

# Course Syllabus

ISNS 3367 - 011

Department of Geosciences School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics  
The University of Texas at Dallas

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## Course Information

### Course

Course Number/Section ISNS 3367 - 011  
Course Title "The Oceans"  
Term and Dates Spring 2010 January 11<sup>th</sup> – May 12<sup>th</sup> 2010

### Professor Contact Information

Professor Ignacio Pujana Ph. D.  
Office Phone 972-883-2461  
Email Address pujana@utdallas.edu  
Office Location FA 2.402  
Online and Office Hours By appointment  
Geosciences Department 972-883-2401

### About the Instructor

Ignacio Pujana is a Geologist with 15 years experience in academia, field studies and industry. Senior Lecturer and Researcher in the Geosciences Department for the last ten years. Teaching, "The Oceans", Paleobiology, Introduction to Paleontology, History of Earth and Life, and Geology Environment and Resources of Latin America. Previously taught in the University de la Patagonia San Juan Bosco, Argentina. Research on Stratigraphy and Biostratigraphy of Mesozoic and Cenozoic sequences from Texas, North Mexico, Argentina, Tasmanian Sea, and Mariana Trench.

### Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

None

### Course Description

"The Oceans" is an interdisciplinary science course offered in an online format. A flexible approach based on programmed self-instruction, with frequent tests to monitor progress, substitutes for the usual lecture with infrequent testing mode used in most courses. The course is divided into 10 sections (called Units), each of which corresponds to one or two chapters in the textbook. There is one test per Unit; therefore, the course consists of 10 tests. The assignment for each Unit is outlined in a study guide, listing specific objectives to be mastered.

### Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

- |  |
|--|
| Explain how our planet, its oceans and its life forms originated.  |
| • Describe, in general terms, the geography of the world's oceans. |
| • Understand and explain plate tectonics.                          |

• Describe the chemical and physical properties of seawater.
• Know the processes that characterize water movement in the world's oceans.
• Describe the relationship between oceans and climate
• Explain the type and distribution of ocean sediments, the processes by which they are deposited, and how the coastline influences this process.
• Know the organisms that live in the ocean and the factors that control their diversity.
• Describe the natural resources available from the ocean and the ocean's role as a waste disposal site.
• Understand and appreciate the relationship of the ocean to everything that we do on our planet.

## **Required Textbooks and Materials**

### **Required Text**

"Oceanography: An Invitation to Marine Science, 6<sup>th</sup> edition" (Garrison, Brooks/Cole, Cengage Learning)

Textbooks can be ordered online through [UTD Bookstore](#). They could be also available at the [Off-Campus Books](#).

## **Course Policies**

### *Make-up exams*

No makeup test will be given. If you have an extraordinary situation please contact me immediately.

### *Class Participation*

Students are required to login regularly to the online class site and complete the **End Of Chapter Quizzes** (EOCQ) as practice towards the Unit Tests, accomplishment of all this EOCQ in all units will provide a 3% extra credit in the final grade.

The instructor will use the tracking feature in WebCT to monitor student activity.

### *Virtual Classroom Citizenship*

The same guidelines that apply to traditional classes should be observed in the virtual classroom environment. Please use proper netiquette when interacting with class members and the professor.

### *Policy on Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties*

The university is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the UTD eLearning Help Desk: <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearninghelp>, 1-866-588-3192. The instructor and the UTD eLearning Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

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### *Requirements.*

Students will:

- have regular access to a computer that meets the specifications outlined
- have regular access to a reliable Internet connection (56K minimum, high speed preferred)
- access WebCT three times per week (minimum)

### *Knowledge/Attitude/Skills.*

The online student must be:

- proficient using a computer
- disciplined to complete projects by deadlines
- a self starter with intrinsic motivation to read, write, and participate fully in class activities
- able to manage time effectively
- able/willing to work independently and in virtual teams
- willing to devote approximately 12 hours a week to a 3-credit course
- committed to academic honesty
- willing to contact the instructor immediately if a problem with course content should arise
- willing to contact technical support immediately should a technical issue arise

## **Technical Requirements**

In addition to a confident level of computer and Internet literacy, certain minimum technical requirements must be met to enable a successful learning experience. Please review the important [technical requirements and the web browser configuration information](#).

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## **Course Access and Navigation**

This course was developed using a web course tool called eLearning. It is to be delivered entirely online. Students will use their UTD NetID account to login to the course through UTD Galaxy: <http://galaxy.utdallas.edu> or directly at <http://elearning.utdallas.edu>. Please see more details on [course access and navigation information](#).

To get started with an eLearning course, please see the [Getting Started: Student eLearning Orientation](#).

UTD provides eLearning technical support 24 hours a day/7 days a week. The services include a toll free telephone number for immediate assistance (1-866-588-3192), email request service, and an online chat service. The UTD user community can also access the support resources such as self-help resources and a Knowledge Base. Please use this link to access the UTD eLearning Support Center: <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearninghelp>.

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## **Communications**

This eLearning course has built-in communication tools which will be used for interaction and communication. Some external communication tools such as regular email and a web conferencing tool may also be used during the semester. For more details, please see [communication tool information](#).

Interaction with Instructor: The instructor will communicate with students mainly using the Announcements and Discussions tools. Students may send personal concerns or questions to the instructor using the course email tool. The instructor will reply to student emails or Discussion board messages within 3 working days under normal circumstances. My office phone is 972-883-2461

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## Student Resources

The following university resources are available to students:

**UTD Distance Learning:** <http://www.utdallas.edu/oeo/distance/students/cstudents.htm>

**McDermott Library:** Distance Learners (UTD students who live outside the boundaries of Collin, Dallas, Denton, Rockwall, or Tarrant counties) will need a UTD-ID number to access all of the library's electronic resources (reserves, journal articles, ebooks, interlibrary loan) from off campus. For UTD students living within those counties who are taking online courses, a Comet Card is required to check out materials at the McDermott Library. For more information on library resources go to <http://www.utdallas.edu/library/distlearn/disted.htm>.

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## Student Assessments

### Grading Information

Weights

Test Units 1-10	85%
Oceanography Report	15%

Grading Scale

Based on 10 Test grades, and the Oceanography Report;

Scaled Score (%)	Letter Equivalent
97.1 -100	A+
93.1-97	A
90.1-93	A-
87.1-90	B+
83.1-87	B
80.1-83	B-
77.1-80	C+
73.1-77	C
70.1-73	C-
60.1-70	D
Less than 60	F

Grades to the quizzes will be posted to your grade book automatically via eLearning. Your first score will be the score shown in the GRADE BOOK. You may take the quizzes two times.

Unit tests require no specific score to "pass." If you wish to improve your first grade a second attempt could be made in the allowed time (usually three days) and your two scores will be averaged in your grade for that test.

### Accessing Grades

Students can check their grades by clicking "My Grades" under Course Tools after the grade for each assessment task is released.

### Assignments

Oceanographic Report Assignment (max- 100 points-15% of your grade)

The purpose of this research paper exercise is to familiarize you with a significant oceanic event, or process of your choice. It should be related to real time data posted on the WWW for this semester. More information will be posted on the main page folder "Oceanographic Report".

You will submit your assignment (in Word for Windows with a file name based on your last name) by using the Assignments tool on the course site. Please see the Assignments link on **the course menu or see the icon on the designated page. You can click each assignment** name link and follow the on-screen instructions to upload and submit your file(s). Please refer to the Help menu for more information on using this tool. **Please note:** each assignment link will be deactivated after the assignment due time. After your submission is graded, you may click each assignment's "Graded" tab to check the results and feedback.

### Online Tests/Quizzes

### Academic Calendar

You can access quizzes/Tests by clicking the Assessments link on the course menu or see the quiz/Test icon on the designated page. Each assesment is timed and can be accessed only two times within the scheduled time window, three days, usually from Thursday 12:30 AM to Saturday midnight-71 hours). Please read the on-screen instructions carefully before you click "Begin Assessment".

WEEK	Unit	CHAPTER	Topic	Assignments and Assessments
1/16			Introduction	Read the Syllabus, check all necessary plug-ins in your computer. Answer the survey test and post a self introduction on Discussions. Survey available Thursday 14 to Saturday 9th. Three days (72 hours)
2/16	<b>1</b>	1-2	Origins and History	Chapters 1and 2 on textbook, Go to the Units Folder and open UNIT1: Presentations, Flash Cards, Glossaries and links Answer Questions end of chapter -QEOC 1, this works as a review and gives you points for participation. Take Test Unit 1 available 01/21 before it expire -01/23. This result is what will count towards your final grade. Maximum two attempts and the average will make your grade on the Test
3/16 4/16	<b>2</b>	3-4	Earth Structure and Plate Tectonics Continental Margins	Chapters 3 and 4 on text book, Go to Folder UNIT2: Presentations, Flash Cards, Glossaries and links Answer Questions end of chapter -QEOC 2.

			and Ocean Basins	Take Test Unit 2 available 02/04-10/
5/16	<b>3</b>	5	Sediments	Chapter 5 on text book, Go to Folder UNIT 3: Presentations, Flash Cards, Glossaries and links Answer Questions end of chapter -QEOC 3. Take Test Unit 3 available 02/11
6/16	<b>4</b>	6 and 7	Water and Ocean Structure Ocean Chemistry	Read Chapters 6 and 7 on text book, Go to Folder UNIT 4: Presentations, Flash Cards, Glossaries and links Answer Questions end of chapter -QEOC 4 Take Unit 4 Quiz available 02/18
7/16	<b>5</b>	8 and 9	Circulation of the Atmosphere Circulation of the Ocean	Chapters 8 and 9 on text book, Go to Folder UNIT 5: Presentations, Flash Cards, Glossaries and links Answer Questions end of chapter -QEOC 5 Take Unit 5 Test available 02/25
8/16 9/16	<b>6</b>	10 and 11	Waves and Tides	Read Chapters 10 and 11 on text book, Go to Folder UNIT 6: Presentations, Flash Cards, Glossaries and links Answer Questions end of chapter -QEOC 6 Take Unit 6 Test available 03/11
			Spring Break	"Oceanographic Report" Topic decision: deadline <b>March 23 rd</b> (after Spring Break)
10/16	<b>7</b>	12	Coasts	Chapter 12 on text book, Go to Folder UNIT 7: Presentations, Flash Cards, Glossaries and links Answer Questions end of chapter -QEOC 7 Take Unit 7 Test available 03/25-11/02
11/16 12/16	<b>8</b>	13 and 14	Life in the Ocean Plankton, Algae, and Plants	Chapters 13 and 14 on text book, Go to Folder UNIT 8: Presentations, Flash Cards, Glossaries and links Answer Questions end of chapter -QEOC 8 Take Unit 8 Quiz available 04/01
13/16 14/16	<b>9</b>	15 and 16	Marine Animals Marine Communities	Chapters 15 and 16 on text book, Go to Folder UNIT 9: Presentations, Flash Cards, Glossaries and links Answer Questions end of chapter -QEOC 9 Take Unit 9 Quiz available 04/15
15/16 16/18	<b>10</b>	17 and 18	Marine Resources, Environmental Concerns	Read Chapters 17 and 18 on text book, Go to Folder UNIT 10: Presentations, Flash Cards, Glossaries and links Answer Questions end of chapter -QEOC 10 Take Unit 10 Quiz available 04/29
				"Oceanographic Report" Assignment due: May 3rd Last Day Classes, Spring 2010

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## Scholastic Honesty

The University has policies and discipline procedures regarding scholastic dishonesty. Detailed information is available on the [UTD Judicial Affairs](#) web page. All students are expected to maintain a high level of responsibility with respect to academic honesty. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

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## Course Evaluation

As required by UTD academic regulations, every student must complete an evaluation for each enrolled course at the end of the semester. An online instructional assessment form will be made available for your confidential use. Please look for the course evaluation link on the course Home Page towards the end of the course.

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## University Policies

### Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

### Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

## **Email Use**

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

## **Withdrawal from Class**

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

## **Student Grievance Procedures**

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

## **Incomplete Grade Policy**

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is



not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

### **Disability Services**

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:

The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22

PO Box 830688

Richardson, Texas 75083-0688

(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

### **Religious Holy Days**

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

## **Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities**

Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address given below. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean.

([http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel\\_Risk\\_Activities.htm](http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm))

***These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.***

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