Learning Outcomes

By the end of the term, successful students should be able to do the following:

1. Compare current theories concerning the origin of the Earth and the waters that cover its surface.
2. Identify the features of ocean basins and relate the structures observed to the theories of their origin.
3. Understand basic chemical oceanography in terms of properties of water, salts, and gases.
4. Describe motions in the sea in terms of their causes and their effects on the land.
5. Identify features of marine organisms such as protists, sharks, and mammals.
6. Understand the basic ecology of the marine environment.
7. Identify the causes of marine pollution, and understand the problems of containment and alleviation.
8. Apply the principles and language of the natural sciences and associated technologies to historical and contemporary issues.

Textbook (optional)


Free On-line Textbook

http://reefimages.com/oceans/oceans.html

Grading

Grades will be based on performance on 3 exams and a final comprehensive exam

Exams (3) - 65%
Final Exam - 35%
Extra Credit - 5% maximum

The exams will be multiple choice and/or short answer. Students will be allowed to DROP their lowest grade (except the Final Exam). All students must take the Final Exam. **NO makeup exams will be given.**

Exam scores will be multiplied by the percentage above and summed to compute a final score. Grades will be based on the following scale:

A = 100 - 90    C+ = 79 - 75    D = 64 - 60
B+ = 89 - 85    C = 74 - 70    F = below 60%
B = 84 - 80    D+ = 69 - 65

The final grade distribution may be adjusted to approximate a normal distribution with a mean = 75.

Exam Dates

09 February, 03 March, 12 April, 03 May (Final Exam)
**Extra Credit**
Compose a 3,000 word essay on a topic related to marine ecology (instructor approval of topic). See handout for general instructions.

**Caveats and Small Print**
All materials generated for this class, which include but are not limited to syllabi, in-class materials, and exams, are copyrighted. You do not have the right to distribute these without written consent of the instructor.

**Plagiarism:** As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own the ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you should have the permission of that person. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for the plagiarist destroys the trust among colleagues without which research cannot be safely communicated. This is a grievous offense and will not be tolerated. Individuals guilty of plagiarism will be severely penalized.

**Academic Responsibility:** Faculty and students at USC are obligated to follow the USC Code of Academic Responsibility. I expect all class members to demonstrate intellectual honesty and to respect the academic rights of their classmates. If you have forgotten your responsibilities under this Code, please re-read Student Affairs Policy STAF 6.25 on USC's web page.

**The American with Disabilities Act (ADA)** is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation, please contact the instructor.