodle site by:
Friday 26 Jan 2018, 12.00 noon.

Places on both courses will be allocated by:
Wednesday 31st Jan 2018, by ballot if oversubscribed.

Further Information:
http://www.field-studies-council.org/orielton/index.aspx
Or
http://www.field-studies-council.org/centres/slapton/slaptonley.aspx