

# Course Syllabus

The Oceans ISNS 3367 - 011 (Online)  
Department of Geosciences School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics  
The University of Texas at Dallas

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## Course Information

Course Number/Section ISNS 3367 - 011

Course Title The Oceans

Term and Dates Fall 2013 August 26<sup>th</sup> – December 11<sup>th</sup>

## Professor Contact Information

Professor Dr. Ignacio Pujana

Office Phone 972-883-2461

Email Address For this course use eLearning to email instructors,  
Emergency emails: [pujana@utdallas.edu](mailto:pujana@utdallas.edu)

Office Location ROC 2.301B

Online and Office Hours Thursdays 10:00 am to noon or by appointment.

Geosciences Department 972-883-2401

## About the Instructor

Ignacio Pujana, Senior Lecturer and Researcher in the Geosciences Department for the last ten years; teaching, "The Oceans", "Paleobiology", "Introduction to Paleontology", "Earth and Life History" "Physical Geology", and "Geology Environment and Resources of Latin America". Research on Biostratigraphy of Mesozoic and Cenozoic Sequences.

## 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. A Syllabus Quiz should be passed (can be repeated all times needed) in order to go on to test one, but those points do not count towards your grade.

There is one test per unit; therefore, the course entails 10 tests. Two of those tests (fifth and tenth) will test the knowledge of several units comparable to a Midterm and Final exam.

## 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.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the natural resources available from the ocean and the ocean's role as a waste disposal site.</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand and appreciate the relationship of the ocean to everything that we do on our planet.</li> </ul>        |

## Required Textbooks and Materials

### Required Text

"Oceanography: An Invitation to Marine Science", 7th editions (by Tom Garrison, Brooks/Cole, Cengage Learning)



### **Oceanography: An Invitation to Marine Science, 7th Edition**

Tom S. Garrison

ISBN-10: 049539193X

ISBN-13: 9780495391937

2010

No need to buy access cards or anything else, just the above mentioned textbook.

Textbooks can be ordered online through [UTD Bookstore](#). They could be also available at the [Off-Campus Books](#). A wide offer of used textbooks is also available in many other electronic outlets feel free to explore it.

### Course Policies

#### Sequence of events

All supporting material, all tests and assignments, and all communication will be provided through eLearning at <https://elearning.utdallas.edu>

Please familiarize yourself with the functionality and features of eLearning as soon as possible (see further information below).

### TESTS

There are two types of tests; 1) Tests which cover 1 unit (Tests 1,2,3,4,6,7,8,9), and 2) Tests which cover several units (Tests 5 and 10).

Each test will be open for one week starting and ending Tuesdays at 11 AM. Every week a new test will be added and simultaneously ending the preceding one. Type 1 test is open for 35 minutes; two attempts are allowed per test, although the second attempt is optional. The final test grade is either the average of both attempts or the grade of the first attempt if the second attempt was not taken.

Type 2 tests are more comprehensive and cover several units and chapters, comparable to a Midterm or final exam. They run also a week Tuesday to Tuesday 11. Test 5 covers units 1, 2, 3 4 and 5. Test 10 covers units 6-10. Both run for 50 minutes and two attempts are allowed. Final test grade is calculated as explained below.

Computer and connection problems are not a valid excuse to miss a test, particularly, if you choose to do your test during the last hours/minutes of the Testing period. UTD keeps the supported computer labs open around the clock.

#### Make-up Exams

There will be NO make-up tests; each student will be allowed to miss and recover just **one test** during the semester on the recovery period at the end of the term.

### Class Participation

Students are required to login regularly every week to the online class site; there is a new test each week. The Schedule included on this syllabus will be maintained unless further notification on the main page of this class.

### **Virtual Classroom Citizenship**

The same guidelines that apply to traditional classes should be observed in the virtual class room environment. Please use proper netiquette when interacting with class members and the instructors. The course website on eLearning has a discussion forum, feel free to post questions and answers on common problems. The forum is monitored, please do not post test answers or any offending material.

**NOTE: Do NOT use the eLearning mail system to post mass-emails to the entire class.**

**USE the monitored discussion forum instead**

### **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 shall:

- 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 e-Learning three times per week (minimum).

### **Knowledge/Attitude/Skills.**

The online student must be:

- proficient using a computer
- disciplined to comply with deadlines
- a self starter with intrinsic motivation to read, write, and learn
- able to manage time effectively
- able/willing to work independently
- 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 is developed using a web course tool called e-Learning. It is to be delivered entirely online. Students will use their UTD NetID account to login to the course through UTD Galaxy: [Net ID Login](#) 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 may also be used. 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 within 2 working days, less under normal circumstances. My office phone is 972-883-2461 also to be used for unusual circumstances.

## 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>.

## Student Assessments

### Grading Information Weights

Syllabus Quiz	0%
Quizzes 1,2,3,4,6,7,8,9 (8.75% each)	70%
Quizzes 5 and 10 (15% each)	30%
Total	100%
Optional Comprehensive test <b>Extra Credit</b>	2%

### Grading Scale

Based on 10 Test grades, and the optional Oceanographic 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	<u>F</u>

Grades to the tests 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 tests 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 and your two scores will be averaged as the grade for that test. A maximum of two missed tests could be recovered on the designated week.

#### Accessing Grades

Students can check their grades by clicking "My Grades" under Course Tools

## Academic Calendar

You can access tests by clicking the Assessments link on the course menu or see the exam icon on the designated Folder. Each quiz is timed and can be attempted only two times within the scheduled time window; from Tuesday to Tuesday, 11 AM.

Please read the onscreen instructions carefully before you click “Begin Assessment”. Once it starts you will have 35 minutes to complete a quiz (for quizzes 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9); or 50 minutes (for quizzes 5 and 10). **Tests are based solely on the text book, however right answers may require elaboration of the information no just mere repetition.**

WEEK	Units Tested	Added Unit / Chapter number and Topic	Schedule of Assignments and Assessments
1-2/16	Syllabus Quiz	Syllabus Introduction	Read Syllabus; check all necessary plug-ins in your computer. Pass the “Syllabus Quiz” no points will be counted towards your grade but it has to be passed with 100% to go on Unit 1 Test. Syllabus Quiz: Monday, August 26th 11:00 AM to Tuesday September 17 <sup>th</sup> 11:00 AM, unlimited attempts but must be passed with 100% in order to see Test 1.
3-16	<b>1</b>	Unit 1: Chapter 1 Origins and Ch. 2 History	Read Chapters 1 and 2 on textbook Go to Folder UNIT1: Presentations, Flash Cards, Glossaries and links. Take Test Unit 1; Tuesday Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup> , 11:00 am to Tuesday September 17 <sup>th</sup> 11:00 am. This grade is what will start counting towards your final grade. Maximum Two attempts and the average will make your grade on the Test.
4/16	<b>2</b>	Unit 2: Chapter 3 & 4: Earth Structure and Plate Tectonics & Continental Margins and Ocean Basins	Read Chapters 3 and 4 on text book, Go to Folder UNIT2: Presentations, Flash Cards, Glossaries and links. Take Test Unit 2 available Tuesday Sept. 17 <sup>th</sup> , 11:00 am to Tuesday Sept. 24 <sup>th</sup> , 11:00 am.
5/16	<b>3</b>	Unit 3: Chapter 5: Sediments	Read Chapter 5 on text book, Go to Folder UNIT 3: Presentations, Flash Cards, Glossaries and links. Take Test Unit 3 available Tuesday Sept. 24 <sup>th</sup> , 11:00 am to Tuesday Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 11:00 am
6/16	<b>4</b>	Unit 4 Chapters 6 & 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 Take Test Unit 4 available Tuesday Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 11:00 am to Tuesday Oct. 8 <sup>th</sup> , 11:00 am.
7/16	<b>1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 15%</b>	Unit 5: Chapters 8 & 9 Circulation of the Atmosphere & Circulation of the Ocean	Read Chapters 8 and 9 on text book, Go to Folder UNIT 5: Presentations, Flash Cards, Glossaries and links Take Test Unit 5 available Tuesday Oct. 8 <sup>th</sup> , 11:00 am to Tuesday Oct. 15 <sup>th</sup> , 11:00 am. This test will be open for 50 minutes and <b>include also questions from Units 1, 2, 3 and 4.</b>

8/16	<b>6</b>	Unit 6: Chapters 10 & 11 Waves & Tides	Read Chapters 10 and 11 on text book, Go to Folder UNIT 6: Presentations, Flash Cards, Glossaries and links Take Test Unit 6 available Tuesday Oct. 15 <sup>th</sup> , 11:00 am to Tuesday Oct. 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 11:00 am.
9/16	<b>7</b>	Unit 7: Chapter 12 Coasts	Read Chapter 12 on text book, Go to Folder UNIT 7: Presentations, Flash Cards, Glossaries and links Take Test Unit 7 available Tuesday Oct. 22 <sup>th</sup> , 11:00 am to Tuesday Oct. 29 <sup>th</sup> , 11:00 am.
10/16	<b>8</b>	Unit 8 Chapters 13 & 14 Life in the Ocean & Plankton, Algae, and Plant	Read Chapters 13 and 14 on text book, Go to Folder UNIT 8: Presentations, Flash Cards, Glossaries and links Take Test Unit 8 available Tuesday Oct. 29 <sup>nd</sup> , 11:00 am to Tuesday Nov. 5 <sup>th</sup> , 11:00 am.
11/16	<b>9</b>	Unit 8 Chapters 13 & 14 Life in the Ocean & Plankton, Algae, and Plants	Read Chapters 15 and 16 on text book, Go to Folder UNIT 9: Presentations, Flash Cards, Glossaries and links Take Test Unit 9 available Tuesday Nov. 5 <sup>th</sup> , 11:00 am to Tuesday Nov. 12 <sup>th</sup> , 11:00 am.
12/16	<b>6, 7, 8, 9 and 10</b>	Unit 10 Chapters 17 & 18, Marine Resources & Environmental Concerns	Read Chapters 17 and 18 on text book, Go to Folder UNIT 10: Presentations, Flash Cards, Glossaries and links Take Test Unit 10 available Tuesday Nov. 12 <sup>th</sup> , 11:00 am to Tuesday Nov. 19 <sup>th</sup> , 11:00 am. This test will be open for 50 minutes and <b>include also questions from Units 6, 7, 8, and 9.</b>
13- 14/16			Recovery Period <b>one missed</b> test maximum, this is not for improving grades of attempted assessments Test available Tuesday Nov. 19 <sup>th</sup> , 11:00 am. to Tuesday Nov 26 <sup>th</sup> 11:00 am.
15- 16/16			<b>Optional Comprehensive Test</b> for extra credit (maximum 2 %.) Test available Tuesday Dec. 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 11:00 am. to Tuesday Dec. 10 <sup>th</sup> 11:00 am.

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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. Precise and detailed tracking of all online activities is a characteristic of the e-Learning system. Anything you do while log on the system is recorded.

## 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.

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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