Physical Science, Math & Engineering Division
Earth & Space Science Program - Dept. of Geology

Logistical Information:

- **Course**: General Oceanography (GEOL 20.61Z, CRN 11598)
- **Term:** Summer 2025
- **Instructor**: Dr. Bridget James
- **Class Location**: http://deanza.instructure.com
- **Office Hours**: Wednesdays 2 - 4 pm (instant replies through canvas or email)
- **E-mail**: jamesbridget@fhda.edu

Course Description:

An introduction to the physical environment of the ocean. Origin and evolution of ocean basins; sea-floor morphology; origin, distribution, historical record, and economic significance of marine sediments; ocean currents, climate and the ocean system, waves, tides, and changing sea level; beaches, shorelines, and coastal processes; marine resources, pollution, and human impacts on the oceans.

Textbook & Materials Needed:

- Segar, Douglas A. 2018, Introduction to Ocean Sciences, Open-source textbook: https://www.reefimages.com/oceans/SegarOcean4Book.pdf
- Regular and reliable access to a computer with high-speed Internet.

Assignment Points Distribution

Assignment	Points per Assignment	Total Points Possible	Grade Weight (%)
Best 3 out of 4 Discussions	100 points each	300 points	30%
Best 10 out of 12 Module Activities	50 points each	500 points	50%
Midterm Project	100 points each	100 points	10%
Final Exam	100 points each	100 points	10%
Total points for term		1000 points	100%

Grading Scale

Grade	Points Needed	Grade	Points Needed
A	1000-920	C	779-700
A-	919-900	D+	699-680
B+	899-880	D	679-620
B	879-820	D-	619-600
B-	819-800	F	Below 600
C+	799-780		

Schedule of Topics

Module	Assignments
Week 1 Mon, 6/30 – Sun, 7/6*	Module 0 – Orientation Peer Discussion 1 Module 1 – Introduction to Oceanography (Due Thurs) Module 2 – Earth's Interior (Due Sun)
Week 2 Mon, 7/7 – Sun, 7/13	Peer Discussion 2 Module 3 - Plate Tectonics (Due Tue) Module 4 – Continental Margins & Ocean Basins (Due Thurs) Module 5 – Ocean Sediments (Due Sun)
Week 3 Mon, 7/14 – Sun, 7/20	Peer Discussion 3 **Midterm Project (Due Tue)** Module 6 - Properties of Water (Due Thurs) Module 7 – Circulation of the Atmosphere (Due Sun)
Week 4 Mon, 7/21 – Sun, 7/27	Peer Discussion 4 Module 8 - Circulation of the Ocean (Due Tue) Module 9 –Waves & Tides (Due Thurs) Module 10 – Coastlines (Due Sun)
Week 5 Mon, 7/28 – Sun, 8/3	Module 11 – Life in the Ocean (Due Tues) Module 12 – Climate Change (Due Thurs)
Week 6 Mon, 8/4 – Wed, 8/6	**Final Exam**

*Independence Day falls on Friday, July 4th. Modules will be open for those of you who would like to use this day to complete assignments.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):

1. Apply the principles of scientific methodology to test hypotheses as to how the Earth's oceans work as an integrated system.
2. Use observations and data to characterize the dynamic Earth processes that act to shape the ocean floor and analyze the record of these processes within marine sediments and oceanic crust.
3. Analyze the dynamic movement of the water column of the oceans through an application of the physical principles of ocean currents, waves, and tides and their effect on coastal systems and processes.
4. Apply scientific methodology and the principles of oceanography to analyze the impact of the ocean system on humanity, from specific natural hazards and the availability, use, and distribution of ocean resources.

About Asynchronous Online Courses:

The content covered between an in-person and an online course is the same, but some benefits and challenges must be considered when taking an asynchronous online course such as this one. Asynchronous online courses offer much more flexibility in completing course material than other course modalities. However, you must have good self-discipline in promptly completing these tasks. Remember that the due date should never be the “do” date. Completing assignments well before the deadline will go a long way toward your success in this course. Use a calendar to set aside “class time” to satisfy course requirements. If your work schedule changes week-to-week, schedule your “class time” immediately after your work schedule is set. This proactive approach will greatly enhance your success in the course.

About Online Office Hours:

The time listed as "online office hours" is time dedicated to you. I will reply to your email within a few minutes during this time. We can discuss course assignments, topical interests, career choices focused on the planet we call home, or anything else to help you succeed in this course. Just send me an email to get the conversation started. I look forward to connecting with you! Office hours are Wednesdays from 2 - 4 pm where I will respond within a few minutes. You can also contact me outside of office hours where I will respond within a few hours but no later than the end of the day Monday-Thursday (between 8 am and 7 pm) and Sundays (4 pm - 7 pm).

Modules:

A module is a specific and discrete learning segment that leads to understanding a given topic in preparation for the final exam in this course. Modules will be assigned by topic on Canvas, which include 1.) Lectures; 2.) Reading; 3.) Module Activities. In addition to Module tasks, there will be Peer Discussion assignments, a Midterm Project, and a Final Exam for this course. Please read the instructions below for the details of each of these tasks.

Lectures:

Lectures will be presented online as PowerPoint presentations converted into a format that can be watched and listened to on YouTube ©. A link to each lecture will be provided. Like a traditional course, you will be expected to take notes while listening to the lecture. A benefit to a recorded lecture is that you can re-listen to any topic anytime. Any questions you may have during the lecture should also be written down immediately in your notebook. Sometimes, those questions answer themselves further in the lecture. What isn't answered should be e-mailed to me. Missing lectures can severely impact your ability to learn the course material, leading to a poor grade. Exam questions almost always come directly from lectures, so be sure to discipline yourself to listen and take notes. Then, study the concepts learned in the lecture for the upcoming exam. Notes do not need to be submitted. Please keep those for reviewing purposes.

Peer Discussions (100 points each, 300 points total, 30% of your grade):

There will be four peer discussion assignments this term. The lowest-scored discussion assignment will be dropped from your final grade in the course. For this assignment, you are being graded on how well you are **engaging your peers** on a selection of current events chosen by your instructor within the Earth Sciences. There are parameters to that engagement you will need to be aware of **so be sure to refer to the assignment instructions on Canvas for detailed expectations and requirements**.

Important warning: Leaving the discussion board too soon after hitting the "Submit" button may prevent your work from posting. It will be your responsibility to confirm that your post has posted onto the discussion board before leaving the webpage so you do not lose credit for your work.

Module Activities (50 points each, 500 total points, 50% of your grade):

There will be twelve module activities this term. The two lowest scored module activities will be dropped from your final grade in the course. Module activities are individual formative assessments completed after reading the associated textbook chapter(s) and listening to the lecture within the modules. Module Activities are due on the date/time stated within the instructions of each assignment. These assignments are designed to help you understand important topics in the lecture. They can be both problem-solving and/or review questions based on the lecture and/or films watched. You will turn in these activities online on Canvas. Emailed assignments are not accepted for any reason. Each activity will have submission instructions.

If you have an urgent situation where you cannot submit an activity during its submission period, you **may** be granted a short grace period (at the instructors discretion) so that you may still complete the assignment without penalty. See the assignment on Canvas for details.

Midterm Project - Hidden Volcano Abyss (100 points and 10% of your grade)

For this project, you will watch the film "Hidden Volcano Abyss" (53 minutes) and answer the associated questions. This assignment will give you a good overview of the volcanic hazards that are found in our world ocean, and some of the leading scientists who are studying the implications of these hazards. Since this film is produced for the general public, no background

in volcanic hazards are needed to complete this assignment. It will be due on **Tuesday, July 15th, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.**, but you can complete the project at any time before its due date (recommended).

If you have an urgent situation where you cannot submit the Midterm Project during its submission period, you may be granted a short grace period (at the instructors discretion) so that you may still complete the assignment without penalty. See the assignment on Canvas for details.

Final Exam (100 points, 10% of your grade):

There will be one online (timed) cumulative final exam that will have 50 multiple-choice questions worth 2 points each. **The final exam will be administered online from Monday, August 4th, starting at 8 am to Wednesday, August 6th, ending at 11:59 pm.** You can take this 60-minute exam anytime during this submission period, but you may only take the exam one time. Be sure to take the exam as early as possible in the exam period so a last-minute emergency does not get in the way of these valuable points. **Make-up exams are not offered for any reason, including emergencies.**

You may use notes while you take the exam, but because the exam is timed once you start it, you should master the subjects you are being tested on before attempting the exam so that you can finish in plenty of time. I highly recommend having only a small index card worth of notes nearby. Spending time going through the Internet, the textbook, or any other source for answers while taking the exam does not indicate comprehension of the subject, so this online exam must be timed to prevent heavy reliance on such sources. Much like a classroom exam, once you submit your answers, the answers will not be available immediately. Once the exam period ends, scores will be released within 48 hours unless otherwise note.

Here is how you are supported during the term:

- Two lowest Module Activity scores are dropped from your final grade.
- Lowest Peer Discussion assignment score is dropped from your final grade
- A short grace period on select assignments
    - When available and with permission from instructor

What cannot be supported in this course:

- Reopening closed assignments
- Extra Credit
- Negotiating a higher final grade in the course.

Accessibility Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor and/or DSS. Disability Support Services (DSS) will facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. DSS is located in SCS 41 and can be reached by telephone (Voice 408-864-8753/TTY 408-864-8748).

Important note about travel:

It is assumed that you are completing this course at home in the U.S. and have excellent Internet access for the entire semester. If you need to travel, whether inside or outside the U.S., it will be your responsibility to ensure you have access to the course and all its assignments. All assignments, including exams, cannot be extended for you because you choose or need to travel for any extended period during the term, even if that reason is out of your control. It's important to note that many countries outside of the U.S. block the use of YouTube and the ability to watch U.S. documentaries. If you plan on traveling to a country with these limitations, dropping this course and taking it during a term you will not be traveling is best. Also, please note that all dates and times given in this course are in Pacific Time unless otherwise noted.

Important note on attendance:

If you have yet to log into the course on Canvas within 48 hours of the start of instruction, I reserve the right to drop you from the course. I also reserve the right to drop any student who has yet to log into the course website and/or complete any assignments by the end of the first week. However, it is always the student's responsibility to drop a course they are no longer attending. **The drop deadline for Summer 2025 is Monday, July 7th, 2025, and the last day to drop with a "W" on your record is Wednesday, July 30, 2025**.

Course Intellectual Property:

Students may not post any course materials to any third-party sites or post any recordings, screenshots, audio, or chat transcripts in any setting outside of this class. Violations are subject to disciplinary action.

Policy on Academic Dishonesty:

There is a presumption and expectation that all work submitted is above board and honest. Any instances of cheating, deceit, fabrication, forgery, plagiarism, unauthorized altering of records or submitting false documents, unauthorized collaboration, unauthorized submission of work previously given credit, or other forms of academic misconduct will be assigned a grade penalty, likely an F or a grade of zero. Failing one or more assignments or examinations for reasons of academic integrity violations may result in a final class grade of F. Students may not withdraw from classes in which they have committed academic misconduct. Consequences for violations of academic integrity may exceed an F on the assignment, examination, or class as determined by the Academic Integrity Review Committee. For more information on academic dishonesty, please see the college catalog.

Members of our academic community have a responsibility to develop an awareness of academic integrity, to cultivate skills to realize honesty in academic and community work, and to sustain actively academic honor as a core value of our community. Students are expected to engage in behaviors that reflect well upon the college. In addition to attending to one's own actions, the Standards for Student Conduct require that students who witness academic dishonesty notify

their faculty/instructor, dean, or the Vice President of Instruction. Supporting academic integrity enhances the reputation of the college and the value attributed to degrees awarded.

Statement on Sexual Violence

De Anza College is committed to maintaining a safe and caring college environment. The college has established policies and procedures regarding sexual misconduct, harassment, and assault. A college website has also been developed which provides you with important information about sexual misconduct and sexual assault: https://www.deanza.edu/titleix/index.htmlde

Student Learning Outcome(s):

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• Analyze the dynamic movement of the water column of the oceans, through an application of the physical principles of ocean currents, waves, and tides and their effect on coastal systems and processes.
• Apply scientific methodology and the principles of oceanography to analyze the impact of the ocean system on humanity, from specific natural hazards and the availability, use, and distribution of ocean resources.

Office Hours:

W	2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Email,Canvas
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