

Course Syllabus

The Oceans ISNS 2367.0W1-2 (Online)
Department of Geosciences School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
The University of Texas at Dallas

Course Information

Course Number/Sections ISNS 2367 .0W1- ISNS 2367 .0W2
Course Title The Oceans
Term and Dates Fall 2016 August 22th – December 7th.

Professor Contact Information

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Office Hours by appointment.
Geosciences Department 972-883-2401

About the Instructor

Ignacio Pujana, Senior Lecturer and Researcher in the Geosciences Department for the last 18 years; teaching, "The Oceans", "Paleobiology", "Introduction to Paleontology", "Earth and Life History" "Physical Geology", and "Geology Environment and Resources of Latin America". Research: Biostratigraphy of Mesozoic- Cenozoic Sequences, and recent sedimentation Mariana Trench area.

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 and homework 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.

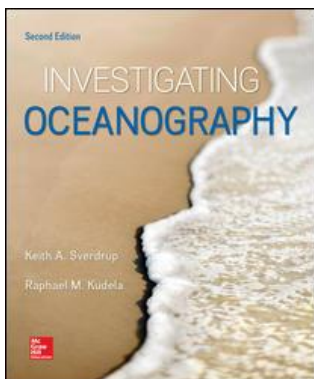
There is a test, and learning activities per unit; each of the ten Tests contributes to your grade, with the learning activities as prerequisites for accessing the test (read more below). The course is fast paced with a new unit per week which must be learned and tested during that week.

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

Links inside ELearning, The Oceans ISNS 2367, will take the student into the registration (only needs to be done once)



Very Important: Register with your UTD account and the official name on records, otherwise you be unregistered.

<http://www.mheducation.com/highered/product.1259683915.html>

The publisher offers a free trial for about three weeks or so.

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

Alternatives for those students who want a printed text book (not required), may be explored on the same publisher site

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>

ASSESSMENTS: Tests, and Learn Smart modules

All the assessment activities will be conducted online on your own computer.

LearnSmart: an adaptive learning system designed to help students learn faster, study more efficiently, and retain more knowledge for greater success. These assessments are required to be passed with at least **90%** in order to open each one of the 10 unit tests; most of the unit Tests have two Learn Smart modules. These assignments will be open one week before the Test and remain open until the end of the semester. Please be aware the deadline of the test will be enforced strictly, in consequence is wise to have your LearnSmart modules done well in advance of the test deadline.

Tests: A test includes material contained on one or two chapters. Each test will be open for two weeks starting and ending Wednesdays at 11:00 AM (exception Unit 10). A prerequisite is to earn at least 90% on the assigned LearnSmart Unit modules; every week a new test will be added and the oldest one is closed. A test is open for 35 minutes; and two attempts are allowed per test (highest grades will be recorded). The test must be finished in one sitting, once it starts, if you try to save it and go away, the time will still running and submit your grade as it is. The majority of your grade in this class will be earned from these Tests.

Make up:

Two Recovery tests will be offered, to replace **one missed test** each, these are comprehensive tests. The first **Recovery 1** will include units 1 to 5, and **Recovery 2** includes questions from Units 6 to 10. This opportunity will be offered at the end of the semester.

Academic Calendar

You can access Assessments by clicking the proper icon on the designated Unit Folder

LearnSmart Modules: These assessments are required to be passed with at least **90%** in order to open each one of the 10 unit tests; most of the unit Tests have two Learn Smart modules. These assignments will be open one week before the Test may be attempted as many times as necessary and remain open until the end of the semester. Please be aware the deadline of the test will be enforced strictly, in consequence is wise to have your LearnSmart modules done well in advance of the test deadline.

Unit Tests and will start at 11:00 AM Wednesdays and close two weeks later also a Wednesday, 11:00 AM. This is a way to allow you to plan your testing time better, but be careful don't wait until the deadline. Please read the onscreen instructions carefully, once it starts you will have 35 minutes to complete a test (no saving and returning to it is allowed). **Tests are based on the text book, however right answers may require elaboration of the information no just mere repetition.** Each Test is timed 35 minutes and can be attempted two times (if the student wish to do so), highest grades will be recorded) within the scheduled time window. Late submissions are possible but will be penalized with a reduction of 1% of the grade each hour late.

WEEK	Units Tested	Added Unit / Chapter number and Topic	Schedule of Assignments and Assessments
1-2/16		Introduction: Syllabus Prologue unit open for practice	Read Syllabus; check all necessary plug-ins in your computer. Register on econnect see how on the class elearning site. The Prologue of the textbook will be open as voluntary practice of the system in a working unit; it's just a test to see how things work. These grades however will not be counted towards the final grade. The way to proceed is first open the Learning Smart module and earn at least 90%, then the access to Prologue test will open, deadlines will run regardless if you have access or not.
3/16	1	Unit 1: Chapter 1 The Water Planet	Read Chapter 1 on the textbook. Start the LearnSmart Module to assess yourself and read again missed concepts on the textbook. Earning 90 % on these modules IS NECESSARY to open access to the corresponding Test Unit. LearnSmart Module/s , will be always open. Unit 1 Test is available: Wednesday August 31 st at 11:00 AM. until Wednesday September 14 th 11:00 AM. This grade is what will start counting towards your final grade. Unit test will have a maximum of two attempts 20 questions on 35 minutes. Highest grade is what counts.
4/16	2	Unit 2: Chapters 2 &3: Earth Structure and Plate Tectonics & The Sea Floor and Its Sediments.	Read Chapters 2 and 3 on text book. Must pass (90%) the LearnSmart Modules to assess yourself and access the Unit Test. No limit to the number of tries and the highest score is what counts. Unit 2 Test will be available Wednesday September 7 th 11:00 AM, to Wednesday September 21 st , 11:00 AM.
5/16	3	Unit 3: Chapters 4 & 5: The Physical Properties of Water & The Chemistry of Seawater	Read Chapters 4 and 5 on text book. Must pass (90%) the two LearnSmart Modules to be allowed test on UNIT 3 Unit 3 Test will be available Wednesday September 14 th , 11:00 AM to Wednesday September 28 th , 11:00 AM.
6/16	4	Unit 4 Chapters 6 & 7 The Atmosphere and the Oceans & Ocean Structure and Circulation.	Read Chapters 6 and 7 on text book. Must pass (90%) the LearnSmart Modules to assess yourself and access the Unit Test. No limit to the number of tries and the highest score is what counts. Unit 4 Test will be available Wednesday September 21 st , 11:00 AM. to Wednesday October 5 th , 11:00 AM.

7-8/16	5	Unit 5: Chapters 8 & 9 The Waves & The Tides	Read Chapters 8 and 9 on text book. Must pass (90%) the LearnSmart Modules to assess yourself and access the Unit Test. No limit to the number of tries and the highest score is what counts. Unit 5 Test will be available Wednesday September 28 th , 11:00 AM. to Wednesday October 12 th , 11:00 AM.
10/16	6	Unit 6: Chapter 10 Coasts, Beaches, and Estuaries	Read Chapter 10 on text book. Must pass (90%) the LearnSmart Modules to assess yourself and access the Unit Test. Unit 6 Test will be available Wednesday October 5 th , 11:00 AM to Wednesday October 19 th , 11:00 AM.
11/16	7	Unit 7: Chapters 11 & 12 Coasts The Living Ocean & The Plankton, Productivity, and Food Webs	Read Chapters 11 and 12 on text book. Must pass (90%) the LearnSmart Modules to assess yourself and access the Unit Test. Unit 7 Test will be available Wednesday October 12 th , 11:00 AM to Wednesday October 26 th , 11:00 AM
12/16	8	Unit 8 Chapters 13 & 14 The Nekton: Swimmers of the Sea & The Benthos: Living on the Sea Floor	Read Chapters 13 and 14 on text book. Must pass (90%) the LearnSmart Modules to assess yourself and access the Unit Test. Unit 8 Test will be available Wednesday October 19 st , 11:00 AM to Wednesday November 2 th , 11:00 AM.
13/16	9	Unit 9 Chapter 15 Environmental Issues	Read Chapter 15 on text book. Must pass (90%) the LearnSmart Modules to assess yourself and access the Unit Test. Unit 9 Test will be available Wednesday October 26 th , 11:00 AM to Wednesday November 9 th , 11:00 AM.
14/16	10	Unit 10 Chapter 16 The Oceans and Climate Disruption	Read Chapter 16 on text book. Must pass (90%) the LearnSmart Modules to assess yourself and access the Unit Test. Unit 10 Test will be available Wednesday November 2 nd , 11:00 AM to Wednesday November 16 th , 11:00 AM.
15/16	Nov. 21 st to 27 th Fall Break/ Thanksgiving Holiday		
16/16	Recovery Week Monday November 30th to Monday December 7th 11:00 AM. - Recovery 1 Test offered as one time opportunity, to replace one missed test of the first part of the semester (will not count to improve low grades). Recovery 1 is comprehensive and will include units 1 to 5. - Recovery 2 Test offered as one time opportunity, to replace one missed test of the second part of the semester (will not count to improve low grades). Recovery 2 is comprehensive and will include units 6 to 10. Optional Comprehensive Test is offered for extra credit (maximum 2 %.)		

Student Assessments

Grading Information Weights

Learn Smart activities 16 chapters. Prerequisite to open test units.	0% Prerequisite must be pass with at least 90% to open the corresponding test
Unit tests 1, 2 ,3 ,4 , 5, 6 ,7 ,8 ,9 and 10 (10 % each)	100%
Optional Comprehensive Test is offered or extra credit (maximum 2 %.)	2%
Total	100% + 2% of possible extra Credit

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	F

Grades 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 test a maximum of two times (grade is the average) and submit homework one time.

Accessing Grades

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

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. In case of computer/ connection malfunctions, remember UTD keeps the supported computer labs open around the clock.

Class Participation

Students are required to log in regularly every week to the online class site; there is a new unit with fresh assessments every week -Wednesday at 11:00 AM. The Schedule included on this syllabus will be strictly follow 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.

Requirements.

Students shall:

- have regular access to a computer that meets the specifications outlined .
- have regular access to a reliable Internet connection.
- 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.

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>.

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>.

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

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:

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>.

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.

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