CR COLLEGE OF THE REDWOODS Syllabus for Introduction to Oceanography

Course Information

Semester & Year: Fall 2023
Course ID & Section #: OCEAN-10-V6711 and V6712
Instructor's name: Emily Wright
Course units: 3

Instructor Contact Information

Office location: HU 125A
Office hours: by appointment at WhenIsGood.net/WrightOfficeHour
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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.

Educational Accessibility and Support

College of the Redwoods is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for qualified students who could benefit from additional educational support and services. You may qualify if you have a physical, mental, sensory, or intellectual condition which causes you to struggle academically, including but not limited to:

- Mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, PTSD, bipolar disorder, and ADHD
- Common ailments such as arthritis, asthma, diabetes, autoimmune disorders, and diseases
- Temporary impairments such as a broken bone, recovery from significant surgery, or a pregnancy-related disability
- A learning disability (e.g., dyslexia, reading comprehension), intellectual disability, autism, or acquired brain injury
- Vision, hearing, or mobility challenges

Available services include extended test time, quiet testing environments, tutoring, counseling and advising, alternate formats of materials (e.g., audio books, E-texts), assistive technology, on-campus transportation, and more. If you believe you might benefit from disability- or health-related services and

accommodations, please contact [Disability Services and Programs](#) [for Students (DSPS)](#). If you are unsure whether you qualify, please contact DSPS for a consultation: dsps@redwoods.edu.

- Eureka: 707-476-4280, Student Services Building, 1st floor
- Del Norte: 707-465-2324, Main Building, near the library
- Klamath-Trinity: 707-476-4280

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 very non-traditional and "gamified" style of grading that is **NOT a percentage-based grade**. Letter grades are earned by meeting minimum requirements in three separate categories. To earn a grade, you must meet the requirements for that grade in **all** categories. Categories are **not** averaged.

Grade Requirement Categories
- Grade Requirement 1: XP (Experience Points)
- Grade Requirement 2: Exams
- Grade Requirement 3: Writing Portfolio

Challenge Levels

Exams and writing portfolio assignments are divided into two or three levels. Diamond level represents the most challenging assessments, followed by sapphire and topaz levels (level names are based on the Mohs scale of mineral hardness). Rather than receive a letter or percentage grade on these assignments, you will simply be evaluated on a pass or not passing yet basis. To attempt harder levels, you must first pass the "softer" levels. Your final grade is based on the highest level achieved in these categories.

Grade Requirement 1: XP (Experience Points)

XP (Experience Points) are similar to points in a traditional point and percentage grading system. You will earn XP for completing tasks that represent doing the work of learning, such as turning in assignments or earning scores on quizzes and exams. Unlike in the points and percentage grading system, these points alone do not determine your grade. Instead, **every must earn at least 400 XP to pass the class**. The 400-XP threshold is **less than one third of the XP available**, therefore you have significant choice in which assignments you complete in this class. For example, if you hate threaded discussion forums, you can skip those and earn your XP through other means. If you are doing enough work to prepare for success in other categories, you will likely naturally exceed the 400-XP threshold. Last semester, many students exceeded the threshold by about Week 7 or 8 and students who earned As in the class finished with somewhere between 800 and 1200 XP. Based on prior statistics, I recommend setting a personal goal for yourself of at least 700 to 800 XP.

To keep you motivated to complete your work on time, you will only earn the full XP available for a task, if the task is completed on time. XP earned decay at a rate of 1% per day after the due date for the task. If you have extenuating circumstances arise and you've found that this policy is interfering with your success in this class, please contact me. I am very willing to work with students to establish a new plan

to get you back on track. In most cases, it is easiest for me to simply remove the late penalty after you have submitted the work.

Grade Requirement 2: Exams

There are four exams throughout the semester. Each exam has three levels and each level is composed of a separate Canvas "quiz". To pass each level, you must answer 10 questions correctly. There are 11 questions on each quiz, thus, you get one throw-away question at each level. The topaz level quiz consists mainly of questions that most students answer correctly, whereas the diamond level contains all the most challenging questions. All questions are multiple choice or other auto-graded format (such as drop down, multiple answer, etc.). The number of attempts allowed to pass each level varies for each level according to the table below. However, if you contact me to ask for an additional attempt at the sapphire or diamond level, I will offer you a deal. Usually, this deal involves completing some sort of exam correction assignment in order to unlock an additional attempt.

Exam Level	Crowns Earned for passing score (10/11 questions)	Number of attempts allowed	XP earned
Topaz	👑 (1 crown)	Unlimited	1 XP per question
Sapphire	👑👑 (2 crowns)	5 (+1 extra with deal)	2 XP per question
Diamond	👑👑👑 (3 crowns)	3 (+1 extra with deal)	5 XP per question

Crowns

In addition to earning XP for exams, you'll also earn crowns. You earn one crown for each level successfully completed on each exam. For example, if you complete all three levels, you'll earn three crowns for that exam. Three levels on four exams is equal to 12 possible crowns for the semester. To earn an A, you need at least 10 crowns (you must achieve the diamond level on two of the exams and at least the sapphire level on the other two). Less than 10 crowns will earn you other grades according to the Final Grade Rubric. For example, 4 crowns are required for a C. This could be achieved in multiple ways, including completing the topaz level on all four exams. Canvas does not have a way of automatically awarding crowns, so I will manually enter your crowns in the gradebook. This means that it may take time for your crown score to update. If you think I've missed something (if it's been more than a couple of days), please let me know!

Academic Honesty on Exams

Exams are open note, open book, but closed discussion and closed to help from Artificial Intelligence (AI). Discussing answers with your classmates, family, roommates, etc. while the exam is open is considered academic dishonesty (cheating), as is sharing exam results (correct answers) with classmates who have not yet taken the exam (this includes posting questions on "homework help" websites or similar internet forums, etc.). Looking up definitions of words is acceptable but asking a computer or program to answer a question for you is considered academic dishonesty.

Late Exams

Exams remain open throughout the entire semester, and you may use any unused attempts at any point in the semester. For example, if at the end of the semester, you have 9 crowns, but you still have one attempt left on Exam 1 Diamond level, you can retake that exam, even on the very last day of the semester. The XP earned on late exams decays, but **crowns are unaffected by late policies**.

Grade Requirement 3: Writing Portfolio

To earn a grade of C or better you must submit Writing Portfolio assignments that meet expectations to pass that level. There are two levels of portfolio assignments: sapphire and diamond. Everyone must pass the sapphire level (unless you are satisfied with a D). Once you pass the sapphire level, diamond

level assignments will become available to you. To earn an A, you must pass two diamond level assignments (one at midterm and one near the end of the semester). Thus, an A student will submit a minimum of three total Writing Portfolio assignments (one sapphire, two diamond). Students who do not initially pass the sapphire level will have further opportunities to revise and/or reattempt their sapphire level work. This holds true for the diamond level as well. Your final grade will be determined in part by number of assignments completed at each level (see the final grade rubric).

Sapphire Level Portfolio Assignment

Learning Reflection

At the end of each unit, you'll have the opportunity to complete a Learning Reflection for 20 XP. The Learning Reflection includes a series of short essay questions asking you to explain an oceanography concept of your choice. The first of these that meets expectations will allow you to pass the sapphire level in your Writing Portfolio. After that point, Learning Reflections become optional, but you'll continue to earn the XP.

Diamond Level Portfolio Assignments

There are two types of diamond level writing assignments. Which you complete will depend on whether you are also enrolled in the lab for this class. Students who are enrolled in the lab (and aiming for an A) will submit one Science blog as well as their Field Project Report, which counts towards their grade in both OCEAN 10 and OCEAN 10L. Non-lab students aiming for an A will complete two Science Blogs.

Diamond level assignments have an entire Canvas module attached to them. The module contains scaffolded steps towards the final product, including such things as submissions of partial drafts or annotated readings. In some cases, **completion of these intermediate steps is required to advance in the module**, and you may even need to wait for instructor approval at some steps, so do not expect to start work on your paper right before the deadline!

Science Blogs

Read a peer-reviewed scientific journal article and write a science blog post explaining this research at a level appropriate to the general public. Further details and guidance will be provided in Canvas. Students who are not also enrolled in the lab will complete two of these for an A.

Field Project Report (only for lab students)

This report is also a requirement for higher grades in the lab class, but in order to acknowledge that this report will take more time than is expected for a one-unit lab class, your efforts will also contribute to your writing portfolio for the three-unit "lecture" portion of the class.

First Draft Deadline

For any assignment to be considered for your writing portfolio, you must submit a first full draft of that assignment no later than **Sunday Dec 3**. This deadline exists to ensure that there is adequate time for instructor feedback. Keep in mind that some writing portfolio first draft assignments will be locked until you have received a passing score on prior work (e.g., a bibliography check, partial drafts, etc.). Any extension to this deadline will be granted only in extenuating circumstances and only to students who have already met expectations at the diamond level (i.e. you have passed one diamond level assignment and are working on your second). **Students who have not submitted any draft at any level by this deadline can do no better than a D in the class.**

Academic Honesty on Writing Portfolio Assignments

You may discuss your work with your peers, and you may get editing help with your writing. However, submitting writing that was copied from another person, or writing that was completed by another

person (or artificial intelligence) on your behalf and claiming this work as your own is considered academic dishonesty. For assignments where you are referencing the work of others (such as the science blog), you must give appropriate credit to the original author. Some writing assignments will contain specific instructions about which resources may be used. Intentional violation of these instructions in considered academic dishonesty.

Final Grade Rubric

Grade	Grade Requirement 2: Exams	Grade Requirement 3: Writing Portfolio Earn a passing assessment on at least…	Grade Requirement 1: XP (Experience Points)
A	10 total crowns	Two diamond level portfolio assignments	At least 400
A-	9 total crowns	One diamond level portfolio assignment	At least 400
B+	8 total crowns	One diamond level portfolio assignment	At least 400
B	7 total crowns	One diamond level portfolio assignment	At least 400
B-	6 total crowns	One sapphire level portfolio assignment	At least 400
C+	5 total crowns	One sapphire level portfolio assignment	At least 400
C	4 total crowns	One sapphire level portfolio assignment	At least 400
D	3 total crowns	Sapphire level portfolio assignment attempted	At least 400
F	Less than 3 crowns	No writing portfolio assignments attempted	Less than 400 points

Examples:

- A student who has earned 700 points, 7 total crowns, and turned in one attempt at a Learning Reflection that did not meet passing expectations has earned a D in the class because they have not passed a sapphire level portfolio assignment.
- A student who has earned 800 points, 7 total crowns and has met passing expectations on one diamond level portfolio assignment has earned a B in the class. If this student wanted to improve their grade, they could focus on reattempting exams (assuming they have attempts remaining), since this could potentially get them to an A-, whereas submitting another diamond level portfolio assignment won't improve their final grade unless they also earn more crowns on exams.

Course Pacing and Late Work Policies

Schedule of due dates
Due dates in this class are every Wednesday and Sunday, apart from the final due date, which is a Friday. Units, which are based on textbook chapters, will typically span two due dates. Due dates are generally recommendations rather than hard deadlines (see Late Exams), although XP earned decay with time after the due date (see Grade Requirement 1: XP (Experience Points). The only hard deadlines are the First Draft Deadline and the end of the semester (see Important Dates).

Module Progression
To unlock the majority of the course, you must first complete the "Start Here" module. You also must move through Unit 1 activities in a specific order, so that you become familiar with all assignment types. After Unit 1, you only need to complete the Unit Pre-Quiz to unlock each unit, then you may choose which activities to complete from each unit.

Learning Activities

The following are examples of activities that will earn XP. Remember that you do not need to participate in all activities. Other than pre-quizzes, which are required, you can choose assignments that you feel will help you achieve your learning goals and earn a minimum of 400 XP (or whatever XP goal you set for yourself).

Pre-Quizzes

Each unit begins with a pre-quiz, usually 10-12 questions in length. This is the only required element of each unit. Pre-quizzes do not earn XP, but you must submit the pre-quiz to unlock the rest of the unit. The questions on the pre-quiz are identical to those in the summary quizzes, but you are allowed only one attempt at each pre-quiz. The purpose of the pre-quiz is to help you understand what you might already know from this unit and give you some idea of what you need to learn. **I do not expect you to do well on these quizzes.** If you are acing these quizzes, you are in the wrong class.

Perusall Reading

If you choose to access the online textbook through Perusall, you can earn XP for reading each chapter, as well as asking or answering questions and making comments on either the textbook reading or the assigned videos. If you've tried out Perusall and you don't enjoy it, there are other ways to earn XP.

Lessons

Lessons are activities designed to present course content in an interactive way. I've created these lessons with a program called SoftChalk, which allows me to integrate multiple choice questions and other activities with written and video content. I strongly recommend that you complete all of the lessons, make sure that you are earning full credit on each and make sure that you understand why the correct answers are correct. There will likely be exam questions that are based on the material in the lessons.

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. You'll earn XP for posting to discussions, regardless of the length or quality of your post. I hope that this policy helps to ensure that discussions don't feel forced, but even so, if you don't like Canvas discussion forums, after Unit 1, you're not obligated to post to every discussion.

Learning Reflections

In each unit, you'll have a chance to submit a Learning Reflection related to that unit. After you've submitted a Learning Reflection that meets passing expectations for the sapphire level (see Sapphire Level Portfolio Assignment), you are no longer required to submit Learning Reflections. However, reflecting on what you've learned after you've completed all the learning tasks has been shown to be one of the most effective forms of study.

Summary Quizzes

At the end of each module there is a five-question summary quiz. The questions are pulled from a bank of around 10 – 12 questions. Some of these questions are identical to exam questions and others are similar, but not identical. Unlimited attempts allow you to make mistakes and learn from them. These quizzes are open book, open note, open peer discussion. You can work on these with a friend or study group if you want. These quizzes also provide a way for you to gauge how prepared you are for exams.

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

Your participation will be tracked through the completion of 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 (see Important Dates). 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. 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 set up a Zoom meeting time. You can request an appointment using whenisgood.net/WrightOfficeHour and I will send you an invitation for a time that works for both of us. This a request form, not an appointment reservation form, so the more availability you enter, the more likely it'll be that I can find a time that works for us both.

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

Important Dates

Spring 2023 Dates

- Classes begin: 8/19/23
- Participate to avoid no-show drop by 8/31/23 (policy for this class only)
- Last day to drop without a W and receive a refund: 9/01/23
- Last day for student or faculty-initiated W (no refund): 10/27/23
- Fall break and Thanksgiving (no assignments due): 11/20/23 – 11/25/23
- First Draft Deadline 12/3/23 (policy for this class only)
- Final examinations: 12/09/23 – 12/15/23
- Semester ends (no assignments accepted after 11:59 pm): 12/15/23

For other important dates, see the *Admissions and Records Calendar*

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. Specific policies for Academic Honesty on Exams and Academic Honesty on Writing Portfolio Assignments are defined earlier in this syllabus.

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

For tech help, email 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](#).

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

Due Dates	Units and Exams	Writing Portfolio Progress
Aug 23 W	Start Here Module	
Aug 27 Su Aug 30 W	Unit 1: Introduction to the Oceans	First opportunity to submit Learning Reflection (sapphire level).
Labor Day Weekend		
Sep 6 W Sep 10 Su	Unit 2: Getting our Bearings	
Sep13 W Sep 17 Su	Unit 3: The Origin and Structure of Earth	**A track** students expected to have passed sapphire level at this point.
Sep 20 W Sep 24 Su	Unit 4: Plate Tectonics and Marine Geology	**A track** students begin progress on Science Blog 1 (diamond level) **B and C track** students re-attempt/revise Learning Reflection (sapphire level)
Sep 27 W	Exam 1	
Oct 1 Su Oct 4 W	Unit 5: Chemical Oceanography	
Oct 8 Su Oct 11 W	Unit 6: Physical Oceanography	
Oct 15 Su	Unit 7: Primary Production	
Oct 18 W	Exam 2	
Oct 22 Su Oct 25 W	Unit 8: Oceans and Climate	**A track** students expected to meet passing expectations for Science Blog 1 **B track** students expected to have passed sapphire level at this point.

Due Dates	Units and Exams	Writing Portfolio Progress
Oct 29 Su Nov 1 W	Unit 9: Ocean Circulation and Ice (Chapters 9 and 14)	**A track non-lab** students begin progress on Science Blog 2 (diamond level) **B track non-lab** students begin or re-attempt Science Blog 1 (diamond level) **A and B track lab** students begin progress on Field Project Report (diamond level) **C track students** re-attempt/revise learning reflection (sapphire level)
Nov 5 Su Nov 8 W	Unit 10: Waves	
Nov 12 Su Nov 15 W	Unit 11: Tides	
Nov 19	Exam 3	
Fall Break and Thanksgiving		
Nov 29 W Dec 3 Su	Unit 12: Ocean Sediments	First Draft Deadline Dec 3
Dec 6 W Dec 10 Su	Unit 13: Coastal Oceanography	
Finals Dec 13 W Dec 15 F	Exam 4	**A track non-lab** students meet passing expectations on Science Blog 2 **B track non-lab** students meet passing expectations on Science Blog 1 **A and B track lab** students meet passing expectations on Field Project Report **C track students** expected to pass sapphire level at this point.

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

"A track" refers to students aiming for a final grade of A. "B track" refers to students aiming for a final grade of B, B+ or A-. "C track" refers to students aiming for a final grade of C, C+ or B-. See Final Grade Rubric.