



# PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE

Oceanography – Section Syllabus

OCE 1001, Section P1025

Spring 2025, Session A

**Instructor:** Dr. Ophelia George

**Office:** Pensacola Campus, Building 17, Room 1744

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**Email:** [ogearge@pensacolastate.edu](mailto:ogearge@pensacolastate.edu) (best method of contacting me is through Canvas messaging; I will respond within 24 – 48 hours to messages sent between Monday and Friday.)

**Office Hours:** TBA

**Department Head:**

**Department Head Phone:** (850) 484-1106

**Department Head Email:** @pensacolastate.edu

**Final Exam Date:** TBD

**Last Date of Drop/Add:** 1/16/2025

**Last Date for Student to Withdraw:** 4/7/2025

## Course Description:

Using the scientific method, critical thinking skills, and data analysis, the student will examine the fundamental processes of the ocean system, composed of an atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, and biosphere, through time. The course will also explore interactions between these spheres, including critical analysis of scientific theories and emphasize oceanic connections with humanity.

**Class Meeting Time:** M\_W | 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

**Class Location:** Pensacola Campus, Building 17, Room 1777

**Credits:** 3

**Prerequisites:** Placement at the college level or completion of the appropriate exit-level developmental course(s) with a grade of C or better.

**Offered:** FA, SP

**Distribution:** Meets AA General Education Core, Natural Sciences (Physical Sciences) requirement.

## Recommended Textbook:

Investigating Oceanography; Sverdrup & Kudela, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.; 2024; 9781264091171, McGraw Hill Publishing

## Methods of Evaluation:

At minimum, the instructor will cover content which aligns with statewide and institutional learning outcomes for the course. The instructor will measure student performance using the following:

Grading Scale:	
90% - 100%	<b>A</b>
87% - 89.99%	<b>B+</b>
80% - 86.99%	<b>B</b>
77% - 79.99%	<b>C+</b>
70% - 76.99%	<b>C</b>
67% - 69.99%	<b>D+</b>
60% - 66.99%	<b>D</b>
Below 60%	<b>F</b>

Grading Calculation			
Assignment/Assessment	% of Total Grade	Duration	Total points per task group
Class participation and attendance	5%	Untimed	50
Homework (6 @25 pts each)	15%	Untimed	150
Exams* (5 @120 pts each)	60%	60 minutes	600
Chapter quizzes (7) + Syllabus quiz	20%	25 minutes	200
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Total pts</b>	<b>1000</b>

- **Assignments** will vary between homework assignments and chapter quizzes.
  - You will be allowed multiple (3) attempts on the syllabus and chapter quizzes and Canvas will keep your best score, but all attempts must be submitted by the assignment deadline to avoid the late submission penalty.
- **Exams** may include any of the material covered in the assigned readings, lectures, and any handouts, and will consist of multiple choice, matching, fill in, and short answer questions.
  - There will be only one attempt allowed for each exam, please ensure that you take the exam by the listed deadline as **no makeup exams will be given except in extreme circumstances.**
  - Caveat: While there are **5 exams** offered in the course, **only 4** will be required to pass the class as each student's lowest test score will be swapped out for their best, **PROVIDING THAT THE STUDENT HAS NOT CHEATED ON ANY OF THE EXAMS.** This means that test 5 can serve as a replacement for a poor performance on one of the earlier exams or skipped all together.
- In general, completed grades should be posted within a week of the assignment deadline.

### Assignment Due Dates

All assignments deadlines will be clearly listed in Canvas as well as in the tentative schedule below. Late assignment submissions are strongly discouraged as there will be a 5% deduction for each day that the assignment is late. Additionally, if the exam where the material in the assignment is being tested has passed, then the assignment will no longer be accepted, and the student will receive a 0 on the assignment.

### Lecture attendance:

I strongly recommend that you attend every lecture. If you do miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain notes and handouts from that missed class from a fellow student. Your first 2 absences will not count against you and while I may not formally withdraw you from the course, since attendance forms 10% of your overall grade, failure to attend lectures will count against your final course grade. Please be courteous to others and me by arriving on time to lectures and turning off or silencing all cellphones while in class.

### How to do well in this class:

- Read the assigned reading before attending the lecture in which that material is covered.
- Answer the review questions posed throughout the chapter.
- Do a thorough job preparing your study guide and reviewing for exams.
- **Time Expectations:** Students enrolled in this 3-credit course can expect to spend 6 hours/ week engaged in preparation (reading) and "doing" (exercises, quizzes). Of course, the amount of time varies from individual to individual.

**Student Expectations:** Students enrolled in this course can expect the following:

1. Clearly identified course objectives;
2. Productive class meetings;
3. A positive learning environment;
4. Opportunities for appropriate student participation;
5. Effective instruction;
6. Positive and appropriate interactions;
7. Assistance with meeting course objectives during and beyond class hours;
8. Evaluation of student performance and appropriate and timely feedback; and
9. Clear and well-organized instruction.

**General Education Student Learning Outcomes:**

**Critical Thinking:** The student analyzes, evaluates, and, if necessary, challenges the validity of ideas, principles, or data in order to develop informed opinions, probable predictions, or defensible conclusions.

**Scientific and Mathematical Literacy:** The student properly identifies and applies scientific or mathematical principles and methods.

**Information Literacy:** The student effectively locates, evaluates, and applies information from a variety of sources.

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

- Use critical thinking to recognize the rigorous standards of scientific theories.
- Analyze and synthesize oceanographic data to draw scientifically valid conclusions.
- Recognize the different time scales associated with different ocean processes.
- Describe interactions between humans and the ocean realm.
- Apply their understanding of oceanographic principles to various marine issues.
- Describe the magnitude of the role of the ocean on our lives and relate our dependence on a healthy ocean.
- Relate the historical, geological, physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of oceans.
- Participate in environmental discussions, based on the content of the course. Make informed decisions as global citizens about the future of the planet.

**Academic Dishonesty Statement:**

Pensacola State College is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic conduct. All forms of academic dishonesty, to include plagiarism and cheating, are prohibited. Penalties for academic dishonesty include but are not limited to one or more of the following: the awarding of no credit on the assignment, a reduction in the course grade, or the assignment of a final course grade of F and removal from the course. See the College Catalog for more details: <https://pensacolastate.smartcatalogiq.com/2024-2025/catalog/student-handbook/student-responsibilities/plagiarism-and-academic-cheating/>

**Student Email Accounts:**

Pensacola State College provides an institutional email account to all students enrolled in courses for credit. PirateMail is the official method of communication, and students must use PirateMail when communicating with the College. In cases where companion software is used for a particular class, email may be exchanged between instructor and student using the companion software.

**Flexibility:**

It is the intention of the instructor to accomplish the objectives specified in the course syllabus. However, circumstances may arise which prohibit the fulfilling of this endeavor. Therefore, this syllabus is subject to change. When possible, students will be notified of any change in advance of its occurrence.

**ADA Statement:**

Students with a disability that falls under the Americans with Disability Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, it is the responsibility of the student to notify Student Resource Center for ADA Services to discuss any special needs or equipment necessary to accomplish the requirements for this course. Upon completion of registration with the Student Resource Center for ADA Services office, specific arrangements can be discussed with the instructor.

**Pirates CARE Student Resource Center**

As a student, you may experience challenges that can interfere with your academic and personal success. These can include things such as basic needs (food, housing, transportation, healthcare, etc.), increased anxiety, depression, substance use, grief, or other stressful experiences. The Pirates CARE Student Resource Center provides free services to students, including emergency aid, campus food pantries, career clothing closets, connections to local resources for basic needs support, and confidential mental health counseling services provided in-person or via telehealth.

You can contact the Pirates CARE Student Resource Center at 850-484-1759 or by email at [PiratesCARE@pensacolastate.edu](mailto:PiratesCARE@pensacolastate.edu). More information about our services can be found online at [www.pensacolastate.edu/PiratesCARE](http://www.pensacolastate.edu/PiratesCARE).

For additional 24/7 crisis help, the Crisis Text Line can be accessed by texting "GULF" to 741-741, and the Suicide Lifeline can be reached by phone at 9-8-8.

**Equity Statement:**

Pensacola State College does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, ethnicity, religion, marital status, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity or genetic information in its programs, activities, and employment. For inquiries regarding the College's nondiscrimination policies, contact the Executive Director of Institutional Equity and Student Conduct, 1000 College Blvd., Building 5, Pensacola, Florida 32504, (850) 484-1759.

**Security Statement:**

Pensacola State College is committed to encouraging all members of the College community to be proactive in personal safety measures. In case of emergency, students should ensure that they are aware of the building exit closest to each of their classrooms, as well as all alternative building exits in case circumstances require using a different route.

**Emergency Statement:**

In the case of severe weather or other emergency, the College administration maintains communication with appropriate state and local agencies and makes a determination regarding the cancellation of classes. Notices of cancellation will be made through the College's PSC Alert system and on the College's website.