MSCI 210: Oceans and Society

Course Description: Oceans and Society provides students with an opportunity to explore the world of oceanography, marine biology, and conservation. As you will discover, oceanography is an interdisciplinary subject comprised of concepts and ideas from biology, geology, chemistry, physics, economics, history, and many other disciplines. We use the oceans for food, energy and materials, and oceans play a major role in controlling climate. Understanding and applying the information and principles that we cover in this course is vitally important for the future of humanity and all other life on our planet.

Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth Sargent
Office- EWS 313
Office Hours- Friday 9:00am-11:30am or by appointment
Phone- 803-777-6806
Email- esargent@geol.sc.edu

Course Meeting Time and Place: Friday 11:30 am to 2:20 pm, Sumwalt College 241

Textbooks: Segar, D. A. Introduction to Ocean Sciences, 3rd edition

Learning Outcomes: By the end of the term, successful students should be able to:

2. Identify the features and of the ocean basins and their origins.
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 plankton, sharks, and mammals.
6. Understand the basic ecology of the marine environment.
7. Identify major environmental concerns and the ocean’s role in global climate change

Notebook: I recommend you maintain a dedicated notebook including this syllabus, class notes, handouts, readings, and a glossary of unfamiliar terms. I will make information projected during class as well as individual book chapters available on BlackBoard. Notes presented on the white boards during lecture are your responsibility to copy, and will not be provided on BlackBoard.

Assignments: There will be 3 short answer assignments due throughout the semester. I will post a question or questions on BlackBoard, and you will have to compose a response. Assignments must be submitted by the beginning of class on the day that they are due before the lecture commences. Assignments received after lecture has begun will be considered late. Late work will receive a reduction of 5% per day that it is late. I will not accept late work more than one week after the original due date. There will also be a short oral presentation project for each student at the end of the semester. Details will be announced on BlackBoard in October. If you cannot meet a deadline, you must discuss this with me prior to the due date. In exceptional circumstances, and when arrangements are made prior to established deadlines, extensions (or other accommodations) may be granted.
**Exams:** Four exams will be given during this course including a final exam. I will drop your lowest exam grade, thus only 3 exams will count towards your final grade in the course. Exams will cover material from lecture as well as from assigned readings. Exams will consist of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer questions.

**Grading:**
- 60%: Exams (3 highest scoring exams will each be worth 20% of your grade)
- 15%: Assignments
- 10%: Class participation
- 10%: Oral presentation
- 5%: Attendance

Grades will be assigned the following letter values:

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

**Course Communication**

I will use email (via BlackBoard) to make announcements regarding class activities. You should make sure to update your contact information in BlackBoard (or set up a forwarding service) to ensure that you receive all notifications.

**What I expect of you**

I expect you to arrive to class on time and to be respectful during lecture, which includes minimizing distraction to me and to other students. I also expect you to get involved and ask questions. Translation devices will be permitted during lecture hours, but may be restricted during exam periods.

The University of South Carolina Honor code states:

> “It is the responsibility of every student at the University of South Carolina Columbia to adhere steadfastly to truthfulness and to avoid dishonesty, fraud, or deceit of any type in connection with any academic program. Any student who violate this Honor Code or who knowingly assists another to violate this Honor Code shall be subject to discipline.”

Suspected violation of the University of South Carolina Honor Code (including, but not limited to plagiarism) will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity, and will be dealt with accordingly. Following an investigation by the Office of Academic Integrity, students found to be in violation of the Honor Code will, at minimum, receive an F on the assignment/exam in question, and may be subject to further penalty.

For further information about what is expected of you under the University of South Carolina Honor code, see [www.sc.edu/academicintegrity/honorcode.html](http://www.sc.edu/academicintegrity/honorcode.html)
What you can expect from me

I will provide you with copies of the lecture slides and book chapters after each class for you to review. These will be posted on Blackboard.

I aim to make this class as enjoyable as possible for you. I encourage you to ask questions and participate in discussions relevant to the topics covered in lecture. If you have questions about current events related to the ocean, general marine science, or if you have suggestions for additional material that you would like to be covered in lecture, please email me. I will endeavor to respond to all student emails within 24 hours. If you want or need to discuss class-related topics in person, please schedule an appointment or come to regularly scheduled office hours. Appointments should be requested via email.
**MSCI 210 Spring 2016 Schedule (tentative*):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>Introduction to this course, The Scientific Method, History of Ocean Science Chapter 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 22</td>
<td>Introduction to Earth Structure and Plate Tectonics Chapter 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 29</td>
<td>Ocean Basins &amp; Properties of Water Chapters 4 &amp; 5</td>
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<td>Feb 5</td>
<td><strong>Exam 1</strong></td>
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<td>Waves</td>
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<td>Chapter 9</td>
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<td>Feb 12</td>
<td>Waves and Tides Chapters 9 &amp; 10</td>
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<td>Feb 19</td>
<td>Coasts and Sediments Chapters 11 &amp; 13</td>
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<td>Feb 26</td>
<td>Life in the Ocean Chapter 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 4</td>
<td><strong>Exam 2</strong></td>
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<td>Life in the Ocean Cont’d Chapter 12</td>
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<td>March 11</td>
<td>Spring break. No class</td>
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<td>March 18</td>
<td>Ocean Environments and Marine Animals Chapter 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 25</td>
<td>Marine Animals and Marine Communities Chapter 14 &amp; 15</td>
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<td>April 1</td>
<td><strong>Exam 3</strong></td>
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<td>Food Webs</td>
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<td>Chapter 12, 14, &amp; 15</td>
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<td>April 8</td>
<td>Fisheries and Aquaculture</td>
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<td>April 15</td>
<td>Environmental Concerns Chapter 16</td>
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<td>April 22</td>
<td>Student Presentations</td>
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**Saturday, April 30, 2016 Final Exam 4:00pm in Sumwalt College 241**

*This schedule may change as a result of weather-related closings and/or instructor availability*