

Oceanography
GEOL 1445 Section A2
Blinn College, Bryan Campus
Course Information Sheet
Fall 2009

Instructor: Dr. Amanda Julson
Office: G-246
Telephone: 979-209-7503

Class Schedule: T/Th 9:10-11:50 a.m.
Office Hours: Tu-W-Th 9:00-10:30 a.m.
Email: ajulson@blinn.edu (Note: email is the best way to contact me)

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 and Student Learning Outcomes: 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:

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 need to provide a completed Unexcused Absence Appeal Form (see ECampus) on the first day you return from absence. Upon excusing the absence, missed grades from the missed class will be not be counted in calculating the average for graded work. Incomplete or late forms will not be considered. I will only grant a maximum of 2 unexcused absence appeals per individual. Additional missed classes will result in zeroes for graded items on those days.

Make-ups: There will be no make-ups for exams or graded work.

If you miss class, you are still responsible for learning any missed material. Lecture notes are posted in eCampus. Read over the notes from any missed lecture(s) and arrange to meet with me to discuss any questions you may have. Due to the complex nature of our lab work, it is not possible to schedule make-ups for missed labs. You can meet with me during my office hours or Open Lab (Friday, 1:30-3:30 p.m.) for a brief synopsis.

If a major exam is missed, the grade will be replaced with the grade (%) on the Final Exam **if an acceptable explanation is presented to me in a timely manner**, otherwise you will receive a zero for the exam. I will only allow this for ONE of the three major exams.

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.

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 November 20th.

Eating/Drinking, Electronic Devices: Neither eating nor drinking is allowed in classrooms or laboratories. Cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off. Laptop computers may be used for note-taking ONLY.

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

Criteria for Determining Final Grade:

Lecture Exams (100 points each):	300 points
Lab Quizzes (Geol/Chem/Phys) (average):	100 points
ECampus Assignments (average):	100 points
In-Class Questions (average):	100 points
Lab Exercises (average):	100 points
Lab Final (Biol/Ecol):	100 points
Comprehensive Final Exam:	<u>200 points</u>
Total for class =	1000 points

The grading system of Blinn College recognizes the following grade values:

A = 90 – 100% mastery of course material
B = 80 – 89% “
C = 70 – 79% “
D = 60 – 69% “
F = less than 59% “

Required Textbooks & Materials

Essentials of Oceanography 5e, 2006, Garrison (Thomson/Brooks Cole)
Lab Exercises In Oceanography 3e, 2001, Pipkin et al. (W.H. Freeman)
Guide to Seashore Life (Golden Guides)

Always bring a calculator to class!