OCEA&101: INTRODUCTION TO OCEANOGRAPHY - SYLLABUS, PART 1

Winter 2011, Section A (# 6739)

Meets in SC 111 on MTTh from 1:00 - 2:50pm

**Instructor: Dr. Kathryn Hoppe**

**Office Hours:** TTh 9 – 10 am / WF: 1 - 2 pm / F: 11am - noon  **Office**: SC 221

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**Course Web Site:** <http://www.instruction.greenriver.edu/khoppe>

**TEXT**:  ***Essentials of Oceanography***by Trujillo and Thurman. (10th Edition; Pearson Prentice Hall Publishers(available in the bookstore)

*Welcome to Oceanography!*

This quarter we will focus on three major goals:

1. To develop and improve our understanding about how the oceans of our planet work and how they influence life on land. Many of us take for granted the world in which we live. I hope that you will more closely examine your world as a result of this course and that you will gain a better understanding of the issues that need to be addressed in order to maintain a sustainable economy.

2. To have a general knowledge of the oceans so that when statements are made in the press, you will be able to properly evaluate those statements.

3. To develop skills to work efficiently with peers to solve problems and answer open-ended questions. I hope that the skills you learn in this class will carry over into your other classes and into your daily lives.

To accomplish these goals and assess your progress there will be a variety of instructional activities: 1) lecture-discussion sessions and group problem-solving, where students will be asked to interpret scientific problems and apply the information presented in lecture, 2) laboratory work and field trips, where students will make observations and interpret their significance to the scientific problems posed in lab, 3) poster presentations and individual readings and investigations, where students will interpret facts in relation to current scientific theories, and 4) in-class quizzes and exams.

**GRADING**

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| 1. Exams | 55% |
| 2. In-class Laboratory Exercises and Field Trips | 25% |
| 3. In-class exercises, Group Discussion Problems, Homework & Quizzes | 15% |
| 4. Poster presentations | 5% |

If you score above 90%, your grade is in the "A" category (3.5-4.0), and if your score is between 80% and 90% your grade is in the "B" category (2.5-3.5), etc. However, if I give a difficult exam and the average score is low, I may curve the grades so that the average grade is not below a 2.0. At the end of the quarter the grades from the exams, labs, group discussion problems, the quizzes, and the poster project will be averaged according to the weighting factors shown above to determine the final grade.

Note: If you miss more that 10 days of class, you may receive a grade of 0.0. If you have questions about your grade, please come talk to me after class or during my office hours.

**Evaluation**

**1. EXAMS:** There will be 4 in-class examinations during the quarter. Exams dates are shown on the lecture schedule. The questions on these exams will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer/objective, and/or essay questions in format. **There are no make-up exams**, but the lowest grades of the first three exams, will be dropped. **You must take the final exam (= Exam #4)**. Exam # 4 will be cumulative and it will be given during the school’s final exam period.

**2. LABORATORY**: We have two lab modes: in the classroom and field trips. You should bring paper and something to write with to every lab session. Two lab field trips are scheduled. On these days will need to wear comfortable footwear that does not have slick soles and something to protect you from the rain. Your feet may get wet from the wet grass, so you may want to have a change of shoes handy. **Labs are due one week from the date they are 1st handed out** unless stated otherwise (for example, exceptions are made for holidays). If you cannot hand your lab directly to me, you must place it in the SC office drop box. Late labs will be graded -10% for each day they are late. Late labs will not be accepted after the graded assignment has been returned to the class. There are no makeup labs, but your lowest lab score will be dropped. You are encouraged to work with your classmates on labs, **but you must examine all samples/maps yourself, individually complete your own paper, and write your answers in your own words in order to receive credit for the lab. If I see you coping answers from a classmate(s) all individual(s) involved will receive a grade of 0 on the assignment.**

**3. IN-CLASS EXERCISES/ GROUP DISCUSSION PROBLEMS, HOMEWORK & QUIZZES:** I have found that students get more from this course and have more fun if we use some of the class time to **investigate** the subjects rather than just have me talk and talk about the oceans. So,on some days during class you will be asked to complete a short in-class assignment. For group discussions, you will break into groups and work on the solution to an open-ended problem. You and your group will discuss the situation and submit one written answer by the end of the class. Only those present for the class and discussion will receive credit for these problems. Missed in-class assignments cannot be made up, but some of the points can be made up by turning in extra credit assignments (see section labeled “extra credit” below).

Throughoutthe quarter there may be in-class quizzes and/or review assignments given over material that we have covered in class or that was assigned as reading. You may use any hand written notes or reading guide handouts (from the web page), but you may not use your book. Note: reading guides may only be used if their format has not been changed. There are no make-ups if you miss a quiz.

**4. POSTER PRESENTATIONS:** A poster is a visually oriented, stand-alone presentation of a topic. You will be responsible for constructing and presenting a poster on a pre-approved ocean-related topic. The presentation will be done at a poster session on the last day of the regular class schedule. **You must present your poster to receive credit.** (Detailed instructions on how to construct and present a poster are posted on the class web site and will be distributed in class at a later date.)

**5. EXTRA CREDIT**: You may earn extra credit points by writing a legible one-paragraph summary (approximately 100 to 150 words) on a current news report relating to an oceanic subject. The news must have been reported in a reputable mainstream newspaper, magazine, or the web-site of a television or radio news show. No Blog entries accepted. The news report must be less than 4 days old and at least 200 words in length. You must *reference the original news report and bring a copy of the text of the original story*. You can receive credit for a maximum of 3 news summaries (for up to 4 points each), but you can only turn in a maximum of 2 extra credit summaries in one week. All extra credit must be turned in by the last day of lecture (date noted on schedule).

**Note:** In order to receive full credit on all assignments you must put your first name (or preferred nickname) and your *full last name* on each assignment. Also, regular attendance to class and participation in class discussions are important parts of this course. Thus, if you if you miss more that 10 days of class, you may receive a grade of 0.0.

**Content Specific Learning Outcomes:** (Student Achievement during the course)

This course has four primary goals:

1. You will correctly apply information presented during the lectures to the solutions of open-ended questions.

3. You will make observations (in class and on field trips) and correctly link those observations to information from the course.

4. You will correctly use a computer to analyze or obtain scientific data.

5. You will develop skills to work effectively with peers in finding solutions to scientific problems

These outcomes will be demonstrated by: 1) successful achievement on lab quizzes and exams, 2) reports from experiences in the laboratory and on field trips, 3) responses to group discussion questions, 4) your presentation of a poster project.

**Campus-wide Learning Outcomes:** Green River Community College has identified ability areas that we believe encompass knowledge and are the most important skills that students will need in order to be successful after leaving college. This course will focus primarily on developing one of these outcomes:

**Critical Thinking Ability:**

You will be asked to examine your scientific thinking by:

1) Explaining your ideas to open-ended questions (in some cases I ask that students defend their choice of more specific answers)

2) Observing features on field trips and applying them to questions posed in the lab

3) Applying information from lecture to problems presented during class

This outcome will be demonstrated by student responses to answers on examination, lab quizzes, lab reports from in-lab exercises and field trips, and group discussion problems during the class period, and a poster presentation.

**Learner Responsibilities:**

* I expect you to be present in class each day.
* I expect that you will treat all the students and me in the class with respect. Please, **no music players, game players, or portable phones/audible pagers** (unless you check with me before class and it is an emergency)**.**
* I expect that you will be prepared for class each day and that you will have read the assigned material for that day
* I expect that you will not talk to other classmates during class, unless I have divided you into groups for the purpose of discussion (If you have a question about the class material please raise your hand and I’ll answer your question directly).
* I expect that you will be ready to start class at the beginning of the class time and will remain in the class until the end of the class period.

**Characteristics of an "A" Student:**

Sometimes when a student is not doing as well in this course as they would like I hear the question, “What do I have to do to get an A?” There is no easy answer to that question, but I hope the discussion below will help you.

Although excellent students are not all the same, the following are characteristics that I have noted which are almost always present in "A" students:

• They attend class every day. Absence rates among “A” students are usually very low.

• They understand the material rather than relying upon memorization for the test. They are able to apply ideas learned in other parts of the class (and other classes) to the issues they are studying.

• They are prepared for class. They have read the assigned material before the class session and are ready to ask questions and discuss the material. Their work is on time and neat.

• They have the attitude that the primary responsibility for their learning is their own, not the instructor's. These students will do well in spite of the particular instructor in a class.

• They work well in groups. They have good communication skills and are willing to listen to the ideas of others.

• They study actively. They do not just sit and read the text. They use the study guides provided. They outline, take notes, and solve problems as they read. This helps their retention and understanding of the material.

**Policy on Late Papers:**

**LABS: Labs are due one week from the date they are 1st handed out** unless stated otherwise (for example, exceptions are made for holidays). Labs must be turned in at the start of class on the day they are due. Late labs will be graded -10% for each day they are late. There are no make up labs, but your lowest lab score will be dropped. I will not accept labs that are submitted after I have returned to the lab papers to the other students. Do not use class time to complete a laboratory assignment. If I see you working on a late assignment during lab, the assignment is due at that time.

**Policy on Cheating:**

In this course you will be working in groups and by yourself. Individual assignments, such as most of the labs, may be discussed in a group, but **must be written individually**. Do not give your paper to someone else! Exams are closed book, closed notes, and obviously are to be your own work. You may use your own notes and Reading Guides to help you during quizzes, but quizzes must be taken individually. If individuals are found to be cheating, their names will be given to the Dean of Instruction for further action that may range from no credit in the exam/assignment to removal from the college.

**Policy on Visitors in Class:**

Faculty members at GRCC have been directed to not permit children of students to attend classes. I understand that sometimes it is very difficult to make daycare arrangements. However, the policy from our administration is very clear and I will have to enforce the rules. If a person is over 16 and would like to attend the class, you need to obtain permission for the visitor several days before the visit.

**Special Needs:**

If you believe you qualify for course adaptations or special accommodations under the Americans With Disabilities Act, it is your responsibility to contact the Disabled Students Services Coordinator in the Lindbloom Student Center (Room 271A, phone ext. 2318 and provide the appropriate documentation. If you have already documented a disability or other condition that would qualify you for special accommodations, or if you have emergency medical information or special needs I should know about, please notify me during the first week of class. You can reach me by phone at 253-833-9111, extension 4323. Or, you can schedule an office appointment to meet me in SC 221 during my posted office hours or at another mutually determined time. If this location is not convenient for you, we will schedule an alternative place for the meeting. If you use an alternative medium for communicating, let me know well in advance of the meeting (at least one week) so that appropriate accommodations can be arranged.

**Cell Phone / Electronic Device Policy**

Students are not allowed to use cell phones in class. Please *turn off* (or turn to “silent”) *all non-note taking devices* (wireless devices, music players, cell phones, etc.) *before* entering the classroom and keep them *stored out of sight* in your backpack, purse or pocket. Cell phones should not be used during class at any time. Usage includes answering the phone, making calls, sending and receiving text messages, browsing the internet, listening to music, taking or looking at photographs or using the phone as a calculator or timer. You might be asked to leave class for the day if you fail to follow these policies.

If there is an extenuating circumstance (e.g. on-call at work, family emergency) that requires you to be in contact via voice/text messaging, inform the instructor at the beginning of the class period. Any voice/text messaging in that case must be conducted outside of the classroom, being as silent as possible out of respect to fellow classmates and the instructor. Electronic devices are not allowed to be present during an exam. Anyone seen with a cell phone or other electronic device during the exam will fail the exam with a 0.  If you have your cell phone with you during an exam it should be put in the very bottom of your backpack/purse/etc. and *never* be taken out.   **If I see anyone using a cell phone/electronic device (other than a calculator) during a group activity, the whole group will be marked down by 20%.**