Syllabus – Summer 2012
July 9, 2012 – August 17, 2012

MARN 1002 – Introduction to Oceanography

Excluding textbooks, the information on this syllabus is subject to change. For the most up-to-date syllabus, check this site on the first day of classes.

Course and Instructor Information

This is a three-credit undergraduate general education course. This course is not open to students who have passed MARN 1003.

The developer of this course is Dr. Annelie Skoog.

Course Title: Introduction to Oceanography (MARN 1002)

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None (A background in secondary school physics, chemistry or biology is recommended.)

Format: Online via HuskyCT

Instructor: Dane Frank

E-mail: DANE.FRANK@UCONN.EDU (After the first day of classes, students registered in the course should send messages to the instructor via HuskyCT Mail.)

Availability: Unless otherwise noted, I will check into the course at least five days a week to monitor discussions, check assignments & quizzes, and respond to HuskyCT Mail. If I expect to be unavailable due to illness, travel or family obligations, I will make every attempt to notify you in advance.

Course Description

Ocean basins, marine sediments and plate tectonics; main chemical constituents and chemical properties of seawater; physical properties of seawater, ocean circulation, tides and waves; marine organisms, food webs and ocean productivity; global change and environmental issues.

Course Materials

Students must have all required course materials before the first day of class.
This text is available through a local or online bookstore. Please visit our page on buying textbooks for more information.

**Required Materials:**

**Textbook**


**Optional Materials:**

Additional course readings and media are available within HuskyCT, through either an Internet link or the Library Resource Tool (Electronic Course Reserve/ECR)

### Course Requirements and Grading

An on-line course requires discipline, self-motivation, and organization. In addition, this course is taught as a condensed summer-session course, which means it moves at twice the pace of a course taught during spring or fall sessions. For a 3-credit summer-session course, you should expect to spend 15-20 hours a week on course work. Please plan accordingly.

### Summary of Course Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Components</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module Discussions</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Assignments</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Module Discussions (30%)**

Each module will include two (2) or more discussion topics (one or more Assignment Discussions and one Module Content Discussion).

- **Assignment Discussions:** Each “assignment” has a discussion topic associated to it. These discussion topics have been created for you to post questions or comments on the assignment/exercise. The purpose of assignment discussion boards is to give all students a chance to help each other and to ask questions about the exercise. Your professor will not intervene to answer questions.

- **Module Content Discussions:** Toward the completion of each learning module, there is a discussion topic related to the learning objectives and “content” covered in the module. During these discussions, you are expected to reflect on your learning in the module and respond to thought provoking discussion questions. You are expected to post at least one substantial original comment and at least one significant response to a fellow classmate’s posting. The quality (or insightfulness) of comments is more important than the quantity of
postings.

Specific Discussions expectations are located within each learning module. Your contributions to our classroom Discussions account for 30% of your final grade. See the HuskyCT Calendar tool for specific due dates.

**Module Assignments (25%)**

Each module will include one (1) or more assignments. The assignments will ask you to complete exercises by applying what you have learned in that module. These will be individual assignments (each student must submit his/her own assignments). Specific expectations for each assignment are provided in the course. Your module assignments account for 25% of your final course grade. See the HuskyCT Calendar tool for specific due dates.

**Quizzes (15%)**

There will be an online quiz administered for each chapter in the textbook, which means that some modules have multiple quizzes. These quizzes are individual assessments. Quizzes are due before assignments and discussions, since these learning activities require you to have finished the required reading. Each quiz has fifteen (15) multiple-choice questions, is limited to ten (10) minutes, and you have three (3) attempts. The quiz questions are selected randomly from a pool of questions; therefore, no two students will have the same questions nor will your quiz be the same between attempts. You should prepare for these quizzes the way you would for an in class quiz, by studying material in the textbook. You are free to use your textbook or other resources while taking the quiz, but the time restriction will prevent you from looking up more than one or two answers. The highest grade of your three (3) attempts will be registered in the gradebook. The quiz goes off line after the due date. Quizzes will account for 15% of your final course grade.

**Final Exam (30%)**

The final exam is online and requires you to apply knowledge gained through this course. The final exam will consist of ~80% short-answer questions and 20% calculations. The exam is cumulative, meaning that questions can come from any of the modules. There will be a specific date for you to take the exam at the end of the course. The date of the online Final Exam is located in the Calendar tool. If you have a serious conflict with the date of the online final exam, please privately contact me immediately.

The final course grading scale is as follows:

**UNDERGRADUATE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-86</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Due Dates

The *Calendar* tool in HuskyCT lists all due dates for the course. All course deadlines are based on Eastern Standard Time; if you are in a different time zone, please adjust your submittal times accordingly. Due dates are firm, absent extenuating and unforeseen circumstances or unless alternative arrangements have been made in advance. I encourage you to print a hard copy of the course calendar and/or insert the due dates/reminders into your personal electronic calendars/devices to help ensure due dates are met. The pacing of a condensed summer session course is challenging, plan ahead to ensure you do not fall behind.

Feedback and Grades

I will make every effort to provide feedback and grades in a timely manner. To keep track of your performance in the course, use the *MyGrades* tool. In addition, the *Assignments* tool has its own grading feedback mechanisms for paper submissions.

Course Objectives

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- Explain how geology, chemistry, physics, and biology are part of the science of oceanography.
- Use basic concepts and vocabulary of oceanography.
- Discuss some methods and technologies used in oceanography.
- Implement the scientific method to differentiate between science and pseudoscience.
- Describe some unresolved scientific questions in oceanography.
- Assess how the science of oceanography relates to some topics of societal concern.

Course Outline

**Module 1:** Introduction

**Module 2:** Geological Oceanography

**Module 3:** Chemical Oceanography

**Module 4:** Physical Oceanography

**Module 5:** Biological Oceanography

Student Responsibilities and Resources

As a member of the University of Connecticut student community, you are held to certain standards and academic policies. In addition, there are numerous resources available to help you succeed in...
your academic work. This section provides a brief overview to important standards, policies and resources.

**Student Code**

You are responsible for acting in accordance with the [University of Connecticut's Student Code](http://www.community.uconn.edu/student_code.html), available at [http://www.community.uconn.edu/student_code.html](http://www.community.uconn.edu/student_code.html). Review and become familiar with these expectations. In particular, make sure you have read the section on Academic Integrity that applies to you:

- [Academic Integrity in Undergraduate Education and Research](#)
- [Academic Integrity in Graduate Education and Research](#)

Cheating and plagiarism are taken very seriously at the University of Connecticut. As a student, it is your responsibility to avoid plagiarism. If you need more information about the subject of plagiarism, use the following resources:

- [Plagiarism: How to Recognize it and How to Avoid It](#)
- [Instructional Module about Plagiarism](#)
- [University of Connecticut Libraries’ Student Instruction](#) – includes research, citing and writing resources for students

**Netiquette and Communication**

At all times, course communication with fellow students and the instructor are to be professional and courteous. It is expected that you proof read all your written communication, including discussion posts, assignment submissions, and mail messages. If you are new to online learning or need a netiquette refresher, please look at this guide titled, [The Core Rules of Netiquette](#).

**Adding or Dropping a Course**

If you should decide to add or drop a course, there are official procedures* to follow:

- Matriculated students should add or drop a course through [Peoplesoft](#).
- Non-degree students should complete the [Add/drop form](#).

*Procedures for dropping summer session courses vary. Contact UConn's [Registrar's office](#) for more information.*

You must officially drop a course to avoid receiving an “F” on your permanent transcript. Simply discontinuing class or informing the instructor you want to drop does not constitute an official drop of the course. For more information, refer to the:

- [Undergraduate Catalog](#)
- [Graduate Catalog](#)

**Academic Calendar**
The University's Academic Calendar contains important semester dates.

**Students with Disabilities**

Students needing special accommodations should work with the University's Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD). You may contact CSD by calling (860) 486-2020 or by emailing csd@uconn.edu. If your request for accommodation is approved, CSD will send an accommodation letter directly to your instructor(s) so that special arrangements can be made. (Note: Student requests for accommodation must be filed each semester.)

The University of Connecticut's online course management system, HuskyCT, is a product of Blackboard, Inc. "Blackboard measures and evaluates accessibility levels using two sets of standards; Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act issued from the United States federal government and the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) issued by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)."

(Retrieved December 1, 2008 from http://www.blackboard.com/company/accessibility.aspx)

---

**Software and Platform Requirements**

- Word processing software
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Internet access.
- The capability to either scan module assignments or take digital images of your work.

This course is completely facilitated online using the learning management platform, HuskyCT. Ensure your Internet browser and browser settings are HuskyCT compatible by viewing the following settings information. If you have difficulty accessing HuskyCT, call the Learning Resource Center (LRC) at (860) 486-1187, or visit its online help (including instant chat) at http://lrc.uconn.edu/help.

---

**Minimum Technical Skills**

To be successful in this course, you will need the following technical skills:

- Use electronic mail with attachments.
- Save files in commonly used word processing program formats.
- Copy and paste text, graphics or hyperlinks.
- Use a media player to view films.
- Use Microsoft Word to create and share information.
- Work within two or more browser windows simultaneously.
- Open and access PDF files.
- Proper writing with APA citations.
- Scanning files or taking digital images of module assignments and uploading them to HuskyCT.

---

**Evaluation of the Course**

Students will be provided an opportunity to evaluate instruction in this course using the University's standard procedures, which are administered by the Office of Institutional Research.