



# Syllabus for Introduction to Oceanography

## Course Information

Semester & Year: Fall 2022

Course ID & Section #: OCEAN-10-V3581 and V3582

Instructor's name: Emily Wright

Course units: 3

## Instructor Contact Information

Office location: HU 125A

Office hours: by appointment at [WhensGood.net/WrightOfficeHour](https://www.whensgood.net/WrightOfficeHour)

Email address: [emily-wright@redwoods.edu](mailto:emily-wright@redwoods.edu)

Preferred contact method: Pronto or Canvas message

## Catalog Description

An introduction to the Earth's ocean including marine environments, geology, plate tectonics, fundamental chemical and physical properties of seawater, atmospheric-oceanic relationships, oceanic circulation, coastal environments and biological productivity.

## Course Student Learning Outcomes *(from course outline of record)*

1. Use the formal methodology of the scientific method as an inquiry-based tool to critically evaluate oceanic phenomena.
2. Describe how energy is transferred between different elements of the Earth's geologic, oceanic, atmospheric and biological systems.
3. Apply oceanographic principles to describe how coastal materials and landscapes change over time.
4. Apply concepts of physics and chemistry to quantitatively explain variations in the characteristics of the oceanic environment.

## Accessibility

College of the Redwoods is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability-related services and accommodations, please contact your instructor or [Disability Services and Programs for Students](#) (DSPS). Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS based on their campus location:

- Eureka: 707-476-4280, student services building, 1<sup>st</sup> floor
- Del Norte: 707-465-2324, main building near library
- Klamath-Trinity: 530-625-4821 Ext 103

If you are taking online classes DSPS will email approved accommodations for distance education classes to your instructor. In the case of face-to-face instruction, please present your written accommodation request to your instructor at least one week before the needed accommodation so that necessary arrangements can be made. Last minute arrangements or post-test adjustments usually cannot be accommodated.

## Student Support

Good information and clear communication about your needs will help you be successful. Please let your instructor know about any specific challenges or technology limitations that might affect your participation in class. College of the Redwoods wants every student to be successful.

## Evaluation & Grading Policy

This course uses a **weighted grading system**. Letter grades will be assigned according to the CR grade scheme, after grade weighting is applied:

<b>A</b>	100 %	to 94.0%
<b>A-</b>	< 94.0 %	to 90.0%
<b>B+</b>	< 90.0 %	to 87.0%
<b>B</b>	< 87.0 %	to 84.0%
<b>B-</b>	< 84.0 %	to 80.0%
<b>C+</b>	< 80.0 %	to 77.0%
<b>C</b>	< 77.0 %	to 70.0%
<b>D</b>	< 70.0 %	to 60.0%
<b>F</b>	< 60.0 %	

The table below shows the categories, their weights, and any special rules for that category. The grading policies in this class are designed to value quality over quantity!

Category	Weight	Frequency	# dropped	# of attempts	Scoring	Late Penalty
Study Assignments	10%	Several per unit	3 dropped	Varies – often unlimited	Highest score or complete/incomplete	1% per day Max 5%
Study Discussions	5%	1 per unit	3 dropped	NA	Complete/Incomplete	1% per day (first post) Max 5%
Writing Tasks	5%	1-2 per unit	1 dropped	NA	Complete/Incomplete	1% per day Max 5%
Writing Evaluation	20%	2 per semester (10% each)	none	Score is based on multiple drafts	Rubric based score	See Rubric
Exams	60%	4 per semester (15% each)	You may replace 1 exam score with a better, later exam score	2 attempts on each exam	Highest score  Bonus points available for test correction assignment	No penalty

## Dropped Scores

In some categories, your lowest score will be dropped from the grade calculation. In effect this means that you are excused from a certain number of assignments in that category. For example, there will be about 14 study discussions and 3 scores are dropped in this category. In effect, that means that you are required to participate in 11 discussions ( $14 - 3 = 11$ ) and you may choose which 11 you would like to respond to.

## Late Penalty

The default late penalty set in the Canvas gradebook for this class is 1% per day, minimum 95%. In effect, this means that your score will be reduced by 1% of the assignment total, up to 5 days late. After 5 days, a blanket 5% reduction applies. There is no limit to how late you may submit assignments. Any assignment submitted before 11:59 pm on the final day of the semester will receive credit with a maximum of 5% late penalty.

Late writing assignments will also result in lower score on the writing evaluation rubric. See the rubric (available in Canvas) for more details.

The late policy does not apply to exams. Exams may be taken any time after they are published with no penalty. Because Canvas does not allow different late policies for different categories, you might initially see the late penalty applied. Feel free to message me to remind me to remove it.

If ever you feel that the late policy is too restrictive and you need more flexibility to be successful in this class, you may request an extension on any assignment, no questions asked.

## Assignment Category Descriptions

### *Study Assignments*

This category includes lessons and summary quizzes. Lessons are activities designed to present course content in an interactive way and summary quizzes are designed to help you review the material at the end of each unit to prepare for exams. Both are designed as learning activities. Unlimited attempts allow you to make mistakes and learn from them without real consequence to your grade. The 10% weight of this category serves as a small incentive for you to complete this work on schedule.

All assignments in this category are open book, open note, open discussion. You are welcome to collaborate as much as you wish!

### *Study Discussions*

These discussions are designed to give you an opportunity to study the material by elaborating on what you know and calibrating your knowledge with your peers. In some cases, you might be asked to answer a question that has correct and incorrect answers. However, you will receive credit for answering the questions, regardless of whether you answer correctly. Again, the goal here is to focus on learning from mistakes without penalty. The 5% weight of this category serves as a small incentive for you to complete this work on schedule.

### *Writing Tasks*

There are two major writing assignments in this class, the "Press Release Paper" and the "Final Paper." Writing Tasks include activities that will help you work towards a final draft for these two papers, as well

as a few other assignments directed at developing your science communication skills. You'll earn credit in this category for completing the tasks, regardless of the merit of your writing. The 5% weight of this category serves as a small incentive for you to complete this work on schedule.

#### *Writing Evaluation*

Once you've submitted your final draft for each of the writing assignments, you'll receive a final score. Although this grade is attached to the final draft submission, ***the rubric also considers the merit of your earlier drafts as well as the extent of your improvement between drafts.*** For more information, read the rubrics available in Canvas.

#### *Exams*

There will be four exams, each worth 15% of your final grade. Exam questions will be similar, but not identical, to those that appear on the summary quizzes in each unit. Questions on each exam will be pulled randomly from a larger bank of questions. All exams are *cumulative*, meaning questions might cover any topic covered during any point prior to that exam (i.e. the fourth exam will cover material from the entire semester). You will have two attempts on each exam and the better of your two scores will count toward your final grade.

Exams are open note, open book, but closed discussion. Discussing answers with your classmates, family, roommates, etc. while the exam is open is considered cheating, as is sharing exam results (correct answers) with classmates who have not yet taken the exam.

I believe that your grade should reflect your mastery of the material. Exams are designed to measure your comprehension and mastery of the material and thus the "Exams" category is the most heavily weighted of any category. However, to counteract the potential effects of an unlucky result, you may replace one exam score with a later, better exam score. You may also earn back half of each point you missed on your best exam attempt by completing an exam corrections activity.

### **Turnitin**

The Turnitin plagiarism check will be applied to essay submissions for the purpose of assisting your instructor in identifying plagiarism.

### **Class Participation and Attendance Policy**

If this class were offered in person, it would meet twice per week. I therefore recommend that you log into this class at a similar frequency. Spacing out studying has been shown to be an effective study strategy! However, assignments will typically be open at least one week prior to the due date, so you can plan your own weekly schedule however you'd like.

Your participation will be tracked through the completion of scored assignments such as lessons and discussions. School policy allows me to initiate a withdrawal for a student who has "excessive absences" prior to the *Last day for faculty-initiated W* deadline. For this online course "excessive absences" will be defined as missing one week or more of assignment deadlines with no communication with the instructor. I will typically reach out to you prior to dropping you from the course. It is your responsibility to participate in this course on a regular basis. If you intend to withdraw from the class, it is also your responsibility to do so through Web Advisor before the deadline. Do not assume that I will initiate the drop.

## Contacting Your Instructor

The best way to reach me is through Pronto or Canvas messages. Pronto is a chat app linked to Canvas. You can open the Pronto chat in Canvas, or use the app on your smartphone (look for “Pronto Team Communication” by Hitlabs in your app store). You can ask questions in the whole class chat or through a direct message. I am most likely to see and respond to your message immediately if you use Pronto, but I will also check Canvas messages and email. Sometimes I may be away from my computer or involved in other things and might not answer your message right away. Barring exceptional circumstances, such as illness or power outage, I will respond to messages in Pronto, Canvas, or email within at most 24 hours Monday through Friday. If I am available weekends, I will respond to urgent messages, but I cannot guarantee that I will be in internet communication every weekend. If you have not heard back from me within a reasonable time frame, it is possible that I have lost your message, so please resend.

If you want to meet with me over video (or voice), we can also do this in Pronto or set up a Zoom meeting time. If my Pronto status is “online” (green dot) this means that I am most likely available to meet with you. Send me a message asking to meet. If I am not currently available, you can request an appointment using [whenisgood.net/WrightOfficeHour](https://whenisgood.net/WrightOfficeHour) and I will send you an invitation for a time that works for both of us. This is a request form, not an appointment reservation form. The more availability you enter, the more likely I can find a time that works for me.

I also can potentially meet with you in-person on the Eureka campus on Thursdays (before and after lab). If you wish to guarantee my availability, please message me to set up an appointment.

## Admissions Deadlines & Enrollment Policies

### Fall 2022 Dates

- *Classes begin: 8/20/22*
- *Last day to add a class: 8/26/22*
- *Last day to drop without a W and receive a refund: 9/02/22*
- *Labor Day Holiday (all campuses closed): 09/05/22*
- *Census date: 9/06/22 or 20% into class duration*
- *Last day to petition to file P/NP option: 09/16/22*
- *Last day to petition to graduate or apply for certificate: 10/27/22*
- *Last day for student-initiated W (no refund): 10/28/22*
- *Last day for faculty-initiated W (no refund): 10/28/22*
- *Veteran’s Day (all campuses closed): 11/11/22*
- *Fall Break (no classes): 11/21/22 – 11/25/22*
- *Thanksgiving Holiday (all campuses closed): 11/23/22 – 11/25/22*
- *Final examinations: 12/10/22 – 12/16/22*
- *Semester ends: 12/16/22*
- *Grades available for transcript release: approximately 01/06/23*

## Academic dishonesty

In the academic community, the high value placed on truth implies a corresponding intolerance of scholastic dishonesty. In cases involving academic dishonesty, determination of the grade and of the student's status in the course is left primarily to the discretion of the faculty member. In such cases, where the instructor determines that a student has demonstrated academic dishonesty, the student may receive a failing grade for the assignment and/or exam and may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct ([AP 5500](#)) is available on the College of the Redwoods website. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the [College Catalog](#) and on the [College of the Redwoods website](#).

## Respectful Engagement in this Online Course

College of the Redwoods aspires to create a learning environment in which all people feel comfortable in contributing their perspectives to classroom discussions. There may be times in this class where you may wish to express disagreement with another student's opinion. You might also be asked to provide constructive criticism or correct another student's misconception. A learning environment is one in which everyone feels comfortable expressing criticism or disagreement. To achieve this, we must each strive to criticize without insulting, and equally, to receive criticism without becoming insulted. It is important to engage in discussion in a manner that is respectful and inclusive. We all are responsible for ensuring that disagreement remains respectful by not letting challenges to ideas become attacks on personal identity.

In such (rare) cases where the instructor determines that a student's discourse in online discussions, chats or live sessions has disrupted the educational process or violates the student code of conduct in any way, the instructor will remove the offending post(s). In addition, the student may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct ([AP 5500](#)) is available on the College of the Redwoods website. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the [College Catalog](#) and on the [College of the Redwoods website](#).

## Setting Your Preferred Name and Pronouns in Canvas

Students have the ability to have an alternate first name and pronouns to appear in Canvas. Contact [Admissions & Records](#) to request a change to your preferred first name and pronoun. Your Preferred Name will only be listed in Canvas. This does not change your legal name in our records. See the [Student Information Update form](#).

You can set your pronouns in Canvas in your account settings. If you haven't already, please do, it's very helpful for online classes!

## Canvas Information

"Canvas" by Instructure is our online classroom. It is the main homepage where you will access all course materials.

Log into Canvas at <https://redwoods.instructure.com>

Password is your 8 digit birth date

For tech help, email [its@redwoods.edu](mailto:its@redwoods.edu) or call 707-476-4160

Canvas Help for students: <https://webapps.redwoods.edu/tutorial/>

Canvas online orientation workshop: [Canvas Student Orientation Course \(instructure.com\)](#)

## Community College Student Health and Wellness

Resources, tools, and trainings regarding health, mental health, wellness, basic needs and more designed for California community college students, faculty and staff are available on the California Community Colleges [Health & Wellness website](#).

[Wellness Central](#) is a free online health and wellness resource that is available 24/7 in your space at your pace.

Students seeking to request a counseling appointment for academic advising or general counseling can email [counseling@redwoods.edu](mailto:counseling@redwoods.edu).

## Student Support Services

The following online resources are available to support your success as a student:

- [CR-Online](#) (Comprehensive information for online students)
- [Library Articles & Databases](#)
- [Canvas help and tutorials](#)
- [Online Student Handbook](#)

[Counseling](#) offers assistance to students in need of professional counseling services such as crisis counseling.

Learning Resource Center includes the following resources for students

- [Academic Support Center](#) for instructional support, tutoring, learning resources, and proctored exams. Includes the Math Lab & Drop-in Writing Center
- [Library Services](#) to promote information literacy and provide organized information resources.
- [Multicultural & Diversity Center](#)

Special programs are also available for eligible students include

- [Extended Opportunity Programs & Services \(EOPS\)](#) provides services to eligible income disadvantaged students including: textbook award, career academic and personal counseling, school supplies, transportation assistance, tutoring, laptop, calculator and textbook loans, priority registration, graduation cap and gown, workshops, and more!
- The TRiO Student Success Program provides eligible students with a variety of services including trips to 4-year universities, career assessments, and peer mentoring. Students can apply for the program in [Eureka](#) or in [Del Norte](#)
- The [Veteran's Resource Center](#) supports and facilitates academic success for Active Duty Military, Veterans and Dependents attending CR through relational advising, mentorship, transitional assistance, and coordination of military and Veteran-specific resources.
- Klamath-Trinity students can contact the CR KT Office for specific information about student support services at 530-625-4821

## Tentative Schedule

Week	Lecture topic of the week	Writing assignment	Exams
1 Aug 20-26	Chapter 1: Introduction to the Oceans	Discussion: Interpreting figures	
2 Aug 27- Sep 2	Chapter 2: Getting our Bearings	Discussion: Ocean Scientist Spotlight	
3 Sep 3-9	Chapter 3: The Origin and Structure of Earth	Reading: science journal vs. newspaper	
4 Sep 10-16	Chapter 4: Plate Tectonics and Marine Geology	Press Release Paper: Discussion: Brainstorm primary research articles	Exam 1
5 Sep 17-23	Chapter 5: Chemical Oceanography	Discussion: Citation styles	
6 Sep 24-30	Chapter 6: Physical Oceanography	Press Release Paper: Annotate primary research article	
7 Oct 1-7	Chapter 7: Primary Production	Press Release Paper: Draft 1	
8 Oct 8-14	Midterm review and catchup	Press Release Paper: Peer reviews	Exam 2
9 Oct 15-21	Chapter 8: Oceans and Climate	Press Release Paper: Final draft Final Paper: Discussion: Topic choice	
10 Oct 22-28	Chapter 9: Ocean Circulation	Final Paper: Bibliography	
11 Oct 29-Nov 4	Chapter 10: Waves	Final Paper: Peer review of bibliography	
12 Nov 5-11	Chapter 11: Tides	Final Paper: Draft 1: "Background" section	Exam 3



<b>Week</b>	<b>Lecture topic of the week</b>	<b>Writing assignment</b>	<b>Exams</b>
13 Nov 12-18	Chapter 12: Ocean Sediments	Final Paper: Draft 2: "Methods" section	
14 Nov 26- Dec 2	Chapter 13: Coastal Oceanography	Final Paper: Draft 3: Full draft	
15 Dec 3-9	Chapter 14: Ice	Final Paper: Peer Reviews	
Finals Dec 10-16		Final Paper: Final Draft	Exam 4

This schedule is tentative and subject to change. Please see the most current schedule in the "Modules" tab in Canvas.