



Science and Technology Division

Course	Oceanography 100 – Fall 2013
Instructor	Bridget James
Class Location	Online except for on-campus exams.
Office Hours	Online
Office Location	Online
E-mail	jamesb@smccd.edu
Course Website	http://smccd.mrooms.net/

Highly Recommended Orientation: August 21st (Wed) 4:05 – 4:55 pm in room 21-100 at Cañada College

Required Materials:

- Garrison, Tom, 2009, Essentials of Oceanography, 6th edition (any older edition is fine)
- Two Scantrons (Form 882-E) and a #2 pencil
- Regular access to a computer with an internet connection and printer

Course Description and Objectives:

This course is an introduction to the science of the ocean and its bordering lands. How scientists evaluate ocean processes using the scientific method will be emphasized throughout the course. What should you take from this course: 1.) Recognize and apply methods of science where conceptual, quantitative and analytical techniques are used; 2.) Recognize and apply basic concepts and vocabulary essential to the study of the Earth and its related phenomenon; 3.) Use your knowledge of Earth's processes to make informed decisions as an active participant in the democratic process.

About Online Courses:

Online courses are much different from traditional lecture courses. They offer much more flexibility in completing material. However, you will need to have good discipline in completing assignments in a timely manner. This class taught traditionally meets in the classroom three hours per week. This means that each module will take you three hours per week to complete on your own time. This does not include the extra study and homework time in addition to those three class hours. If you are planning on mastering the material covered this semester, you will need to make sure you are engaged with the coursework on a regular basis, week by week. Last minute crash sessions will not be enough to succeed in this course.

Another difference is that you will not be able to ask me questions during lecture and get answers immediately as in a traditional lecture setting. It is very important therefore to make sure you write down your questions while you are listening to my narrated lecture online, so that you can remember to ask me after you are finished via email. Posing questions to your fellow students on the forums (see information on the forums below) can also help as well.

Course Requirements:

To pass this course, you will be required to attend all class meetings on time (both online and in the classroom) and satisfactorily complete “Ocean Discovery” Activities (30%), Forum Participation (10%), and Exams (60%). Each are explained below in more detail.

Modules:

A module is a specific and discrete learning segment that leads to the understanding of a given topic. Modules will be assigned weekly online. Each module will usually be associated with a particular chapter or chapters from your textbook. Modules include all assignments that will be completed for a particular topic for that week (whether turned in or not). Modules are to be completed the week they are assigned. More details on these assignments, including which ones will be turned in, as well as how they will be turned in are explained below.

Assigned Reading in Garrison’s “Essentials of Oceanography”:

Each topic on the schedule has associated reading in your textbook. You should plan to read topic materials in advance of attempting assignments relating to a particular module. You may purchase any edition of this textbook.

Lectures

Lectures will be presented online as Power Point presentations converted into a movie file that can be watched and listened to with “Quicktime” software (both PC and Mac compatible). If you are one of the few who has trouble opening the lecture file for viewing, please go to the “Required Computer Software” link on the top center of the main course page and download Quicktime. If that does not help, you can ask me for advice, but you may be required to go to the Learning Center to view the lectures. Be sure to bring earphones with you.

You should take notes while listening to the lecture. For your convenience, I have provided in .pdf format the lecture slides with space next to each slide for note taking. In addition to note taking, any questions you may have during the lecture should be written down to ask me about later via email or through online forum participation with your fellow students. You will not be turning in these notes for credit. The note files are provided for your convenience only if you would like to use them.

Missing lectures can severely impact your ability to learn the material, complete activities effectively, and most likely will severely hurt your grade, much like in a traditional class. Be sure to discipline yourself to listen to these lectures and take notes.

Class Participation – Forums (10% of your grade):

A forum will be provided within each module so that you may discuss anything relating to the Earth Sciences with the rest of the class. Participation in the online forums can include anything from sharing information on a current event in the earth sciences to asking one of your fellow students for help on a question you may have in a lecture or other course material. I will participate from time to time as well, mostly adding current events, giving you additional resources for each topic, or leading students in the right direction for answers to questions posed in the forums. (Note: Any questions that you need immediate answers to should be emailed to me.) I will be grading you on the quantity and quality of your posts in the forums. The more you participate (on time and as stated in the rubric), the better your grade. See the grading rubric provided on the course website (top center of the main course page) for important details on how the forums will be graded. This assignment is worth 100 points.

Ocean Discovery Packets (30% of your grade):

Ocean Discovery Packets include the accumulation of all your module activities, which will be stapled together and turned in as a packet. Each activity is to be completed the week the module is assigned. However, you will hold on to your completed activities until it is time to turn it in when we meet for our exams. Activities for Modules 1-6 will be collected midway through the semester at the day and time of Exam #1 in the classroom, which is scheduled for Thursday, March 7th 1 PM. Activities for Modules 7-12 will be collected near the end of the semester at the date and time of Exam #2, which is scheduled for Thursday, May 9th at 1 PM. **WARNING:** Activities sometimes involve using outside resources (movie links, etc) to websites that are out of my control. These websites can easily be removed or go out of commission by their owners without notice. If a website goes down the week the module activity is assigned or before, I will replace the activity with a new one. If the website goes down after the due date for the module has passed, I will not replace the assignment with a new one.

Exams (60% of your grade):

There will be two exams given this semester. Exam #1 covers Modules 1-6 and Exam #2 covers Modules 7-12. Each exam is worth 300 points for a total of 600 points (60% of your course grade). All exams require scantron form 882-E (half-sheet/green color). The answers you choose on your scantron for each exam are your final answers. Exams are objective (multiple-choice). **The date for Exam #1 is Wednesday, October 16th, 2013 at 5:30 PM (Classroom location to be announced). The date for Exam #2 is Wednesday, December 11th, 2013 at 5:30 PM (Classroom location to be announced).** Please see the study guide for details about each individual exam. Study guides are posted a few weeks before each exam on the course website. A sample test will also be provided online at the same time.

If you miss an exam due to an emergency, contact me as soon as you are physically able via email and I may allow you to take a make-up exam at a later date depending on the severity of the emergency. If I have not heard from you within 24 hours of missing the exam, you will receive a score of zero for that exam, regardless of the reason. See policy on late work below. Make-up exams are either short-answer essay or oral, at my discretion.

Note: Mismatching your calendar or remembering the exam date incorrectly is not a serious or compelling reason for missing an exam.

If you have a scheduling conflict with one or both of the exam dates and times, you can take the exam before (not after) the rest of the class takes their exam. I will schedule your objective (multiple-choice) exam in the Learning Center as long as you give me a one-week advance notice before the exam of your scheduling conflict (so I have time to create your unique exam).

Grading:

Exams (2)	60% (600 points)
Ocean Discovery Packets (2)	30% (300 points)
Forum Participation	10% (100 points)
Total Points:	100% (1000 points)

A: 900-1000 points
B: 899-800 points
C: 799-700 points
D: 699-600 points
F: 599-0 points

Important Note on Final Grades:

Grades are non-negotiable. Once a final grade has been determined, I will not change it unless there is a calculation error. Borderline grades are always carefully considered before issuing a final grade. If I did not bump you up to the next grade level, you can be assured the decision was made carefully and a request to change it will not be considered. No exceptions.

Important Note on Extra Credit:

I do not give student requested extra credit. No exceptions.

Important Note Late and Emailed work:

Late work is not accepted. Emailed work is not accepted. No exceptions.

Important Note on Attendance:

If you have not logged in to WebAccess (course website) within two weeks of the start of instruction and did not attend orientation, I will most likely be dropping you from the course. I also reserve the right to drop any student who has not logged into the course website for two straight weeks at any time during the semester. This does not mean that I will necessarily drop you from the course. It is always the student's responsibility to drop a course they are no longer attending. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please let me know!

Policy on Academic Dishonesty:

A student who displays inappropriate conduct (including cheating and plagiarism) may be subject to disciplinary action. Any student may be expelled, suspended, placed on probation, or given a lesser sanction depending on the severity of the offense. For more information, please see the college catalog.

Tentative Topics & Schedule:

Module 1: Introduction to Oceanography, Aug 21st – Sept 1st (Two week module)

Module 2: The Earth's Interior, Sept 2nd – 8th

Module 3: Plate Tectonics, Sept 9th – 15th

Module 4: Continental Margins & Ocean Basins, Sept 16th – 22nd

Module 5: Ocean Sediments, Sept 23rd – 29th

Module 6: Heat & Temperature, Sept 30th – Oct 6th

Review Week: Oct 7th – 13th

Exam #1: Wednesday, October 16th, 2013 from 8:00 – 9:00 pm (Look at study guide for classroom location)

Module 7: Properties of Water, Oct 14th – 20th

Module 8: Circulation of the Atmosphere, Oct 21st – 27th

Module 9: El Nino, Oct 28th – Nov 3rd

Module 10: Ocean Circulation, Nov 4th – 10th

Module 11: Waves, Nov 11th – 17th

Module 12: Coastlines, Nov 18th – 27th

HOLIDAY: Nov 28th – Dec 1st

Review Week: Dec 2nd – 10th

Exam #2: Wednesday, December 11th, 2013 from 8:00 – 9:00 pm (Look at study guide for classroom location)

Note: There will be no cumulative final exam. Exam #2 is the last exam for the course.