Course Syllabus-OCN 110 OUR OCEAN SYSTEMS (3 cr.)

Course Purpose

You will study various aspects of people and technology concerning the oceans, including foods and minerals, coastal erosion, submersibles, diving, recent technological developments, pollution and international political implications. Special interest topics are presented as well--particularly in relationship to how oceans affect each of us.

This course introduces students to what mankind is achieving today on the ocean that, believe it or not, covers almost 70% of our planet. Topics are chosen from current news-making events, historical aspects of oceanography and modern scientific oceanography. OCN 110 OUR OCEAN SYSTEMS is a 3 semester hour general education course that meets a category 6a requirement in the UNC general education program or area 6 in the UNC liberal arts core program.

This course is NOT a laboratory course, so if you need a science laboratory course, you will need to choose another course. UNC has a variety of lab science courses, but I am not aware of any online yet. Consult a current UNC schedule of classes for offerings.

Course Objectives

After completing this introductory course, learners will be able to:

1. Identify various current research questions and answers in ten fields of oceanography. Relate current research findings in oceanography to personal interests.
2. Describe current understandings in 15 fields of oceanographic knowledge and be able to correctly identify main foundations in those 15 fields.

Course Requirements

A total number of 200 points can be earned in this course (plus opportunity for extra credit as described herein).

75 points - MIDTERM EXAMINATION
75 points - FINAL EXAMINATION
50 points - "RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT" QUESTIONS - 10 questions at 5 points each = 50 points. Discuss 10 important questions that are in 10 of the units. Your textbook has information pages for each of the 10 questions.

EXTRA CREDIT Additional Research Questions as described below. But DON'T even think about doing those until you have accomplished the REQUIREMENTS of the course as described above.

GRADING SCALE ENVISIONED FOR THE COURSE
A = 187 or more points
A- = 180-186 points
B+ = 173-179 points
B = 167-172 points
B- = 160-166 points
C+ = 153-159 points
C = 147-152 points
C- = 140-146 points
D+ = 133-139 points
D = 127-132 points
D- = 120-126 points
F = 119 or fewer points

These are the general guidelines I plan to use for grading purposes.

When you have completed all course requirements, please notify me. This is especially important if you do extra credit. To do extra credit, choose up to five (5) additional research questions from the "BOX" selections from your textbook. Follow the same instructions as for the ten (10) Research Assignments you have already done for the course. Each of those five extra credits are worth up to 3 points each for an additional 15 points to add to your total points for the course. Realize that the extra credit is not enough points to move your grade much (for example, enough to move from a C to a C+; not enough to do more than that). Extra credit is not going to bail anyone out of poor performance in the course!

**Required Materials and Technology**

Because this is an online course, there are certain technical competencies that are required for course completion. You must have the ability to use a common word processor, use email, and work with a browser to access the online course and other course materials.

**USE WHATEVER VENDOR OR SOURCE YOU LIKE TO GET THE TEXT.**


**Note:** This text may be obtained from the USED BOOK vendor of your choice. Enter in the online search window "Essentials of Oceanography 10th Edition", and then you should see a variety of options for new or used copies. Used copies are fine and much less expensive. Online booksellers may have used copies—as of June of 2017 the online price for a used copy, including shipping, was about $25. JUST GOOGLE your favorite online bookseller or the name of the text and then you can find various booksellers that offer it for various prices. It contains supplementary materials, including maps, charts, diagrams, figures, and other materials you will need for the course. Although most of the instructional material for the course is right here on the Canvas site, the text will fill out the visual and graphics part of the course so critical to your understanding and enjoyment. **YOU MUST HAVE THE TEXT TO DO THE TEN (10) RESEARCH PROJECTS FOR THE COURSE, and FOR THE MULTIPLE-CHOICE AND TRUE/FALSE QUESTIONS THAT WILL COME FROM TEXT MATERIAL TO BE TESTED ON THE MIDTERM AND FINAL--SO DONT DELAY IN GETTING THE BOOK!** Usually it takes about a week or two to get the book delivered to you via the mail, so don't wait getting this done!

**Expectations/Communication**

**What I expect from you**

I expect that you will take ownership of your learning. While I expect this from students in a face-to-face course, this is even more important for an online course. The readings, websites and media chosen for this course are a foundation for the basis of online learning.

I expect that you will complete all readings, activities, discussion boards, and assignments for the course and that you will learn the material, not just memorize it for an exam.
I also expect that you contact me with questions or concerns as soon as they develop, so I can make sure you stay current with your assignments. Contacting me after the fact except in cases of extreme emergency will not likely result in a great deal of sympathy for your cause.

**Communication - What you can expect from me**

If you have general questions, comments or feedback please E-MAIL ME. If you would like to discuss a private issue with me, please email at William.Hoyt@unco.edu and please include in the subject line the name of the course (OCN 110 Independent Study). I will typically respond to emails within 24 hours Monday-Friday and within 48 hours on the weekend or holidays.

I will try to provide timely feedback for your assignments (within one week). Be sure to look for the feedback in the Grades area.

**Time Commitment**

Please realize that it will take you at least as much time, work, and dedication to complete this online course as it does for an on-campus course. Taking an online course gives you flexibility – allowing you to attend class from any location. But because you are not made to attend at a specific time or place, it requires extra self-discipline:

- You must determine when you attend
- You must make sure that you attend regularly
- You must make sure that you reserve or, better yet, actually schedule enough time to check announcements, read the Course Materials, study, and complete assignments.

In a regular semester, for a 3 hour class, you would be expected to spend 3 hours in class each week and about 6 hours outside of class studying and completing assignments. Therefore for this online course, expect around that same amount of time - 9 hours total per week. This will vary, however, based on how comfortable you are in an online environment.