



**GEOL-1445-101C3**  
**Oceanography**  
**Fall 2025**  
**TR 9:30-12:20, STEAM 301**

**Instructor Information:**

**Christopher Hall**

E-mail: [chall23@com.edu](mailto:chall23@com.edu)

Office Telephone: (409) 933-8328

**Office Hours and Location:**

**Office Hours**

Mon 1-2

Tues – 2-3:30

Wed 1-2

Thurs – 2-4

Friday 8- 10 (online)

**Office: STEAM 325-37**

Course Communication: Email preferred method of communication. Office, Lab, Office Phone during office hours.

- 16-week course. Meets face to face for all meetings: 8/18/2025-12/4/2025.

**Course Information**

**Required Textbook/Materials:**

- *Essentials of Oceanography* 13th Ed., Trujillo/Thurman © 2020 Pearson with Mastering. ISBN: 978-0-321-81394-7 Mastering content will be available thru Brightspace D2L, in the Dashboard.
- Textbooks and/or courseware will be available through BibliU digitally. Cost of the course materials for this section: \$110.13. The course materials will be available on the first day of class. Do not opt out of this as you will not be able to access mastering assignments or your e-text. The materials are not refundable after the census day. *You will receive an email with more information about the use of the course materials closer to the start of the semester, if you do not receive that email then let me know.* Let me know as soon as possible if you cannot access content, after completing registration.

**Textbook Purchasing Statement:** A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer. Since you have Inclusive Access to course materials, purchasing a hard copy of the text is not necessary.

**Course Requirements; Required Online Resources**

- COM Brightspace D2L: <http://com.brightspace.com>. ***COM Brightspace D2L will be used for online activities, accessing your lab handouts, reviews, and other course materials.*** In addition, Brightspace D2L will allow students to communicate with each other and the instructor. Many class resources will be available through Brightspace D2L. If you have any questions regarding course access or training, please contact the Distance Education department ([www.com.edu/de/index.cfm](http://www.com.edu/de/index.cfm)) at extension 8476.
- Mastering Oceanography Course – **Login will be completed through Brightspace D2L**  
Each student must purchase an access code to complete the assignments through the Mastering Oceanography website. This is done when the student registers for the course. The cost for the course content is \$110.13, which includes both Mastering Oceanography and the e-text. You will have 10 assignments on Mastering Oceanography for topics covered.

**YOU MUST OPT IN** - You will have several assignments on Mastering Oceanography for each topic covered.

**Required Materials**

- Scantrons (4) – 888E. Purchase before the first exam. I will not provide these during exams.
- Computing resources and reliable internet.

**Course Description:** Oceanography 1445 - is an introductory lecture and lab science course that studies the physical, chemical, geological and biological characteristics of the world's oceans. In this course we will spend a good portion of our time focusing on biological principles and how they are affected by changes in the marine environment. The course consists of a textbook, homework, lab assignments, and weekly presentations. Your assessment of the material will be through exams, lab practical's, lab activities and online assignments.

**Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:**

**Lecture Grade (690 points):**

1. Lecture exams (300 points) – A total of three exams will be given throughout the semester (see Tentative Course Outline). The material will be from your lectures, chapter reviews, and your textbook. Each exam will be worth 100 points. You may substitute your lowest exam grade with your Comprehensive Final if it is higher than your lowest score.
2. Chapter Reviews (80 points) - There will be chapter reviews related to the topics covered during the course. These reviews will be worth 20 points each. Due dates are provided with the assignments listing. As a rule, these Reviews are due on the same day you take your scheduled lecture exams.
3. Mastering Oceanography (~110 points) - For each topic covered in lecture, you will have assignments using Mastering Oceanography. They are usually around 10 points each.
4. Comprehensive Final Exam (100 points) – Comprehensive Final Exam that will cover all topics for the semester.
5. Additional Assignments (100 points)– Work will be assigned during the semester during lecture and lab to be completed in person and after class to be turned in during future meetings.

**Laboratory Grade (420 points):**

1. Labs (10 labs = 200 points) – You will be required to complete and submit all labs related to the topics that we are covering during the semester. Each lab has a corresponding worksheet or activity to be completed. Due dates will be in the course calendar and correspond to lab meetings. 20 points each.
2. Lab Attendance and Participation (40 points) – Based on the semester, the student shows good attendance and is engaged in the activities, they will receive the full credit. The deductions in points are up to the instructor's discretion.
3. Lab Final (100 points) – There will be an (Open Notes Lab Final) related to concepts and information covered during labs. It will be at the end of the semester.
4. Oral Presentations (40points) - Students will be placed in groups evenly and given topics related to the semester. The groups will perform research in the library, online, etc. They will compile their information, present it to the others in the course at the end of the semester.

**Determination of Course Grade:**

**Lecture Grade (690 points)**

Lecture exams	300 points
Chapter Reviews	80 points
Mastering Oceanography	~110 points
Comprehensive Final	100 points
Additional Assignments	100 points

**Laboratory Grade (380 points)**

Labs (10 labs/20 pts each)	200 points
Lab Attendance & Part	40 points
Lab Final	100 points
Oral Presentations	40 points

<b>Total Possible Points</b>	<b>1070 Points</b>
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### **Grading Scale:**

Final grades assigned for this course will be based on total points earned and are assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Average (%)
A	90 - 100
B	80 – 89
C	70 – 79
D	60 – 69
F	0 – 59

### **Make-Up Policy:**

- **Lecture Exams:** Should you anticipate an absence on an exam day you must contact your instructor by email or in person PRIOR to the absence. Your situation will be evaluated by your instructor and at the discretion of your instructor, you may be allowed to take a make-up exam. Make-up exams will be allowed for a death in the family or a documented illness. You must provide legitimate proof for your excuse in the case of missing an exam. Only one make-up exam is allowed during the semester. *The make-up exam MUST be taken at the end of the semester, after you complete all your other course work.* No lab exams can be made up. If you have a legitimate excuse, as outlined above, then we will discuss your options should the situation arise. *If you show up more than 30 minutes late for an exam, then you will not be allowed to take that exam and will be considered absent and you will receive a (0) zero on that exam. In addition, you will be marked as absent on any day that you show up more than 30 minutes late.*
- **Assignments:** If you miss class on the day an assignment is due, you will receive a ZERO for the missed assignment. To prevent a grade of ZERO, make arrangements with your instructor in order to avoid missing any work. If you miss lab, you may not submit that lab at a later date without an excused absence.
- **Online Assignments:** Ample time is given for each student to complete the online assignments (Mastering assignments, etc.). Failure to meet these deadlines will result in a ZERO for the assignment and no extra time will be allowed to make-up the assignment. In the event of an internet outage or other internet issue, at the discretion of your instructor, your assignment may be reset to allow you to take it again. Contact must be made with your instructor within 24 hours of the problem.
- **Labs:** There are NO MAKE-UP LABS. Arriving late to lab will result in not receiving full credit for completing the lab. You are still responsible for the material covered in lab and it is YOUR responsibility to contact your instructor to inform them of your absence.

### **Attendance Policy:**

Students are expected to attend all class sessions as listed on the course calendar. These attendance policies apply to both lecture and lab.

- Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Leaving early from class (without approval from the instructor) may result in an absence for that day. If you show up later than 30 minutes for either lecture or lab, you will be marked as absent. *If you miss more than (6) meetings during the semester, you may be dropped from the course.* If you do have to miss class, course materials are posted on Brightspace D2L, but it is your responsibility to obtain any additional notes from a classmate.

### **Laboratory Attendance Policy**

- This laboratory is designed to support the information provided by the lectures and online materials. This lab course is an introduction to fundamental biology, that covers important topics in each lab meeting. Labs are designed to last most of the lab period, therefore expect to be in lab for the full time. Arriving late to lab may result in not receiving full credit for completing the lab. You are responsible for the material covered in lab and it is YOUR responsibility to obtain any notes from a classmate.
- **Attendance:** Lab attendance and participation are required and directly affect your weekly lab grade. Any deviations from this policy are at the sole discretion of the instructor.

## **Disclaimers/Additional Policies:**

### **Academic Dishonesty:**

Any incident of academic policy will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as cheating on exams is an extremely serious offense and will result in a **grade of zero** on that exam and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for appropriate discipline action.

### **Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas and claiming them as your own. Plagiarism is a very serious offense. Plagiarism includes paraphrasing someone else's words without giving proper citation, copying directly from a website and pasting it into your paper, using someone else's words without quotation marks. Any assignment containing any plagiarized material will receive a **grade of zero** and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action. **Link(s) to resource(s) about avoiding plagiarism:**

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>

### **Student Concerns/Questions Statement:**

If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact Mrs. Sheena Abernathy at ext. 8330, and [sabernathy@com.edu](mailto:sabernathy@com.edu)

<b>Student Learner Outcome</b>	<b>Maps to Core Objective</b>	<b>Assessed via this Assignment</b>
1. Acquire a scientific vocabulary and critical thinking skills related to the Ocean and its processes.	Critical Thinking Skills	Final Exam
2. Analyze Oceanic processes that affect weather and climate.	Critical Thinking Skills	Lab Practical 3
3. Describe how the application of the scientific method has led to our current understanding of Earth's Oceans and its processes.	Communication Skills	
4. Describe the theory of plate tectonics and its relationship to the formation and distribution of Earth's oceanic features.	Communication Skills	Lecture Exam 1
5. Describe the composition and motion of ocean water and analyze the factors controlling both.	Communication Skills	Lecture Exam 2
6. Apply scientific reasoning to investigate questions, and utilize scientific tools such as microscopes and laboratory equipment to collect and analyze data.	Empirical and Quantitative Skills	Lab Practical 1
7. Describe contributing factors to past and current climate change.	Teamwork	Lecture Exam 3

## Tentative Course Outline:

2023 Dates	Modules	Lecture Topic (Chapter)	Lab Activities	Mastering Assignments	Due
08/19-21		Introduction to Course	Introduction to Lab Safety	Intro to Mastering	
	Module 1	Introduction to Planet Earth (1)	Lab 1 - Collect Field Data. Map	Intro: Planet Earth (1)	
08/26-28	Module 2	Introduction to Planet Earth (1)	Lab 2 – Charts and Navigation	Plate Tectonics (2)	
		Plate Tectonics (2)			
09/02-04	Module 3	Marine Provinces (3)	Lab 3 – Introduction to Underwater Sampling	Marine Provinces (3)	
09/09-11	Module 4	Marine Sediments (4)	<b>Lecture Exam 1 Ch 1,2,3,4</b>	Marine Sediments (4)	
09/16-18					
	Module 5	Water and Seawater (5)	Lab 4 - Sediments and Fossils	Water / Seawater (5)	
09/23-25	Module 6	Air – Sea Interaction (6)	Lab 5 – Chemical and Physical Analysis of Water & Plankton ID	Air/Sea Interaction (6)	
09/30-10/02	Module 7	Ocean Circulation (7)	Lab 6 – Marine Parasitology	Ocean Circulation (7)	
10/07-09	Module 8	Ocean Circulation (7)	<b>Lecture Exam 2 Ch 5,6,7</b>	Water Dynamics (8)	
		<b>Mastering Assignments 1-5 are due On Friday 10/17 before midnight.</b>			
10/14-16		Waves and Water Dynamics (8)			
	Module 9	Tides (9)	Lab 7 – Nekton Sampling	Tides (9)	
10/21-23	Module 10	Beaches, Shorelines (10)	Lab 8 – Marine Pollution. Plastics	Beach, Shorelines (10)	
10/28-30	Module 11	Beaches, Shorelines (10)	Lab 9 - Benthic Ecology		
		Marine Pollution (11)		Marine Pollution (11)	
11/04-06	Module 12	Marine Pollution (11)	<b>Lecture Exam 3 Ch 8,9,10,11</b>		
11/11-13	Module 13	Marine Life and Marine Env (12) Animals - Benthic (15)	Lab 10 - Pelagic Species. Shark Dissections Lab	Marine Life / Env (12)	
11/18-20	Module 14	Animals - Benthic (15)	<b>Lab Practical – Open Notes</b>		
		Animals - Pelagic (14)			
11/25-27	Module 15	Animals - Pelagic (14)	NO LAB - Thanksgiving	Animals - Pelagic (14)	
				Animals - Benthic (15)	
12/02-04		<b>Mastering Assignments 6-10 are due on Friday 11/28 before midnight.</b>			
		<b>Comprehensive Final Exam. All Chapters</b>	<b>Student Presentations</b>		

## Institutional Policies and Guidelines

**Grade Appeal Process: Concerns** about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook <https://www.com.edu/student-services/student-handbook.html>. *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*

**Academic Success & Support Services: College** of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

**ADA Statement:** Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodation is requested to contact:

Kimberly Lachney, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: [AccessibilityServices@com.edu](mailto:AccessibilityServices@com.edu)

Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, Student Success Center

**Textbook Purchasing Statement:** A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

**Withdrawal Policy:** Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a "W" grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week session is October 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 14. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is November 25.

**FN Grading:** The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

**Early Alert Program:** The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

### Resources to Help with Stress:

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at [deanofstudents@com.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@com.edu) or [communityresources@com.edu](mailto:communityresources@com.edu).

### Nondiscrimination Statement:

The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.

## **Classroom Conduct Policy:**

College of the Mainland requires that students enrolled at COM be familiar with the Standards of Student Conduct, which can be found in the on-line Student Handbook. <https://www.com.edu/student-services/student-handbook.html> . Students should always act in a professional manner. Disruptive students will be held accountable according to college policy. Any violations of the Code of Conduct will result in a referral to the Office for student Conduct and may result in dismissal from this class.

### **Behavioral Expectations**

Each student is entitled to an environment conducive to learning. Any situation that prevents students from learning or the instructor from teaching is considered to be a disruption. Please be respectful of your fellow students and the instructor by adhering to the following:

1. Cell phone use during class is not permitted. If I see repeated violations of this rule, you will be asked to leave the class and you will not get credit for that day's work. Laptops are ONLY permitted during class to take notes. *First offense:* a warning and you will be allowed to stay in class.
  - a. *Additional Offenses:* you will be asked to leave the class/lab and receive an absence for the day. Repeated violations of this policy may result in your removal from the course.
  - b. *During exams, no electronics will be allowed out. If the student has any of these devices out during an exam, the exam will be taken from the student, and they will receive a zero for that exam.*
2. Due to safety reasons, friends, spouses, and children are not allowed in lab.
3. Students can be removed from the class if they are exhibiting disruptive behavior as deemed by the instructor. Repeated incidents will result in automatic withdrawal from the class. Students who display this conduct will be removed from the class and required to meet with the Associate VP for Student Success and Conduct, before being allowed to return to class if the instructor allows it.

## **Success Tips for Students:**

### **Build Rapport**

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that they can help you find a solution.

## **Success Tips for Students:**

### **10 Tips to Succeed in Class**

1. **Come to class.** In some courses all you have to do is read the book; that's not the case here. The lecture will key you into what is important and what isn't; it will also provide a framework to stuff all the facts into. If you must miss class, get the notes from a fellow student or the web, and then go over the notes with someone who was present at the live lecture.
2. **Take notes.** Everything that really matters will be discussed in class; the book is really just for back up. The Powerpoints are posted online to help you fill in anything you missed. Taking notes helps you pay attention in class and remember the material.
3. **Form a study group or partnership.** Don't try to do it alone. Study groups are generally good because they help you go over the material, give you an opportunity to practice explaining your answers, and provide moral support.
4. **Do the problems.** Seriously and carefully. Do the problems at the back of each chapter and in Mastering. In addition, Mastering Oceanography has a Study Area where you can take practice quizzes and watch videos and animations.
5. **Make diagrams,** pictures, summary charts, concept maps, etc. The ones in the book (and the ones handed out in class) may be good, but for the best results, you should make your own.
6. **Keep up.** The current material is always based on what came before, so once you get behind it is very difficult to catch up. Some students find it is very helpful to quickly look over the notes of the previous lecture right before the current one.
7. **Read** one of the texts before class if the material is new to you. It is very hard to follow the lecture if every word and concept is unfamiliar.
8. **Ask questions.** If you don't understand something, ASK. The more effort you put into asking questions, the more you will get out of the answers.

9. **Master the vocabulary.** The stress in this course may be on *using* the vocabulary, but you won't get anywhere until you learn it first. So try to master all new terms as fast as possible.
10. **See Me.** Talk to me if you're having trouble in the course either in person or by email. Don't let things pile up. Address them early.

### **The Tutoring Center:**

The Tutoring Center provides free tutoring services to students, staff and faculty seeking assistance for writing, reading and oral presentations for academic and non-academic assignments/projects. Located in the Industrial Careers Building (ICB), Room 109, the center provides face-to-face and online tutoring sessions in a welcoming environment. Appointments can be made in person, or on the center scheduler at [com.mywconline.com](http://com.mywconline.com), or by clicking the SRWC icon on the COM website.

Hours:

Monday 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Tuesday 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Wednesday 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Thursday 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Friday 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Saturday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Sunday CLOSED

**Course policies are subject to change.** It is the student's responsibility to check D2L Brightspace for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be posted in D2L Brightspace.