

Oceanography
GEOL 1445 Section A1
Blinn College, Bryan Campus
Course Information Sheet
Fall, 2009

Instructor: Ms. Kathy Dubbs

Office: H-238

email: use eCampus

Telephone: 979-209- 7533(email is preferred)

Office Hours: Tuesday 2-3

W 9:30-11:30 & 3:00-4:00

Class Schedule: T/Th Lecture 9:10-10:25p.m.

Lab 10:35-11:50 p.m.

General Course Information:

Course Description: General principles of oceanography. Topics include the origin of the ocean basins; geologic processes in marine environments; waves, tides, and coastal processes; the ocean's role in climate variability and climate change; organisms that live in the ocean, their ecological communities and their interactions; and marine resources and human influences on the oceans. Laboratory work includes the physics of waves, currents, and tides; seawater chemistry; geological analysis of seafloor materials; bathymetric charts and maps, and marine life. Prerequisites: None. Three class hours and three laboratory hours per week. Credit: Four semester hours.

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course.

Core Curriculum: This is a Core Course in the 42-Hour Core of Blinn College. As such, students will develop proficiency in the appropriate Intellectual Competencies, Exemplary Educational Objectives, and Perspectives. www.blinn.edu/corecurriculum

Course Objectives: Upon completion of the course, the student will have an overall average of > 60% of the combined lecture and laboratory components of the course. This includes at least 3 major exams and quizzes given at the discretion of the Instructor. In the laboratory, the student will demonstrate an understanding of the lab activities through analysis of materials presented in lab and by being able to use these materials to solve problems and explain oceanographic processes. These learning outcomes will include the student demonstrating competence in the course objectives listed below:

From Lecture:

1. Review the major historical advances in the study of oceanography
2. Understand how plate tectonic theory accounts for the nature and origin of ocean basins
3. Learn the different types of marine sediments and their distribution on the seafloor
4. Discuss the composition of seawater and the processes that influence its composition
5. Learn the basic principles of ocean and atmospheric circulation and discuss the nature and origin of winds, waves, currents and tides
6. Learn the major types of organisms that inhabit the various zones of the ocean and their ecological relationships
7. Understand the unique processes that exist in the coastal zones of the ocean
8. Discuss human interaction with the ocean

From Lab:

1. Learn to interpret marine maps and charts, including bathymetric and navigational maps
2. Be able to identify the major geographical features of the oceans
3. Learn to recognize the major types of seafloor materials, including crustal rocks and sediments
4. Be able to measure and interpret the major properties of seawater and explain how they influence marine processes
5. Learn to measure, calculate and interpret the parameters for waves, currents and tides
6. Learn to identify the major types of marine organisms and their habitat
7. Be able to analyze and interpret marine ecological data
8. Learn to analyze and interpret marine climatological and/or paleoclimatological data

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Apply techniques and data-gathering procedures involved in various branches of oceanography (e.g., navigation, bathymetry, etc.).
2. Explain the geography and history of ocean basins in regard to plate tectonic theory.
3. Recognize, classify, and interpret the major types of seafloor materials and their distribution, including sediments and crustal rocks and infer their origin.
4. Identify the unique processes and features that exist in the coastal zone.
5. Recognize and compare relationships among the processes involved in circulation of the atmosphere, surface water and deep ocean.
6. Explain the origin of waves, currents and tides and learn to measure, calculate and interpret relevant parameters.
7. Investigate the chemistry of seawater and the processes that influence variations in its composition throughout the ocean.
8. Identify and classify the major types of marine organisms in terms of Linnean taxonomy and relation to their habitat and ecology. Class Policies:

Attendance: The College District believes that class attendance is essential for student success; therefore, students are required to promptly and regularly attend all their classes. Each class meeting builds the foundation for subsequent class meetings. Without full participation and regular class attendance, students shall find themselves at a severe disadvantage for achieving success in college. Class participation shall constitute at least ten percent of the final course grade. It is the responsibility of each faculty member, in consultation with the division chair, to determine how participation is achieved in his or her class. Faculty will require students to regularly attend class and will keep a record of attendance from the first day of class and/or the first day the student's name appears on the roster through final examinations. If a student has one week's worth of absences during the semester, he/she will be sent an e-mail by the College requiring the student to contact his/her instructor and schedule a conference immediately to discuss his/her attendance issues. If the student subsequently accumulates two weeks worth of absences, he/she will be administratively withdrawn from class.

There are three forms of excused absence officially designated by Blinn College: (1) Observance of religious holy days: The student should notify his/her instructor(s) not later than the 15th day of the semester concerning the specific date(s) that the student will be absent for any religious holy day(s); and (2) Representing Blinn College at an official institutional function and (3) official involvement in a high school activity for "dual credit" students. Other excuses will be considered and may be considered excusable at the instructor's discretion, with documentation. Missing lecture or lab or both will count as one absence.

Unexcused Absence Appeal: If you wish to have me consider excusing an absence for any other reason than the three listed above you must provide a completed Unexcused Absence Appeal Form (see eCampus) on the first day you return from absence. Incomplete or late forms will not be considered.

Make-ups: If a Lecture Exam is missed a make-up test will be allowed ONLY IF an acceptable excuse for missing the exam is presented to me **at the first class attended after the missed exam**; otherwise you will receive a zero for the exam. I will only allow this for ONE of the four major exams. Make-up exams may be different than the exam taken by the class and will be available at the Learning Center for **1 week after you return to class after the missed exam**. If you miss the exam and fail to complete the make-up exam at the Learning Center within 1 week, you will receive a zero for the exam.

If a Lab Test is missed you must discuss the situation with me ASAP and arrange to make up the test or you will receive a zero for the lab test.

There are no make-ups offered for missed lab exercises, quizzes or assignments. I drop a certain number of these items in calculating the final grade to account for this. You are still responsible for learning any missed material.

Dropping: If a student chooses to drop the course, it is that student's responsibility to complete a drop order at the Office of Enrollment Services. Failure to do so could result in a grade of F in the course. The last day to withdraw with a "W" is Friday, April 17.

Eating or Drinking: Neither eating nor drinking is allowed in classrooms or laboratories.

Dishonesty Statement: Blinn College does not tolerate cheating, plagiarism or other acts of dishonesty. Definitions of these acts and procedures for dealing with them are described in “Scholastic Dishonesty” in the Blinn College Student Handbook, copies of which are available at the information desk in the administration building.

Civility Statement: Members of the Blinn College community, which includes faculty, staff and students, are expected to act honestly and responsibly in all aspects of campus life. Blinn College holds all members accountable for their actions and words. Therefore, all members should commit themselves to behave in a manner that recognizes personal respect and demonstrates concern for the personal dignity, rights, and freedoms of every member of the College community, including respect for College property and the physical and intellectual property of others. Civility applies to attire as well as language and behavior. Please dress appropriately for the academic classroom and laboratory.

If a student is asked to leave the classroom because of uncivil behavior, the student may not return to that class until he or she arranges a conference with the instructor. It is the student’s responsibility to arrange for this conference.

ADA Policy: Students needing special accommodation due to a disability must obtain authorization from the Disabilities Counseling Office in room 157 of the Blinn science building.

The above requirements and policies are discussed more fully in the Blinn College Student Handbook which, by reference, is incorporated into this information. Please obtain and read.

eCampus Support: Office of Distance Learning, Blinn College: <http://www.blinn.edu/disted/index.htm> , support@blinn.edu , or (979) 209-7298

Student E-mail Accounts

- To start using your account go to: <http://mail.live.com>
- Your account is *Firstname.LastnameLast2digitsBlinnID@buc.blinn.edu*
- Your initial password is *your student ID number*

What can I do with this account:

- Receive official communications from Blinn College
- Send/Receive e-mail to friends, fellow students, faculty and staff
- Store 1 GB of documents on SkyDrive in Spaces
- Share information with blogs, web pages, lists and photos in Spaces
- Forward this e-mail account or check multiple e-mail accounts
- Customize [MyMSN](#) to include e-mail and other content relevant to you

E-mail account does not expire and the Inbox remains active as long as you log in at least once every 180 days.

Required Textbooks & Materials

Textbook: *Essentials of Oceanography 5e*, 2009, Garrison (Thomson/Brooks Cole)

Lab Manual: *Lab Exercises In Oceanography 3e*, 2001, Pipkin et al. (W.H. Freeman)

Marine Biology Coloring Book 2e, 2000, Niesen (HarperCollins)

Additional material (notes, review material etc. will be posted to my eCampus classroom (under the “Lessons” tab)

<https://ecampus.blinn.edu/default.asp>

Calculator (4 basic functions is all you will need) and pencils for lab activities

Criteria for Determining Final Grade:

The **Lecture Exams**, **Lab Tests**, and **Final Exam** will include a variety of question formats, including multiple-choice, fill in the blank, and essay questions. All exams are closed book. Exams and lab tests will be returned in class for students to review.

Quizzes will be multiple choice.

Lab Quizzes: Lab quizzes will occur at the end of **each** lab session. You must turn in one clean, unfolded scantron sheet on which to take these quizzes. I will keep these and provide them to you when quizzes occur.

Lecture Quizzes: Seven lecture quizzes will be given during the semester. These will be taken on eCampus. Quizzes will be available Wednesday at 3:00pm-Sunday midnight of the scheduled week. You will be allowed two attempts on each quiz. If you choose to take a quiz twice, you will receive the score of **YOUR SECOND ATTEMPT**.

Extra Credit Assignments up to 15 points of extra credit will be made available during the semester.

Lecture Exams, 100 points each	400 points
Lab Exams, 3@70 points each	210 points
Lab Quizzes (best 14 - 10 points each)	140 points
Lecture Quizzes (best 5 - 10 points each)	50 points
Comprehensive Final Exam	200 points
Total	1000 points

A = 900-1000 points (90%-100%) B = 800-900 points (80%-89%)
C = 700-800 points (70%-79%) D = 600-700 points (60%-69%) F = <600 points (< 60%)