Summer reading list for FW 382

Here are some options for summer reading related to our course. None are required, but I hope you will take some of your free time and enjoy preparing for our class by reading a book or two. You should be able to get these books at, or through, your local library. I will also supply links to Amazon. I will add more books as I find them.


This is an edited, scientific volume that is dense with tables and graphs of data and focused on the islands in the Gulf of California. We will visit some of these islands in the south part of the Gulf. I do not suggest you start with this one, unless you are into very dry reports. This is not light, summer reading.


This is a very nice book about the conservation story of the gray whale (we should see these near Todos Santos). It is a nice read – especially if you like whales.


The Kindle version is $2.99)

This is a memoir about terrestrial field work and collecting in Baja California Sur in the 1960's. If you are, or want to be, a field biologist, I think you will like this book. Much of the book takes place in the area around La Paz, Todos Santos, etc. – places we will visit. You will get a historic view of the area through the lens of a field biologist.


This book focuses on a student group trip, similar to ours, to the north part of the Gulf of California. You will learn a bit about the evolutionary ecology and conservation of some of the marine animals we might see, as well as a bit about group dynamics. A recent book.


This is a classic natural history travelogue about Baja. We will only be in Baja California Sur, but we will see many of the organisms discussed in the book. The book will also give you a historical perspective on the Baja.


This is written by a classic author about collecting marine organisms in the Gulf of California. Well worth reading. Do not confuse this book with another Steinbeck book entitle “Sea of Cortez”. You should be able to find a cheap electronic copy or a used paperback.