

**OCEAN 101B: SURVEY OF OCEANOGRAPHY (SLN 17060)  
FOCUS ON WASHINGTON WATERS  
SYLLABUS**

**Lecture: MWF 11:30am-12:20pm, MGH 389**

**Lab: T or TH 9:30-11:20am, 11:30am-1:20pm or 2:30-4:20pm, OCE 121**

Instructor: Dr. Mikelle Nuwer

Office: MSB 262

Office Hours: By appointment

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**TEXT:** *An Introduction to the World's Oceans* by Sverdrup and Armbrust (10th Edition; McGraw Hill)  
Available at the University Bookstore

*Welcome to Oceanography!*

There are no formal course requirements as prerequisites for OCEAN 101 – just an interest in the marine waters around us and an eagerness to learn about them. The goal of this course is to give students a solid background in basic ocean processes and in current oceanographic research. Students will learn how processes at work in the nearby marine waters of Puget Sound and off the Washington coast affect our daily lives, how valuable ocean resources are, and what the major issues impacting local and global marine waters are. Students enrolled in this course will learn about what they might see and experience along the Puget Sound or Washington coastal beaches, and how to protect these waters. The course is divided into three sections. In the first section, students will learn about the different types of beaches in our region and study the organisms that can survive and thrive in such a dynamic environment. In the second section, students will learn about the physical and chemical properties of the Puget Sound water column and investigate the high biological productivity of Puget Sound waters. In the third section, students will learn about how the ocean moves and how global and local marine waters are connected.

This course satisfies a natural world (NW) requirement for students majoring in other fields. Those students majoring in the sciences or interested in Oceanography as a major should consider taking OCEAN 200. Students will have to do some problems involving basic arithmetic, but no algebra or calculus – just the kind of arithmetic used in balancing a bank account.

## **EVALUATION**

To accomplish the course goal and assess your learning and progress, there will be a variety of instructional activities: 1) lectures, where students will learn basic facts and concepts and be introduced to local case studies, 2) readings, where students will interpret facts in relation to current scientific theories, 3) in-class problem-solving activities, where students will be asked to interpret scientific problems and apply the information presented in lecture, 4) laboratory assignments and homework, where students will make observations and interpret their significance to the scientific problems posed in lab, and 5) in-class exams.

1) **Lectures:** In lecture I will introduce students to basic oceanographic processes and highlight current issues using examples from the local marine environment. I will not present the subject matter in lectures in the order outlined in the textbook. Additionally, I will use materials (images, video, demonstrations) not found in the textbook in lectures. Therefore, regular class attendance is encouraged and will help students learn and

retain course material (and likely get better grades). During lectures, I encourage students to share their knowledge and ask questions, and not just sit passively.

**2) Readings:** During the quarter students are expected to study the assigned reading in the textbook and view additional specified websites and online readings to learn about interesting events and developments in ocean sciences too recent to be included in the textbook. The additional readings can be accessed through the course website.

**3) In-class activities:** Some scheduled class time will be spent brainstorming or investigating subject material in detail. During some lectures, students will be asked to complete a short assignment or meet in groups to discuss a possible solution to an open-ended problem. Only those present for lecture will receive credit for these activities and there will be no make-up assignments. You may miss one in-class activity without penalty.

**4) Lab assignments and homework:** Lab sections meet in 121 Old Ocean Building (OCE) located just east of the South Campus Center. Students are expected to attend the section for which they have registered. Should you need or want additional lab time or to attend a different section, please contact the TA. Lab sessions will include experimentation, demonstrations, water quality and productivity measurements, and tours of the UW salmon hatchery and UW's largest research vessel. The lab assignment and homework will be handed out on Mondays, and will be due at the **beginning** of class on Fridays. Students should come to lab having already read the lab assignment. Students will be able to complete approximately 75% of the assignment during the scheduled lab section, the other 25% should be completed as homework. 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.

**5) EXAMS:** There will be two mid-terms in addition to a cumulative final examination. Exams dates are shown on the lecture schedule. The questions on these exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. Questions will come from class lectures, readings, website materials, and labs. **There are no make-up exams.** Student athletes and those students with legitimate conflicts need to contact the instructor at the beginning of the quarter to make arrangements to take the exams.

**Extra Credit:** Several extra credit assignments will be offered Autumn Quarter. Descriptions and details for the assignments will be posted on the course website.

## GRADING

In-class activities and participation:	10%
Lab assignments and homework:	40%
Midterm exams (2):	30%
Final exam:	20%

The course will be graded on a curve with the class average set to a "B" (2.8-3.2).

**STUDENT ATHLETES:** The Student Athlete Travel Notification form (supplied by the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics) indicating which classes will be missed must be turned in to instructors at the start of the quarter. We will discuss how you can fulfill the requirements.

**ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS:** To request academic accommodations because of a disability, please contact the Disability Resources for Students (DRS), [uwdss@u.washington.edu](mailto:uwdss@u.washington.edu), 448 Schmitz Hall, 206-543-8924. Please present a letter at the start of the quarter to the instructors so we can provide appropriate accommodations.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:** The following information is extracted from the UW web site on academic honesty:

“You are guilty of cheating if you present as your own work something that you did not do. You are also guilty of cheating if you help someone else to cheat.”

“You will be expected to live up to the University's standards of academic honesty no matter what temptations you face. The good news is that this standard is not hard to maintain. It only requires that you clarify assignments and procedures with your instructors, that you study diligently, and that you seek help when you need it.”

Examples of cheating include, but are not limited to the following activities: attempting to pass others' work as your own (i.e., plagiarism), using crib sheets, or providing exam answers to other students. If you have any uncertainty as to which activities are defined as cheating, please visit: <http://depts.washington.edu/grading/conduct/honesty.html>.

You will work independently on all homework assignments, midterms, and the final exam. In-class activities are the only allowed collaborative assignments. Individual lab and homework assignments, may be discussed in section, but **must be written individually**. If we determine that you have cheated, you will be given a zero for the assignment. If we determine that you have cheated a second time, we will report you to the Dean of the College of Ocean and Fishery Science and the Vice Provost for Student Life. The student accused of cheating has the right to appeal to the Dean's representative. We expect all students “to maintain the highest standards of academic conduct.”

### **COURSE EXPECTATIONS:**

The following expectations will guide our work together.

#### **Instructor Expectation of Students**

My expectations are that you will

- Come to class on time, engage in the course content for the full class time, and refrain from any activities that distract from a positive learning environment. Please, **no music players, game players, or portable phones/audible pagers** (unless you check with me before class and it is an emergency);
- Come to class prepared to participate, having completed assigned reading, writing, and homework in advance;
- Participate in class activities in ways that demonstrate respect and civility towards all members of the teaching/learning team;
- Take an active role in obtaining information and resources for completion of tasks and assignments in the course and, ultimately, in promoting your own learning;
- Monitor your own learning and contribute feedback to support other members of the teaching/learning team in achieving course goals;
- Maintain the highest standards of academic conduct.

#### **Students' Expectations of Instructors**

You can expect that I will

- Begin and end class on time;
- Come to class prepared;

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- Provide information and resources to support learning;
- Make the best possible use of class time to support learning;
- Answer questions promptly and sufficiently;
- Be available to provide additional assistance when needed;
- Provide clear and consistent criteria that can be used fairly in evaluating your learning;
- Welcome input on ways to support you in your achievement of course goals.