

Welcome to G 351, Introduction to Oceanography

Course Description

G351 is a basic oceanography course that is designed to give students a broad general background with an emphasis on interrelationships of oceanography with other sciences. This course is useful for general science or geology teachers and geology majors. Successful completion of this course earns 4 upper-division credits from Portland State University based on the quarter system.

Course Organization

This course is divided into eleven **weeks**, covering sixteen chapters in the assigned text. The outline for the entire course is available below- see Course Overview.

Each week will contain the following:

- Textbook Reading
- Commentary written by your instructor to highlight important points
- Video Assignments to supplement your weekly readings
- Weekly Discussions to facilitate interaction between students and instructors
- Lab Exercises/Final Project every other week

Readings

The readings will tell you which chapters in your text to read for that week. There are also commentaries by your instructor to add perspective to your readings. In addition, the commentaries include charts/tables and summaries of the topics that you will be responsible for. Read them in addition to your text. The Questions and Problems at the end of each commentary summarize the readings. Work through them to make sure you understand the content, but they are not to be turned in for credit.

Video Assignments/Quizzes

The video assignments are short quizzes which you take while you view the videos. Each assignment in the course content area will tell you which videos to watch for each week. They contain links that take you to the video quizzes. While viewing, open up the accompanying video quiz which you will answer while you watch. The quizzes are named the same as the videos that they correspond to. Often there are 2 or more videos weekly.

Unlike exams, once started, the video quizzes are open for as much time as you need (within the window of time they are available). The questions go in the same sequence

as the video, so if you are not sure of a question, you may go back to that part of the video and replay it. Be sure to submit your quiz when you are finished.

Discussions

The discussion portion of your course is intended to overcome the impersonal aspects of online learning and give you an opportunity to interact with your instructor and fellow classmates. Each week your instructor will post a discussion topic designed to provoke thought on the weekly content of your readings and videos. You will respond to the instructor's post as well as *reply to at least one other student*.

Attention!: In order to receive full credit (5 points) for your discussion, please make your initial post no later than Thursday each week. This will allow your classmates time to respond to what you have written.

Follow up: Toward the end of the week your instructor will add some pertinent information or perspective on the topic as a follow up, so watch for these posts as they appear, but no need to respond to them unless you want to.

Lab Exercises

You will complete **4 lab exercises** and **1 final project** throughout the term.

Because this is a lab science course it is critical that you complete labs in order to pass the course. Failure to do so will result in a reduction in your grade.

Final Project

A final project will be due at the end of the term. Some *advance preparation* is required to complete the final project so don't delay getting started. Choose one of any of the available choices below and complete it. Choose one that you are comfortable with or that you feel are more appropriate to the geographic area in which you live.

The list is available in the Introductory Module to allow you time to plan for these activities. The modules for weeks 1 and 10 have a place to submit your final project. It will be open all term for you so you may work on it at any time and submit. The deadline for it is at the end of the term.

Plan ahead!

Deadlines

Video assignments, labs and discussions open on Sunday mornings and close on Saturday nights at 11:59 pm. Each of them will be open for one week.

Deadlines for all assignments are firm! After the time is up, the features will close and not allow you to submit work for that week. It is important that you pay careful attention to all deadlines and get your work in on time as ***late work is not accepted by email.***

Attention! Exams are open for four days within the week, **not the entire week.** Watch extra carefully for these due dates.

Course Overview

The table below shows an outline of the course requirements for G 351: Introduction to Oceanography.

Overview: Readings, Videos, and Exams					
Weeks	Topics	Text Chapters	Videos	Exams	Exam Length
1	Early Studies of the Ocean -Development of Oceanography	Chapters 1 and 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Steps 		
2	The Origin of the Ocean Basins	Chapter 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over the Edge World in Motion 		
3	Lab Marine Sedimentation and the Coastal Environment	Chapters 4 and 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ocean's Memory On the Coast 		
4	Physical and Chemical Aspects of Seawater Lab	Chapters 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's in the Water Something in the Air 		
5	Ocean Circulation	Chapter 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Going with the Flow Deep Connections 	Midterm Opens 10/27 Closes 10/30	90 minutes
6	Ocean Waves and Tides Lab	Chapters 7 and 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surf's Up Look Out Below Ebb and Flow 		
7	Marine Ecology and Ocean Biologic Productivity	Chapters 9 and 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water World Food for Thought 		

8	Coastal and Open Ocean Habitats and Resident Biota	Chapters 12 and 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life Goes On • Living Together
	Lab		
9	Oceans and Man-Human Use of Ocean Resources	Chapters 14 and 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasure Trove • Dirty Water
10	The Oceans and Global Climate Change	Chapter 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Going to Extremes
	Final Project due 12/05		
			Final Exam
11			Opens 90 12/01 minutes Closes 12/05

Course Materials and Technical Requirements

Required Textbook

There is one (1) required textbook for this course, (videos will be streamed):

Pinet, Paul R. *Invitation to Oceanography*. 8th Ed. Jones and Bartlett Publishers.
ISBN: 978-1-284-164695

The text by Pinet for this course is one of the best introductory books on the subject because of its readability and thorough coverage of all aspects of oceanography. Multiple textbook chapters will comprise the reading for each week.

Older editions of the text back to the 4th edition may be used, however, the chapters may not correspond to the ones in the table above. You should have no difficulty figuring out the assigned chapters by subject but contact the instructor if you have problems.

The video series will be streamed and features stunning visual displays of the marine environment. Short lectures and commentaries from oceanographers highlight and clarify the main concepts of oceanography. Your weekly assignments of videos have been selected to coordinate with the assigned book chapters and will make the text readings "come alive".

Successful Course Completion Tips

Note: There are "Questions and Problems" at the end of the weekly commentary. Examination questions are modeled after them. These questions are designed to stimulate your thinking and provide you with a means of evaluating your grasp of the material you have just studied. The answers to these are not provided.

If you feel that it will help you to gain a better understanding of the material in a particular chapter, you may wish to write out the answers to all or part of the questions or problems and send these to your instructor for comments and corrections. You are **NOT** required to send in these answers, but you are invited to do so whenever you think that it will be to your benefit to have the instructor's comments.

Technical Requirements

To complete the coursework in G351, you will need access to:

- Computer with high speed internet access
- Word processing software (such as Microsoft Word)

Note about Browsers:

Safari has been giving problems. Chrome works well.

Important: Internet access is solely the student's responsibility, and is not an excuse for missed or late work. In the case of personal internet problems, there are computers available for your use on campus or in public libraries. ***Plan to perform and submit your assignments with plenty of time to spare in case of computer or internet difficulties. Late work is not accepted, nor is work sent in by email.***

The Canvas help desk is available to answer your questions and troubleshoot computer problems. They can be reached at 503-725-HELP. It is best to reach them with problems during week days.

Student-Instructor Communication

PSU Email: Email is the best way to contact us. ***In the subject field, put "G 351" so we know which course you are referring to and that your email is a priority.*** We both check our email very regularly throughout the course, so you should receive a reply within 24-36 hours. When emailing with a concern or question, please check your email often to get our reply. This is especially important with time-sensitive requests.

IMPORTANT Notes: ***Do not use the Canvas message system. Email is not a way to submit late work.***

Course Grades

The course grade will be roughly calculated using the following weights:

From these percentages you will see that every part of the course structure is important and you cannot omit or delete any of them and expect a high final grade. Your final course grade is not strictly % based: other factors such as missing labs will affect it.

Graded Course Work	How Many	Point Value of Each	Total Percentage of Toward Course Grade
Videos	19	5	23%
Discussions	10	5	12%
Lab Exercises	4	10	10%
Final Project	1	20	5%
Midterm Exam	1	100	24%
Final Exam	1	100	24%
Syllabus Quiz	1	10	2%

Exam Preparation

Adequate preparation for exams consists of re-reading all chapters and video assignments that are covered. Unlike the video quizzes, the exams are timed and you will not have unlimited time to look up answers during them. Nor will you be able to back-track through the questions to review them.

There are two exams for this course. The midterm covers the readings from the first five weeks, while the final covers only weeks six through ten. The final is not comprehensive. Unlike your weekly assignments, exams will only be open for **four days** instead of the entire week. ***Watch your due dates carefully.***

Each exam consists of 50 multiple choice and 5 essay questions. You will have 90 minutes to complete the examination, so choose a window of time to allow yourself plenty of time to finish. Each page of your exam will contain only one question, and you will not be able to return to previous questions. Be aware that the 50 multiple choice come first in the exam and the essays second thus you need marshal your time carefully to have sufficient time to complete the essays.

Do ***NOT open*** the exam until you are fully prepared, as you will not have enough time to look up details. Be aware that when you log on to take the exam the 90 minute clock begins and if you log off for any reason the clock continues to run *and* you may not be able to get back on.

Although you are not expected to write page upon page for your essays, neither will one or two word answers suffice. Answer each question in complete sentences. As

you proceed through the questions, read them carefully so you understand what each asks. If you do not understand **all** parts of the question, put down what you **do** know. Again, take equal care with and allow yourself time for **both** the multiple choice and essay questions.

It is **important** that you submit your exams properly. Please double check after taking each exam to make sure it has been submitted properly, (especially if you don't see your grade within a few days after taking it!). You will not be given credit for exams that have not been submitted.

Academic Honesty

When you submit your registration form, you promise to follow the Academic Honesty policy of Portland State University. Academic honesty is a cornerstone of any meaningful education and a reflection of each student's maturity and integrity.

The Student Conduct Code, which applies to all students, prohibits all forms of academic cheating, fraud, and dishonesty. These acts include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, buying and selling of course assignments and research papers, performing academic assignments (including tests and examinations) for other persons, unauthorized disclosure and receipt of academic information, and other practices commonly understood to be academically dishonest. ***Copying and pasting off the internet is considered plagiarism and will be treated accordingly.***

Acts of academic dishonesty may result in one or more of the following sanctions: a failing grade on the exam or assignment for which the dishonesty occurred, a formal disciplinary reprimand, disciplinary probation, and/or loss of privileges.

Services

The mission of the Disability Resource Center (DRC) is to make university life accessible to students with disabilities.

The Disability Resource Center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. No need for an appointment if you have a quick question! We have drop-in hours with an Accessibility Specialist from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, and drop-in hours with our Adaptive Technology Specialist from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for your convenience.

Location: 116 Smith Memorial Student Union, 1825 SW Broadway, Portland, OR **Phone:** 503-725-4150 **email:** drc@pdx.edu

Title IX Complaints

Portland State is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of prohibited discrimination and sexual harassment (sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and

gender or sex-based harassment and stalking). If you have experienced any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or sexual harassment, know that help and support are available. PSU has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and on-housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more. Information about PSU's support services on campus, including confidential services and reporting options, can be found on PSU's Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response website at: <http://www.pdx.edu/sexual-assault/get-help> or you may call a confidential IPV Advocate at 503-725-5672. You may report any incident of discrimination or discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment, to either the [Office of Equity and Compliance](#) or the [Office of the Dean of Student Life](#).

Final Note

Please feel free to contact the instructors by email at any time with specific questions that do not get answered otherwise by the textbook and the videos.

Welcome!

You are now ready to begin your study of Oceanography. We hope you enjoy this course and wish you success in your studies.