



Oceanography 1445.001IN
Oceanography
Spring 2021
Online

Instructor Information: Professor John Mohr, jmohr@com.edu, Mobile: (830) 719-4930

Student hours and location: Office on campus is Math & Science MS118

On campus office: M/W Noon – 1:45 pm

Online: T/Th 9:00 am – 11:00 am, email and text ready

Tutoring Sessions: M – F 8:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Teams and by appointment.
Mayra Martinez, mmartinez76@com.edu

Required Textbook/Materials:

Essentials of Oceanography 12th Ed, Trujillo/Thurman © 2017 Pearson with Mastering.

ISBN: 978-0-321-81394-7

- All registered students in this program will have full access to an ebook through Blackboard by the first day of class. No additional steps (registration, payments, etc.) will be required. You will simply log in to your Blackboard course on the first day and will be able to start reading.
- You will be billed for the Mastering/ebook if you are still registered on the census date, Wednesday, February 3rd, 2021. If you withdraw from the course before then, you will not be charged. Also, you may opt-out if you do so prior to census date, February 3, 2021.
- If you want a print book, you can purchase a loose-leaf text, of the current edition, from the campus bookstore at a reduced price.
- The Modified Mastering Oceanography course and the ebook that you have access to will be in the current edition, so I personally wouldn't recommend that you buy previous editions of this text. This may cause a disconnect in your learning experience (i.e. chapters/sections that are added or removed, different examples and problems, etc.).

Course Description:

Oceanography is an introductory lecture and lab science course that studies the physical, chemical, geological and biological characteristics of the world's oceans.

Course requirements:

The course consists of a textbook, homework, lab assignments, a paper and one group project. Your assessment of the material will be through exams and lab practicals.

NOTE: All work must be submitted in Blackboard and will not be accepted by email. No work is accepted in the MAC/IOS format. Remember the college provides every student with a Microsoft 365 Office account, so there is no excuse to use the MAC/IOS format. If this causes an undue hardship the instructor may waive this rule at the sole discretion of the instructor.

Chapter lectures are recorded so you can listen for an in-depth study. It is in your best interest to listen to the lectures, as I will pass along information that will be found on exams. Lab sessions will also be recorded with help on each assignment. Modules are arranged to contain that week's lectures and labs.

The following contains more details about each of the exams and lab assignments:

1. **Lecture Exams:** Open Notes Exams cover lecture material, readings, and discussions covered during lecture. There are three exams worth 50 points each. The final exam is 40% comprehensive and is worth 100 points. The format for the exam is generally multiple choice, some hot spots and fill in the blank. I will post study guides at least one week prior to the exam and we will do an in-class review.
2. **Lab Practical:** Open Notes Exams. A lab practical is a hands-on exam that covers only what we have worked on in the lab assignments. Although, studying class material will help you in the lab as there is an overlap of the material. There are four lab practicals (50-75 points each). The assessments will test your quantitative and empirical skills that you learn in the lab.
3. **Lab Assignments:** The labs will all contain background material used to guide you through the assignments we complete. In addition to the background material, there are about 15 worksheets you will submit throughout the semester (about 10 points each) to be completed and turned in as an assignment in BB prior to each Lab Practical on Friday mornings.
4. **Discussion Forums:** There will be 4 discussions. Each post, opened the first week of class and following each exam, will require one initial thread by each student with a minimum two responses to other students. This is worth 25 points each or 100 possible points for the course.
5. **Group Project:** You will be randomly assigned to a group. Your group will be given an exercise on Earthquakes that will test your critical thinking and quantitative skills. The project is worth 50 points, including 25 points for peer evaluations.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:

The grade for this course consists of both a lecture and laboratory component. Students must earn a **70% or better in the laboratory** component to successfully pass the course. Earning less than 70% in the laboratory component will result in an F for the course regardless of the lecture grade. Passing the laboratory component and failing the lecture component will not guarantee a passing grade for the course. Deviations from this policy will be at the sole discretion of the instructor.

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Lecture Exams (3) | 50 Points each | 150 Points |
| Final Exam (1) | 100 Points | 100 Points |
| Mastering Homework (15) | 10 Points each | 150 Points |
| Discussions (4) | 25 Points each | 100 Points |
| Lab Practicals: (4) | ~50-75 Points each | 250 Points |
| Lab Assignments: (15) | ~10 Points each | 150 Points |
| Oceanography Paper (1) | 50 Points | 50 Points |
| Group Project (1) | 50 Points | 50 Points |
| | | 1000 Total Points |

Your grade can be calculated at any point in the semester by the following formula: Your total points to date, divided by total points possible, times 100 to get your current grade. For example: if we complete a possible of 175 points. If your total points to date are 150 points, then you have $150/175 \times 100 = 85.7$, or a B.

Grading Scale:

- A = 900 - 1000
- B = 800 – 899
- C = 700 – 799
- D = 600 – 699
- F = ≤ 599

Grades throughout the semester are rounded. Any grade 0.1-0.4 is rounded down and any grade from 0.5-0.9 is rounded up. So, if you get a 72.4, your grade is a 72.0. If you get a 72.49, then your grade is a 73.0. Rounding is done at the sole discretion of the instructor. Final grades use the same formula.

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy:

Exams and Lab Practicals are administered via BB and are open for 4 days starting every Friday at 8 am and close Monday at 11:59 pm. No make-up exams are provided without documentation due to flu, hospitalization or a death in the immediate family and decisions to allow make-up exams or work are at the sole discretion of the instructor.

The class calendar in the syllabus and on the class calendar in Blackboard have all the due dates for all homework, lab assignments, and exams. Any missed homework or lab assignments submitted late will only be given half credit. No late work or missed exams will be accepted the last two weeks of class.

Attendance Policy:

The college policy, and therefore, my policy, considers 3 unexcused absences to be excessive because you are missing too much material. After 3 unexcused absences your name will be submitted to the college “Early Alert” system, so an advisor can reach out to you to see how we can help. I will take attendance by weekly participation on Blackboard and submit these records to college administrators at the end of the semester as well.

Communicating with your instructor:

ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means.

I will do my best to respond to your needs quickly and efficiently. I will answer all course emails within 24 hours during the week and within 48 hours on the weekends. I will use the Blackboard Announcement feature to send you reminders of assignments due and upcoming exams, papers, and projects.

| Student Learner Outcome | Maps to Core Objective | Assessed via this Assignment |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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 Earths' Oceans and its processes. | Communication Skills | Ocean Acidification Paper |
| 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 |

Academic Dishonesty:

Any incident of academic dishonesty 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 the appropriate disciplinary action.

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 a 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 disciplinary action.

Examples of plagiarism include:

1. Submitting someone else's work with or without their knowledge

2. Paraphrasing or copying from a source (such as the internet, or books, or journals/magazines) without proper citation
3. Turning in a paper that was prepared through a website service
4. Copying materials straight from source text (even if it is from the internet), providing the appropriate citation (e.g. Works Cited or Bibliography) but leaving out quotation marks or in-text citation.

Link to resources about ways to avoid, or check for, plagiarism:

<http://en.writecheck.com/ways-to-avoid-plagiarism/>

<http://www.duplichecker.com/>

<http://www.plagiarismchecker.com/>

Student Concerns:

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 Sheena Abernathy, Science Department Chair, at sabernathy@com.edu or (409) 933-8330.

Course Outline:

| 2021 Dates | Modules | Lecture Topic (Chapter) | Lab Activities | Mastering Assignments | Due |
|---------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|------|
| JAN 18 | MLK Day – College Closed | | | Intro to Mastering | 1/25 |
| JAN 20 | Module 1 | Introduction to Planet Earth (1) | Ex0 - Latitude/Longitude | Intro: Planet Earth (1) | 1/25 |
| JAN 25 | | Introduction to Planet Earth (1) | Ex1 - Ocean Bathymetry | | |
| JAN 27 | Module 2 | Plate Tectonics (2) | Ex2 – Marine Charts | Plate Tectonics (2) | 2/1 |
| FEB 1 | | Plate Tectonics (2) | Ex2 – Marine Charts | | |
| FEB 3 | Module 3 | Marine Provinces (3) | Ex3 – Sea Floor Spreading | Marine Provinces (3) | 2/8 |
| FEB 8 | Module 4 | Marine Sediments (4) | Ex4 - Geography | Marine Sediments (4) | 2/12 |
| FEB 10 | | Marine Sediments (4) | | | |
| FEB 12 | | Lecture Exam 1 Opens 8:00 am | Lab Practical 1 Opens 8:00 am | | |
| FEB 15 | Module 5 | Water and Seawater (5) | | Water / Seawater (5) | 2/22 |
| FEB 17 | | Water and Seawater (5) | Ex7 - Ocean Temp and Salinity | | |
| FEB 22 | Module 6 | Air – Sea Interaction (6) | Ex8 – Atmosphere | Air/Sea Interaction (6) | 3/1 |
| FEB 24 | | Air – Sea Interaction (6) | | | |
| MAR 1 | Module 7 | Ocean Circulation (7) | Ex9 – Surface Currents | Ocean Circulation (7) | 3/4 |
| MAR 3 | | Ocean Circulation (7) | | | |
| MAR 5 | | Lecture Exam 2 Opens 8:00 am | Lab Practical 2 Opens 8:00 am | | |
| MAR 8 | Module 8 | Waves and Water Dynamics (8) | Ex11 – Waves at Sea | Water Dynamics (8) | 3/24 |
| MAR 10 | | Waves and Water Dynamics (8) | | | |
| | March 14 Daylight Savings Time – Spring Forward 1 Hour | | | | |
| | March 15-19 Spring Break – College Closed | | | | |
| MAR 22 | Module 9 | Tides (9) | Ex10 – Tides | Tides (9) | 3/29 |
| MAR 24 | | Tides (9) | | | |
| MAR 29 | Module 10 | Beaches, Shorelines (10) | Waves Exercise | Beach, Shorelines (10) | 4/5 |
| MAR 31 | | Beaches, Shorelines (10) | Ex12 – Waves in Shallow Water | | |
| | April 2 Good Friday – College Closed | | | | |
| APR 5 | Module 11 | Marine Pollution (11) | Ex13 – Hurricanes | Marine Pollution (11) | 4/9 |
| APR 7 | | Marine Pollution (11) | Video: A Plastic Wave | | |
| APR 9 | | Lecture Exam 3 Opens 8:00 am | Lab Practical 3 Opens 8:00 am | | |
| APR 12 | Module 12 | Marine Life and Marine Env (12) | Ex15 – Distrib. Of Marine Life | Marine Life / Env (12) | 4/19 |
| APR 14 | | Marine Life and Marine Env (12) | Marine Protected Areas | | |
| APR 17 | Texas Adopt a Beach – Cleanup Extra Credit | | | | |
| APR 19 | Module 13 | Bio Productivity & Energy (13) | Ex20 – Marine Adaptations | Bio Prod./Energy (13) | 4/26 |
| APR 21 | | Bio Productivity & Energy (13) | Ex16 – Productivity | | |
| APR 26 | Module 14 | Animals - Pelagic (14) “W” DAY | Ex18 – Nutrient Cycles | Animals - Pelagic (14) | 5/3 |
| APR 28 | | Animals - Pelagic (14) | Ex19 - Plankton | | |
| MAY 3 | Module 15 | Animals Benthic (15) | Food Web | Animals - Benthic (15) | 5/7 |
| MAY 5 | Module 16 | Climate Change (16) | | Climate Change (16) | 5/7 |
| MAY 9 | Sunday | Final Exam Opens 8:00 am | Lab Practical 4 Closes 11:59 pm | | |
| MAY 12 | Wednesday | Final Exam Closes 11:59 pm | Lab Practical 4 Closes 11:59 pm | | |

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://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf. *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.* https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf

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 accommodations is requested to contact Holly Bankston at 409-933-8520 or hbankston@com.edu. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

Counseling Statement: Any student needing counseling services is requested to please contact Holly Bankston in the student success center at 409-933-8520 or hbankston@com.edu. Counseling services are available on campus in the student center for free and students can also email counseling@com.edu to set up their appointment. Appointments are strongly encouraged; however, some concerns may be addressed on a walk-in basis.

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 is March 3rd for the 1st 8-week session, April 26th for the 16-week session, and May 5th for the 2nd 8-week session.

F_N Grading: The F_N grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The F_N 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 F_N grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an F_N 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.

COVID-19 Statement: All students, faculty, and staff are expected to familiarize themselves with materials and information contained on the College of the Mainland's Coronavirus Information site at www.com.edu/coronavirus. Students are required to watch a training [video](#), complete the [self-screening](#), and acknowledge the safety guidance at: www.com.edu/selfscreen. In addition, students, faculty, and staff must perform a [self-screening](#) prior to each campus visit. Finally, students, faculty, or staff who have had symptoms of COVID-19, received a positive test for COVID-19, or have had close contact with an individual infected with COVID-19 must complete the [self-report tool](#).