

# Syllabus: INTRODUCTION TO OCEANOGRAPHY

OCE 1001, Fall 2020 (On-line Course, 3 credits) Class# 17406

*What does the deep sea say? Oh what does the deep sea say?  
It moans, it groans, it flashes and it foams, and rolls on its weary way* (Traditional)

## **Instructor**

Andrew R. Zimmerman, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Geological Sciences, University of Florida, 364 Williamson Hall

Website: <http://people.clas.ufl.edu/azimmer/>

Contact: Please communicate with me through Canvas messaging. Send me a message any time. I am also willing to set up a zoom conference with any student to provide live help.

## **Teaching Assistant**

Jing Lyu, e-mail: [jinglyu@ufl.edu](mailto:jinglyu@ufl.edu)

## **Overall Course Objectives**

- Learn the major geological, physical and biological characteristics of Earth's marine realm.
- Understand the role of the ocean in shaping the global Earth environment.
- Develop an enhanced awareness of how the ocean influences human well-being and vice versa.
- Realize the importance of science and how it can enhance our appreciation for the complexity and beauty of the world around us and solve real-world problems. Hopefully, this will translate into an eagerness to explore science-topics further and to vote and consume goods as a scientifically-educated citizen.

## **Course Overview**

Because of the current pandemic, this course is offered this semester completely on-line. There will be now 'live lectures' or 'live meetings' other than some optional zoom meetings to answer questions. All learning material, homework, exercises, quizzes, exams and discussions for this course will be carried out on the UF Canvas system website. There will be no need to be on campus during this course. Go to <http://lss.at.ufl.edu/> and click on the e-Learning in Canvas to Log In. You must have an active GatorLink ID to access the course website. If not, go to the GatorLink website (<http://gatorlink.ufl.edu>) or call the help desk at 392-HELP for assistance.

## **Structure of the Course**

The course is divided into 6 subdisciplines of oceanography. Each of these is divided into 2 to 3 modules composed of short lectures, readings, animations, web links and additional materials for further exploration. With a few exceptions, students have a week to view the materials in one or two modules. On Thursday morning, access to an exercise, discussion, or quiz will be opened, which will be due on Sunday night (note: all due date days end at 11:59 pm). A few additional exercises (#4 and #7) will be due on Thursday night. The last week of the term, the Final Exam must be completed on Saturday or Sunday, Dec. 12 or 13.

See the course 'Outline/Due Dates' handout for a listing of the specific dates that each activity is due. Each student is responsible for completion of each activity of the course on time, for checking the Canvas site for announcements, and to see that your grades are being correctly recorded in the Canvas gradebook. No grade will be changed more than one week following the date it was due. It is recommended that students adjust Canvas settings so that Announcements are sent to phone or email.

## Grading

Your semester grade will be determined as follows:

8 Exercises (3% each)	24% of final grade
5 Group Discussions (2% each)	10% of final grade
5 End-of-Module Quizzes (8% each)	40% of final grade
1 Final Exam	26% of final grade

Final letter grade:

A =  $\geq 93\%$ , A- = 90-92.99, B+ = 87-89.99, B = 83-86.99, B- = 80-82.99, C+ = 77-79.99, C = 73-76.99, C- = 70-72.99, D+ = 67-69.99, D = 63-66.99, D- = 60-62.99, E < 60

There will be no 'rounding up', but in a border line cases, I may check the quality of your participation in discussions as well as your time spent on the course textbook and companion website (see extra credit below). **\*Note:** An earned grade of 'C-' grade or below does not qualify for major, minor, Gen. Ed., or college basic distribution credit. For further information on UF's Grading Policy, consult:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

## Quizzes and Exams

Everything associated with the class, including lecture material, book readings and exercises are fair game on quizzes and the final exam. However, the focus will be on the material presented in lecture videos. The 5 quizzes will be 20 multiple choice questions to be answered as open book but will be time-limited (**40 minutes**) – thus, don't expect to be able to look up every answer. Each quiz must be completed between Thursday 5 am and Sunday 11:59 pm (EST) at the end of weeks 2, 5, 8, 10, and 12.

The final exam at the end of week 15 will consist of 55 multiple choice questions covering all subjects presented in the course. The Final Exam will be closed book, 2 hour limit and monitored using ProctorU system (there is an additional fee of about \$20 for this). The final exam must be completed between Saturday Dec. 12 or Sunday Dec. 13 (7:00 am to 10:59 pm, EST).

Be sure to visit <https://www.proctoru.com/portal/ufl> to create your account, test your equipment, and to schedule your exam.

Final Exam grades will be curved to a median of 85% using a linear method described at: <http://www.ats.amherst.edu/software/excel/excel-grading/excel-grades/#CurvingGrades>.

## Group Discussions

Group Discussion will take place in the Discussion link section of the course Canvas website (see tab at left) from Thursday-through Sunday (11:59 pm) at the end of weeks 1- 5 of the course. Each student is required to make at least one substantive comment addressing the posed question, as well as one response to another student's comment (each is usually at least 2-3 sentences). The best comments will utilize knowledge and insights gained from the materials presented in lectures and readings.

- *justify your answers with facts (if not from our lectures, provide the source)*

- stay on topic and address every part of the discussion questions.

### **Recommended Textbook and Extra Credit**

No textbook is required for the course. Any introductory oceanography textbook that you may find, even an old one, is probably sufficient to serve as a secondary source of information that can provide you with additional information and alternative explanations of the material covered in the lecture and on the quizzes. I have placed a few on reserve at Marston Library.

HOWEVER, use of '**Modified MasteringOceanography**' (a study website) with or without the companion textbook, will provide you with an opportunity for extra credit points that can boost your final grade tally by adding 5%. Mastering also has dynamic study modules for each chapter to help you study. Here's the info:

**Recommended (and needed for Extra Credit Assignments): Trujillo & Thurman: Essentials of Oceanography Plus Modified MasteringOceanography with eText --13/e**

#### **OPTIONS:**

Modified Mastering with eText: #9780135487204; \$79.99 (if purchased through Canvas)  
Modified Mastering without etext: #9780135486986; \$44.99 (if purchased through Canvas)  
Loose-leaf text only: #9780135204306; \$139.99 (bookstore)  
Paper text only: #9780134891521; \$206.65 (bookstore)

Whether you purchase the 'Modified Mastering' from within Canvas or elsewhere, to do the extra credit, you need to register it within Canvas. The process is described here:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NlbR6zpdKRQ>. If problems, students should contact Pearson tech support directly: <https://support.pearson.com/getsupport/s/>.

'**Mastering**' Extra Credit is worth a possible 5% points addition to your final grade: There are 5 assignments (worth 1% each) on the MasteringOceanography course website, corresponding to weeks 1-5 of the course material. Each one can be done in roughly 2 hours. Your score on a 'Mastering' lesson will represent the fraction of the 1% extra credit you will be awarded (e.g. if you did only 2 lessons and got a 70% and a 90%, your grade would increase by  $0.7 + 0.9 = 1.6\%$ , or for example, boost 89% to 90.6% (a B+ to an A-).

The 'Mastering' assignments are designed to help you learn the material. It lets you stop and consult the textbook, allows partial credit for getting the answers on your second or third try or after asking for a hint. Because of this you, will benefit most by completing these before taking the Canvas quiz for that week. Full credit will be awarded only if the assignment is completed before the due date of each quiz covering that material (Sunday 11:59 pm) but half credit will be awarded if completed before the final exam days start, when the *Mastering* Access will be closed).

**This will be the only extra credit opportunity.** Usually there is an optional bonus field trip but this probably cannot be done because of COVID. So sorry about that.

### **Late Policy**

- Exercises and Quizzes can be completed late, but only up to one week after their due date, and will only be awarded half credit after the due date.
- Extra credit assignments (in MasteringOceanography) can be completed any time in the semester, but will be awarded only half credit after their due date.
- Discussions and the Final Exam must be completed during the scheduled time and cannot be made up if missed (except in cases as outlined in UF policies, below).
- Students are expected to complete all activities on the specified dates and will not be granted an alternate date unless they have an acceptable reason (e.g., medical emergency, military obligation) and pre-arranged consent of the instructor. These requests must be timely and accompanied by all necessary written documentation. This policy is accordance with UF's policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

### **Academic Honesty Policy**

Students must conform to UF's academic honesty policy regarding plagiarism and other forms of cheating. This means that on all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

The university specifically prohibits cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation, bribery, conspiracy, and fabrication. For more information about the definition of these terms and other aspects of the Honesty Guidelines, see <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student---conduct---honor---code/>. All students found to have cheated, plagiarized, or otherwise violated the Honor Code in any assignment for this course will be prosecuted to the full extent of the university honor policy, including judicial action and the sanctions listed in paragraph XI of the Student Conduct Code. For serious violations, you will fail this course.

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Please do not hesitate to ask for accommodation for a documented disability. Students requesting accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Please ask the instructor if you would like any assistance in this process. Please provide this information to your instructor within the first two days of the semester.

### **Additional Resources**

Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help may contact the Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; or the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Other Resources available on-campus for students include:

- a. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling;
- b. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling;
- c. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.