

OCEANOGRAPHY 100: OCEANOGRAPHY LECTURE ONLINE

Palomar College — Spring 2012

Instructor: Mr. Al Trujillo

Course Content

As a survey course, the content provides a foundation in science by examining oceanographic concepts, including the study of geologic, chemical, physical, and biologic oceanography. We will learn about how all the various disciplines of science are applied to the ocean in unique ways. Some topics covered include:

- Is the ocean's bottom really more important than the moon's behind?
- Where is Earth becoming unzipped?
- Why are diatoms the most important things you've (probably) never heard of?
- Why is iodine a "necessary nutrient"?
- What does an El Niño have to do with the price of eggs?
- How big was the biggest wave in recorded history?
- When was the last time syzygy was experienced?
- What is the best thing to do if you're caught in a rip current?
- Are San Diego County beaches starved?
- Is dilution the solution to ocean pollution?
- How likely is it to be attacked and killed by a shark?
- Which whales have a moustache?

This interdisciplinary science course has a wide diversity of subject matter (which is one of the reasons why I like teaching it). The key point is to gain an understanding and appreciation of the dynamic processes that control the world's oceans (*how the oceans work*).

Contact Information

Instructor's Office: EC-808C Escondido Center

Office Hours: MTuW 8:00-9:00 am online via e-mail; 1 live office hour TBA weekly; and also by appointment

Office Phone: (760) 744-1150 ext. 2734

Instructor's e-mail address: atrujillo@palomar.edu

Instructor's Website: <http://daphne.palomar.edu/atrujillo/>

Course Blackboard site: <http://www.palomar.edu/blackboard/>

If you leave me a message, I will try to respond to it within 24 hours but not later than 48 hours. Please keep me informed about significant events that affect your attendance in class. I tend to work with students who keep me informed; otherwise, I'm not very forgiving about students missing important class meetings. If you need to talk to someone on the main campus when I am not around, contact the Earth, Space, and Aviation Sciences Office at (760) 744-1150 ext. 2512. Brenda, the department secretary, is on campus weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Teaching Philosophy

I truly believe that each student determines their own grade. In reality, I'm not the main factor in the outcome of your grade—you are, *especially* in an online course, where you need to be self-motivated to succeed. I encourage you to work hard to achieve the grade that you want, and to utilize me as your instructor to help facilitate your learning. This course is hard work but I will try my best to make the course interesting and worthwhile. I love teaching and I'm interested in helping you learn about the science of oceanography.

Textbook

1. Required: *Essentials of Oceanography 10th Edition*, Trujillo and Thurman (2011) (new editions include access to the Online Study Guide). Note that there are many purchase options (e.g. regular bound text, loose-leaf version, eText); see the document "Suggested Options for Purchasing Oceanography 100 Lecture Textbook."
2. Required: Access to the *Essentials of Oceanography* Online Study Guide (comes free with a new textbook; otherwise, it can be purchased online for \$30 or \$94 with eText)

**Textbook
(cont.)**

Since I am the author for the textbook for this course, I rely quite heavily on the text; you will likely use your textbook in this course more than you've ever used any other textbook.

**Online
Course
Require-
ments**

Each week you will engage in several different learning activities related to oceanography. These activities include: reading the textbook; completing online assignments; viewing online resources including audio and video files; and participating in online discussions (discussion board forums). Throughout the semester, you will be required to:

- Have regular access to a computer with Internet access
- Frequently log onto the Oceanography 100 course Blackboard site at <http://www.palomar.edu/blackboard/> (your userid is your nine-digit Palomar College student ID and your password is set up by you when you establish your account)
- Download and read Adobe Acrobat files
- Create Word (.doc, .docx) or Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) documents that include graphics
- Scan documents into a digital format
- Download and play YouTube, Flash, and Microsoft Silverlight streaming videos
- Play audio files (Wimba, Java, and Windows Media files)
- Complete various discussion board posts and other online assignments
- Complete the Writing Assignment and upload it through SafeAssignment
- Complete 5 online exams and, at the end of the course, the comprehensive Final Exam

Point Totals

5 Exams @ 40 points each	= 200 points
10 Discussion Board Posts/Online Assignments @ 10 points each	= 100 points
1 Writing Assignment: Article Review	= 50 points
1 comprehensive Final Exam @ 100 points	= <u>100</u> points
TOTAL	450 points

**How Do the
Exams
Work?**

All exams are available online. Each exam covers 3 chapters in the textbook and consists of a total of 40 multiple choice and true-false questions plus map locations. The Final Exam is comprehensive (covers all chapters) and consists of a total of 100 multiple choice and true-false questions plus map locations.

Exams are posted online in the "Exams" folder at the course Blackboard site. You can take an exam anytime within the 3-day period it is available (exams will be available from Friday at noon until Monday at noon). When you begin taking an exam, you will be informed that you have a time limit of 45 minutes to complete it (longer for the Final Exam) and a timer will be displayed throughout the exam. The exam questions will be shown one at a time (no backtracking allowed). After you submit all your answers, your exam will automatically be graded and your score shown to you. Note that you may use any study materials during the exam (notes, textbook, worksheets); however, you will not have time to read the chapter while you take the exam (this is an attempt to ensure that you have studied and prepared well before you begin the exam). You may not use anyone else's help, which constitutes cheating.

**What
Should I Do
If My
Computer
Fails During
an Exam?**

If your computer fails during an exam, restart your computer, log back into the class Blackboard site, and resume taking the exam (note, however, that the exam timer will NOT restart). If you cannot resume the exam within a reasonably short time, call me immediately at (760)-744-1150 ext. 2734, tell me what happened, when it happened, and where I can contact you. If I am not in my office, I can retrieve calls at home during weekends and I will get back to you ASAP. In most cases, you will be asked to take another version of the exam in person on campus at an agreed-upon time.

**Exam Make-
up Policy**

If you discover you must miss an exam please contact me before the scheduled exam and I will attempt to work out something with you. Otherwise, there are no make-up exams.

Discussion Board Posts and Online Assignments

Weekly assignments will relate to topics covered in class and will require you to do some background reading/research and then either make a post in a discussion board forum in Blackboard or complete and upload an assignment. For the discussion board posts, I will read all comments but will make remarks only to add clarity, correct an error, or perhaps steer the discussion. As part of all discussion board assignments, you must also post 2 responses to other students' posts and rate at least 3 other students' posts using a 1-5 star rating.

Writing Assignment

The writing assignment will consist of writing a short (at least 1500 word) paper about a topic in oceanography of your choosing using 5 current articles. You will need to upload your paper through the SafeAssignment anti-plagiarism program that checks for Web and other forms of plagiarism. More details about this assignment and plagiarism are at the course Blackboard site.

Online Course Participation

This online course requires your participation in several class activities each week through discussion board forums, online assignments, and exams. You should access the course at least once daily to read announcements and check the discussion board. Studies show that there is a higher success rate for online students who access the course Blackboard site daily.

Most of your participation in this class will take place via the class discussion board where you will make various posts about topics and also reply to posts from other students. You will earn participation points for both the quantity and quality of your contributions. I think you will find the discussion board to be a very interesting and stimulating part of this online course.

Grading Scale

All grades will be posted in Blackboard and based on a total of 450 points with these cutoffs:

A = 90%
B = 80%
C = 65%
D = 55%
F = below 55%

I may lower this grading scale for your benefit, but I will not raise it. I don't have a problem giving out a lot of high grades, as long as students are willing to work for them.

Extra Credit

There will be a few opportunities to earn extra credit points by attending various events in San Diego County during the semester. In the past, extra credit points have been awarded for attending oceanographic talks given by speakers, for participating in beach clean-ups, for reviewing a chapter in the textbook, for computer projects, or for other oceanography-related activities. Check the course Blackboard site to know when extra credit opportunities become available (no make-ups on any missed extra credit!).

Field Trips

Field trips are not offered in conjunction with the lecture portion of this course. However, the optional one-unit Oceanography 100 Lab course (which is not offered online) is very field-oriented and I would encourage you to enroll in the lab course concurrently (during the same semester that you take the lecture). Many former students comment on how much taking the lab concurrently facilitates their success in lecture.

Late Adds

Only students who are officially registered may participate in this class. If you are given a permission code to add this class, you must officially add the class prior to the next class meeting. If you have difficulty using the college's computerized enrollment system to add, please notify the instructor immediately. The deadline for adding any class or using a permission code to add is the end of the second week of classes. **Under no circumstance will students be allowed to add this class after the add deadline.**

Disabilities

If you have a disability that requires some accommodation, please contact me and provide documentation within the first two weeks of class. Reasonable accommodation will be made.

Academic Dishonesty

You are expected to act honorably and in accordance with the Palomar College Student Code of Conduct (see the Palomar College Student Handbook). This means, for example, not accepting any help during exams. Cheating of any type will not be tolerated. If you cheat on any exam or assignment, you will be given 0 points for that exam or assignment. Further, the incident will be reported to the Department Chair, Dean of Sciences, and the Director of Student Affairs.

Course Schedule: *Ocean 100 Online* (Some assignments and exams may be due during holiday weekends)

Semester Week #	Beg. Calendar Week (Sun.)	Topic	Textbook Chapter
1	Jan 15	Introduction; Geographic Locations; Web Resources; Introduction to Planet "Earth" (lightly)	Preface, Intro, 1
2	Jan 22	Plate Tectonics and the Ocean Floor	2
3	Jan 29	Marine Provinces; Exam #1 (Chapters 1-3 plus map locations; Available online February 3-6)	3
4	Feb 5	Marine Sediments	4
5	Feb 12	Water and Seawater	5
6	Feb 19	Air-Sea Interaction; Exam #2 (Chapters 4-6 plus map locations; Available online February 24-27)	6
7	Feb 26	Ocean Circulation	7
8	Mar 4	Waves & Water Dynamics	8
9	Mar 11	Tides; Exam #3 (Chapters 7-9 plus map locations; Available online March 16-19)	9
★★★★★★★ Spring Break: No classes this week! ★★★★★★★			
10	Mar 25	The Coast: Beaches & Shoreline Processes	10
11	Apr 1	The Coastal Ocean	11
12	Apr 8	Marine Life & The Marine Environment; Exam #4 (Chapters 10-12 plus map locations; Available online April 13-16)	12
13	Apr 15	Biological Productivity and Energy Transfer	13
14	Apr 22	Animals of the Pelagic Environment	14
15	Apr 29	Animals of the Benthic Environment; Exam #5 (Chapters 13-15 plus map locations; Available online May 4-7)	15
16	May 6	The Oceans and Climate Change	16
17	FINAL EXAM WEEK: Comprehensive Final Exam (Chapters 1-16 plus map locations; Available online Wednesday May 16 until Saturday May 19)		All

Student Learning Outcomes

- A successful student should be able to meet the following Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):
- Describe characteristic processes and landforms associated with tectonic plate boundaries.
 - Compare and contrast the oceanic and atmospheric characteristics of El Niño and La Niña.
 - Describe the seasonal pattern of phytoplankton productivity for tropical, middle latitude, and polar oceans.

And Finally...

Don't hesitate to contact me to discuss any questions you may have about the course.

Welcome aboard!