

GENERAL INFORMATION

Professor Information



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Course Description And Purpose

Although our planet is overwhelmingly oceans, life originated in the oceans and oceans are home to the overwhelming majority of living organisms of our earth, we know less about the oceans than perhaps the surface of the moon.

Apart from being the main supplier of oxygen to our atmosphere, the oceans are also major sources of food and energy for us. The oceans are the major sink for carbon; without this sink our planet would move on an uncontrolled path towards global warming. Ocean currents keep our climate equitable making it possible for human civilization to flourish.

Yet the oceans are the biggest dumping ground for human wastes, the effect of which we are yet to understand or ascertain. Agriculture, Mining, Power generation are continuously affecting the order and function of the ocean system and by our interference we are impacting the cycling rates and the global biogeochemical cycles that affect not only the oceans but the entire earth.

Volcanoes, mountains and canyons, greater than any on the land exist under the oceans. Oceans provide the heat for the hurricanes, cause coastal and beach erosion, generate tidal waves. Over half the human population lives in the coastal regions and are directly affected by oceanic processes and hazards. This was so tragically highlighted by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and the 2011 Fukushima disaster.

Global Learning Course Objectives

Global Awareness: Students will be able to understand the scientific information and key concepts of oceanography, the interaction between the ocean and the other earth systems (i.e., hydrosphere, lithosphere, biosphere and atmosphere) and also the impact of such interactions on the humans and on human societies.

Cultural Perspective: Students will be able to analyze issues affecting world's oceans from multiple perspectives (i.e. from the perspectives of different people, nations, cultures, population needs, technology, sustainability, natural cycles), including analysis of the perspectives of various stakeholders of the impact of these issues on oceans and humans.

Global Engagement: Students will be able to propose personal, political, and global decisions and initiatives needed at the present and in future for adaptation and mitigation of the challenges facing the ocean environment.

Global Learning Graduation Honors

FIU's Excellence in Global Learning Graduation Medallion is awarded to students who complete at least four global learning courses, participate in a variety of global co-curricular activities, and complete a capstone consisting of one of the following: a substantial original research project and presentation on a global topic; extensive foreign language study; long-term study abroad; or, a globally-focused internship. The Peace Corps Prep certification is conferred upon students who complete at least three global learning courses, language study, and a global problem-solving project. For more information, visit [FIU Global Learning](http://fiu.edu/globallearning).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Policies

Please review the [FIU's Policies](#) webpage. The policies webpage contains essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU, as well as additional information about acceptable netiquette for online courses.

Technical Requirements & Skills

One of the greatest barriers to taking an online course is a lack of basic computer literacy. By computer literacy we mean being able to manage and organize computer files efficiently, and learning to use your computer's operating system and software quickly and easily. Keep in mind that this is not a computer literacy course; but students enrolled in online courses are expected to have moderate proficiency using a computer. Please go to the "[What's Required](#)" webpage to find out more information on this subject.

Please visit our [Technical Requirements](#) webpage for additional information.

Accessibility And Accommodation

Please visit our [ADA Compliance](#) webpage for information about accessibility involving the tools used in this course.

Please visit [Blackboard's Commitment Accessibility](#) webpage for more information.

For additional assistance please contact FIU's [Disability Resource Center](#).

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Proctored Exam Policy

Please note that the information contained in this section applies only if your course requires a proctored exam.

Through a careful examination of this syllabus, it is the student's responsibility to determine whether this online course requires proctored exams. Please visit our [Student Proctored Exam Instructions](#) webpage for important information concerning proctored exams, proctoring centers, and important forms.

Textbook



Ocean Studies: Intro to Oceanography

John M. Moran

Education Program American Meteorological Society, 3rd edition, 2011

ISBN-10: 1878220489

ISBN-13: 9781878220486

[Book Info](#). You may purchase your textbook online at the [FIU Bookstore](#).

Older edition of the book is perfectly acceptable. The older edition was published under the name of "Online Ocean Studies". Inexpensive used copies are available in Amazon, eBay and various other online sites like Half.com and Powell books. Please get the book immediately because you will not be able to do the quizzes without the book. I will post a pdf of the first two chapters of the book and there **will be no relaxation of deadlines because your book did not reach you in time**

Expectations Of This Course

This is an online course, which means most (if not all) of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same for a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

COURSE DETAIL

Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place via Email

The Email feature is an external communication tool that allows users to send emails to users enrolled within the course. Emails are sent to the students' FIU email on record. The Email tool is located on the Course Menu, on the left side of the course webpage. The link might be marked as "messages"

Visit our [Writing Resources](#) webpage for more information on professional writing and technical communication skills.

Quizzes

A quiz generally correspond to approximately one chapter worth of material from the text. You will get two attempts at every quiz, the higher grade will be automatically recorded. The quizzes and the exams are time limited and Blackboard will force a submission after the time is over.

Your quizzes will be graded by the computer and the scores will be available immediately after submission.

You can see your answers and also the correct answers after the quiz deadline is over. Quiz deadlines are generally on the midnight of Sunday of the week when the quizzes are posted but the deadlines will be on Thursday nights for quiz 5 and quiz 10 which are on the weeks of the midterm exams. This is so that you will have a chance to see the correct answers before the exam which I will schedule on the weekend for Midterm 1 and 2.

There will be no relaxation of the deadline for the quizzes UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. Please don't wait till the last moment to submit these assignments. The deadlines will not be extended even if FIU server dies, your computer crashes, there is a flood in Miami, Heat loses NBA finals, you smash your car, whatever.

Suggestions:

- Read the notes and chapters before you attempt the quizzes.
- You may take the quizzes up to 2 times. The highest score is recorded.
- Take the Quizzes on time. Quizzes will not be available after the due date. Please do not leave your assignments for the last moment.
- Do your assignments and quizzes early so you can get help if needed.

Exams

- Exams will be offered online but you must take the exam within the time and date stipulated.
- Time for exam: you should leave free a 90 minute block of time for each Midterm and 3 hours for the final (the exams will be of shorter duration, but you should plan to have some extra time in hand). Although the class officially "meets" on Tuesdays and Thursdays, I have scheduled the exams on the weekends. If you have problem taking the exams on weekends then you must contact me at the beginning of the semester and arrange for an alternate day before hand.
- You will be severely penalized for going over time in the exams.
- Please check the exam dates --- no make-up will be given. If you forget the exam date – you will end up with a zero.

Group Projects

This course is designated to fulfil the requirement of Global Learning course. A Global Learning course requires you to know the material, analyze issues from different perspective and be engaged in finding a solution to the global problems. This class also has

adopted an active learning strategy in which the students learn to learn by themselves and help each other in learning. This the students in this course will do by participating in group projects.

1. All students will be divided in to several groups. Please check the group pages to find out which group you belong to and who are the other group members. Establish a communication between the group members in the first week of the classes.
2. I will post group projects in the Discussion Board. Not all groups have to submit a project in a particular week. Very often more than one groups will examine an issue from different perspectives
3. The groups will post their project in the discussion board within the deadline. Every group member has to take part in preparing the project and the submission should clearly show the work done by each member. Any student who does not contribute to a project will get zero credit.
4. Once the projects are posted, I expect the rest of the students to post their comments on the project. Your comment should be critical not something innate like "This is a nice project" or "we all should be concerned about global warming"
5. In addition to the group projects, all students need to take part in a community engagement project of their choice as part of the "Global Engagement" requirement. The way I see it is: we all are complaining about the sad state of our things (waste, global warming, ocean acidification). What we all need to do is to something about all the problems instead of just complaining. So for your part, you need to "do something" about any of the problems facing the world's oceans. Your grade on this project will depend on how much effort you put in the project and how effective has been the outcome of the project. We will discuss further on this once the class starts.

Grading

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Percent for Each	Weight
Quizzes	15	2%	30%
Midterm Exams	2	10%	20%
Final Exam	1	20%	20%
Group Projects	2	10%	20%
Community Engagement	1	10%	10%
Total	-	-	100%

Letter	Range	Letter	Range	Letter	Range
A	90 - 100	C+	75 - 79	F	0 - 59
B	80 - 89	C	70 - 74		
	70 - 79	D	60 - 69		

COURSE CALENDAR

Weekly Schedule

Week	Dates	Reading	Assignment	Deadline
1	8/22-8/28	Chapter 1: Ocean in the Earth System	Quiz 1	8/28

Week	Dates	Reading	Assignment	Deadline
2	8/29-9/4	Chapter 2: The Ocean Basins: and Plate Tectonics 8/29 Last day to drop/add without financial liability	Quiz 2	9/4
3	9/5-9/11	Chapter 3: Properties of Ocean Water 9/5 Labor Day, University Closed	Quiz 3	9/11
4	9/12-9/18	Chapter 4: Marine Sediments 9/16 Last day to withdraw with a 25% tuition refund	Quiz 4	9/18
5	9/19-9/25	Chapter 5: The Atmosphere and Ocean	Quiz 5 Midterm 1 Exam (Online): Chapters 1 - 5	9/22 9/24 9/24
6	9/26-10/2	Chapter 6: Ocean Currents	Quiz 6 Submission of Group Project #1	10/2
7	10/3-10/9	Chapter 7: Waves and Tides	Quiz 7	10/9
8	10/10-10/16	Chapter 8: The Dynamics Coast	Quiz 8	10/16
9	10/17-10/23	Chapter 9: Marine Ecosystem	Quiz 9	10/23
10	10/24-10/30	Chapter 10: Life in the Ocean	Quiz 10	10/30
11	10/31-11/6	Chapter 10: Life in the Ocean 10/31 Deadline to drop with D grade or withdraw with a WI grade	Quiz Deadline: 11/3 Midterm 2 Exam (Online): Chapters 6 - 10	11/5-11/6
12	11/7-11/13	Chapter 11: Ocean, Atmosphere and Climate Variability 11/11 Veteran's Day, University Closed	Quiz 11 Submission of Group Project #2	11/13
13	11/14-11/20	Chapter 12: The Ocean and Climate Change	Quiz 12	11/20
14	11/21-11/27	Chapter 13: The Future of the Ocean 11/24-11/25 Thanksgiving Holidays	Quiz 13 Submission of the Community Engagement Project	11/27
	11/28-12/4	Chapter 14: Ocean Stewardship Chapter 15: Ocean Problem and Policy	Quiz 14 Quiz 15	12/4
16	12/5-12/10	Final Exam (Cumulative and Online)		12/10