

Oceanography (OCAN 1) Syllabus

City College of San Francisco
Earth Sciences Department

- Course:** Oceanography (OCAN 1)
- Instructor:** Jim Kuwabara
- Class Hrs/Location:** Thursday Evenings, 6:30 – 9:30 pm, Mission Campus, Room 276
- Office Hours:** 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm, Thursday (i.e., in the classroom prior to lecture)
- E-mail:** kuwabara@usgs.gov
- Requirements:** None. English fluency highly recommended.
- Required Textbook:** Sverdrup, K.A. and Ambrust, V.E., 2009, An Introduction to the World's Oceans, 10th Edition: McGraw Hill, New York, 508 p. (Used editions acceptable)
- Nature of Course:** This course consists of a once weekly 3-hour lecture and gives 3-units of general education credit. It is designed to meet the needs of non-science majors and will transfer to the University of California and California State University Systems.
- Course Description:** Geologic, chemical and physical history of our oceans including currents, waves, tides and coastal processes. Evolution of the oceans and ocean basins with emphasis on the interaction of the physical environment with chemical and biological processes.
- Attendance:** Legibly sign in **and out** on the attendance sheet each class. Students must attend all class meetings at the assigned time. It is very important to be on time! It is disruptive to the class and to me if you walk into class late. If you miss more than four class meetings, you can be dropped from the course. When unavoidably arriving late to class or leaving class while it is in session, please be as undistruptive as possible. There is no need to ask permission or give excuses. You're all adults, so I assume you're making the best choices for yourself based on your understanding of the consequences. Coming to class late or leaving early can be counted as an absence, so be sure to check with me after class. If you stop attending, please do not assume that I have dropped you from this class. It is the student's responsibility to drop a course within the time frame given in the schedule of classes. Failure to do so in the Admissions and Records Office will result in an F for this course. Please don't let this happen to you!
- Decorum:** No food should be eaten during class, but covered drinks are okay. Please turn off all electronic devices (for example, cell phones and pagers) while class is in session. Personal conversations taking place during class can easily disrupt the discussion or lecture. **If you need to have a conversation during a discussion or lecture, please go outside the classroom to do so.**
- I occasionally make mistakes or misspeak, and the information base for scientific disciplines is constantly changing. If in doubt, do not hesitate to confirm or question the information that I or the text provide. Also, feel free to contact me during office hours with comments or suggestions that might enhance your learning experience. Also, please refrain from using strong perfumes or fragrances while attending classes so that the air is easy to breathe for all students

and teachers.

Students with disabilities or those who think they might have a disability are encouraged to seek support services from the Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPP) office in Room 151 of the Mission Campus. Teachers are not required to give classroom accommodations unless students are working with DSPP. You can also call the office at (415) 920-6037.

Homework: It is critical that the reading assignments are completed on time, because they have been set up so that you gain some exposure and basic understanding of the topics prior to the lecture. The more you read and study the material before class, the more you will get out of class, and the better you will do on exams. All classroom activities assume that you have taught yourself all you can on your own first and that you, therefore, have a basic understanding of the material. If you do not prepare well enough, you may have difficulty following and participating in classroom discussion. Re-read the material after class to solidify the concepts in your mind. If at the end of the week you still have questions or doubts on any of the topics, seek help as soon as possible. Each student obviously learns at a unique pace by unique methods, but it will generally take about 2 hours to prepare for each class at a passing level. As with most courses, what you get from the course is directly related to the effort you put in.

Quizzes: There are six scheduled quizzes given in this class: four are completed during class and two are completed outside class (i.e., take home quizzes). Only the top five of six scores are counted for your semester grade. The type of quiz (in class or take home) will only be announced on the day of the quiz. The “in class” quizzes will primarily be on terminology to indicate whether a student has completed reading assignments and understands the basic vocabulary used in the lectures. The “take home” quizzes are collected **only** at the beginning of class on the assigned date. They will be of the same format as “in class” quizzes. **You cannot make up missed quizzes. No exceptions.** That’s why only 5 of 6 quiz scores will count for your grade. If you are having difficulties making quizzes, see me as soon as possible (at least 2 weeks before the designated quiz).

No dictionaries, calculators, or electronic devices are allowed during “in class” quizzes.

Exams: There are three exams given in class: two mid-term exams and one final. You will only need to bring #2 pencils for the exams. Exams can consist of multiple-choice, matching, or short-answer type questions. Questions cover topics that have appeared in the text, videos, class-room discussions and the assignments. The final exam will also cover group-presentation topics. **You must take the exam on the scheduled days.** Exceptions are made only for documented, extenuating circumstances and only when alternate arrangements have been made with the instructor **at least 2 weeks prior to the absence.**

No dictionaries, calculators, or electronic devices are allowed during exams. Please ask me during the exam if questions need clarification.

Field Trip: There is one **optional** field trip. The date and location of the field trip will be announced in a few weeks. You are required to provide your own transportation. The instructor (me) and/or City College of San Francisco will hold no liability during your commute or participation in this activity. A liability-waiver form must be completed to attend the field trip. I will provide details about the field trip in a couple of weeks. Although your participation is voluntary, most will find that the hands-on experience will significantly enhance your understanding of the concepts described in the class lectures (It should also be fun!).

Group Presentation: You will be required to give a group presentation (including a short oral explanation) on a topic in Oceanography. I will give you guidelines and examples of topics. You may choose your own topic, but it must be approved by the instructor. You will typically work with 2-3 other students in the class on researching the topic and presenting it as a group presentation in our final regular class meetings of the semester. Although you will be working in groups, your contributions to the group presentation will be individually evaluated.

Late Assignments: Four types of assignments will be given in this course; activities, quizzes, exams, and a group presentation. Activities and quizzes cannot be made up regardless of the reason. For example, being sick the day the quiz is handed out is not a good reason. Exams can only be made up in the case of a **verifiable emergency**. Unless there is a **verifiable emergency** for missing the group presentation, that student will receive zero points for the oral part of the grade.

Required Materials: You will need your textbook, pencil, eraser and a notebook for lecture notes, as well as binder paper (less than 40 sheets) for assignments and in-class exercises. This is a good time to mention that **any illegible part of graded papers (for example, messy pen cross-out marks) will not receive points**. Why? Because, I would like to devote an equitable amount of time in evaluating each student's work. It is not fair to fellow students if the instructor needs to spend an inordinate amount of time trying to guess what has been written. Please use a computer (for example, those available on campus) as much as possible to do your assignments. Pencils are okay too, but developing computer skills to do your assignments will be a long-term bonus. Please remember, **messy, illegible work = 0 points**. Exams must be done in pencil, to avoid frustrating corrections during the exam.

Grading:	Mid-term Exams (2)	150 points each	<u>GRADING SCALE</u>	
	Final Exam	200 points	90 - 100%	A
	Quizzes (5 of 6)	50 points each	80 - 89%	B
	Group Pres. (1)	150 points	70 - 79%	C
	Activities (5)	20 points each	60 - 69%	D
	Field Trip (1)	Voluntary	under 60%	F
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	Total:	1000 points		

The total points for the course are tentative. The percentage scale is not. I may add or take out quizzes and activities due to scheduling, etc. There will be three exams for the course. All quizzes and activities are designed to help you do well with each exam. Although the final exam is cumulative, it will focus primarily on the material covered after Exam #2.

Course Outline

Oceanography 1 – Fall 2010, Thur. 6:30 – 9:30 pm, Mission Campus, Room 276

Date	Topic	Homework*
8/19/2010	Introduction (History and the Water Planet)	Read Ch. 1 - 3
8/26/2010	Plate Tectonics	Re-read Ch. 3, Read Ch. 4
9/2/2010	Quiz #1 (Tectonics) The Sea Floor and Marine Sediments, Prepare for Exam 1 Review Group-presentation assignment	Re-read Ch. 4
9/9/2010	Last day for class withdrawal without a notation on your permanent record.	
9/9/2010	Marine Sediments (con'td); EXAM I	Read Ch. 5
9/16/2010	Physical Properties of Water	Re-read Ch. 5 Read Ch. 6
9/23/2010	Chemistry of Water; Quiz #2 (Water)	Re-read Ch. 6, Read Ch. 7
9/30/2010	Air-Sea Interaction; Quiz #3 Ocean Circulation	Re-read Ch. 7, Prepare for Exam 2 Read Ch. 8, 9
10/7/2010	Circulation and Ocean Structure The Surface Currents	Re-read Ch. 8, 9 Read Ch. 10 Prepare for Exam 2
10/14/2010	Begin Waves; EXAM 2	Re-read Ch. 10, Read Ch. 11 Deadline: Submit Group-presentation topic
10/21/2010	Complete Waves, Tides; Quiz #4 (Waves)	Re-read Ch. 11, Read Ch. 12
10/28/2010	Coasts, Beaches and Estuaries Quiz #5 (Tides)	Read Ch. 13 and 14 Re-read Ch. 12,
11/4/2010	Environmental Issues and Concerns Begin the Living Ocean, Quiz #6 (Coasts)	Re-read Ch. 13, 14 Read Ch. 15 and 16

11/11/2010	Complete Living Ocean, Production and Life Begin Plankton: Drifters of the Sea	Re-read Ch. 15 and 16, Read Ch. 17 and 18
11/18/2010	Nekton and Benthos - Functions in the marine environment	Re-read Ch. 17 and 18 Final Prep.for Group Presentation
11/18/2010	Last day for student/instructor initiated class withdrawal.	
11/25/2010	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
12/2/2010	Group Presentations	
12/5/2010	Optional Field Trip (Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, 2:30 – 4:00 PM, -1.38 ft low)	
12/9/2010	Complete group presentations Final exam review (time permitting)	
12/16/2010	FINAL EXAM 3	