Syllabus for GEOS212: Introduction To Oceanography, Fall 2013

Fall Semester 2013  Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30-1:45  PAS201

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Gould-Simpson 309
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Office Hours = Tuesday 2:00-3:00pm

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GOALS: Our main goals this semester are to:
(1) enhance your appreciation for the significance and beauty of the oceans
(2) help you do well in this course
(3) facilitate your success as a student at the University of Arizona

TEXT: No text, but you need to purchase a copy of the Physical Map of the World, which is available from the UA bookstore (for $16.99).

D2L: All information for this course is available on D2L. Most material will be posted on the “Course Home” and “Content” pages. We will provide a LOT of information for this course – lecture outlines, lecture slides, review sheets, sample exams, etc. -- so there is no need for you to acquire additional study materials (e.g., Notehall, ShareNotes, etc.).

LECTURE OUTLINES & SLIDES: You are encouraged to bring a printed copy of the lecture outline and the set of slides with you to class every day. Outlines and a preliminary version of the slides will be posted on the class web site (at D2L) by 5:00pm on the afternoon prior to each lecture.

ATTENDANCE: You need to come to every class and take careful notes, as there is no book for the course and not all of the information presented in class is highlighted on the slides!

STUDY GROUPS: Study groups will be Tuesdays after 2pm, all day Wednesdays (8am-8pm), and on Thursdays before class. Each session starts on the hour and lasts for about 45 minutes. These sessions will help you learn the material covered on homework assignments and exams, and provide opportunities to work with others and receive help from the TA's and/or Preceptors who are running your session. Sign up from the course web page at D2L under “Groups”.

Note that Study Groups are optional, so you need not attend every week. And you are also free to attend without signing up, so long as there is space in the classroom. But we do prefer that you sign up so we get to know you and you are guaranteed a seat in the session.
All study groups are held in Gould-Simpson 228A (along south corridor, toward the west end). Ramp access is available if you contact J. Russell or P. Goodman at geos212.f13@gmail.com.

GRADE REPORTING: Grades will be available through D2L.

GRADED WORK: All graded papers will be returned to boxes outside of GS 208. You have one week after assignments and exams are returned to you to pick them up and make sure they were graded and entered correctly -- bring to J. Russell or P. Goodman if not! Papers will be removed from the boxes after one week.

LECTURE EXAMS:
- Three 100-point exams will be given during the semester, and there will not be a final exam during final exam week. You can take each exam either on Tuesday or Wednesday evening, or in class on Thursday. You will need your Cat Card with you for each exam.
- Each exam covers only material since the previous exam.
- Exams will emphasize a general understanding of the topics, rather than an ability to memorize details. Slides, diagrams, and videos shown in class commonly are used during exams! Format will consist of about 50% written answers or drawing diagrams, and about 50% multiple-choice questions that are keyed to diagrams or real-world pictures.
- To help you prepare for the exams, review sheets will be available one week before each exam, review sessions are scheduled on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings before each exam, and exams from a previous semester will be available on the class web site.
- If you will miss an exam, you can take a make-up exam as shown on the lecture schedule, provided that you have an acceptable reason (e.g., medical excuse, school-related travel, etc.). No other make-up exams are available.

HOMEWORK: There will be eight homework assignments during the semester. These assignments emphasize material that will be covered on the exams. Each will be worth 10 points. Most of the exercises will be based on information gathered from lecture, your world maps, accompanying diagrams, or various web pages. All homework must be turned in to the “GEOS212 Homework” box outside of Gould-Simpson 208 by Thursday at 5pm. NO late homework will be accepted. Papers will be returned to the alphabetical boxes outside of GS 208 within one week of the due date. Grading problems must be discussed within one week after papers have been returned.

If you do your homework in a study group session, please turn your paper in at the end of the session.

If you do your homework on your own (not in a study group session), please turn your paper in to the box labeled “GEOS 212 HOMEWORK” located near Gould-Simpson 208. You can turn your paper in anytime until Thursday at 5pm during the week that it is due – no need to bring homework papers to lecture! The Gould-Simpson building is generally unlocked from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM each weekday.

QUIZZES: There will be six quizzes during the semester. Each will be worth five points, but we will drop your lowest two scores, so quizzes add up to 20 points. No make-up quizzes will be given (because the lowest two are dropped). Questions on the quizzes will be similar to questions on upcoming exams.

PROJECT: You will have an opportunity to work on a project this semester which in some way makes the world a better place. Examples are to work with the UA Recycling Club in improving recycling opportunities on campus, help remove invasive species of plants from Saguaro National Monument, refuse every plastic bag/bottle offered this semester and explain to someone each time why this is
important, etc. The project should be something that you **will actually do** this semester, not just a good idea for someone else to do! The project has three components:

**Project Proposal Submitted:** Describe your planned activity in a one-page proposal, due on September 24 at 12:30 PM. Only paper copies will be accepted. Full credit (10 points) will be awarded only if the proposal is prepared in a professional manner, with correct spelling, grammar, and format (single-space, 12 point font, 1 inch margins). Suggested organization is as follows:

- Title of activity
- Your name
- Short description of your project (one or two sentences in length).
- Proposal body that describes the activity in detail. You should do some research on the topic, with information from at least two sources, and include citations for sources used.
- Summary that explains why the activity will help make the world a better place (1-2 sentences).

**Project Proposal Returned:** This proposal will be returned to you (in the boxes outside of Gould-Simpson 208) with suggestions for improvement.

**Project Report:** Describe how your project turned out. Use the same format as the project proposal, but emphasize what you actually did for your project and whether it was successful. Include a copy of your project proposal with your final report for comparison. You may want to consider addressing the following questions: What did you actually do? Was it a worthwhile activity for you? Did you succeed in making the world a better place? Do you have plans to continue this or other related activities? This report is worth 10 points, and is due on the last day of class, December 3 at 12:30 PM.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** There will be several opportunities to earn extra credit during the semester, as described below. **You will be allowed to earn up to 20 total extra credit points,** where each extra credit point counts the same as an exam or a homework point. Opportunities are as follows:

- **Help us get to know you** (5 points): We will try hard to get to know you this semester. Help make this happen by giving us a mug shot and telling us a bit about your background and interests -- use the form on the web page. Please turn in **paper copies** of the form and attach a photo that shows your face (turn in during class on or before September 3).

- **Research Proposal** (up to 10 points, only one!): Write a proposal to do a research project that would help you solve a problem or question dealing with some aspect of oceanography. You must base your proposal on a topic described in a magazine article or newspaper story. Magazines such as National Geographic commonly contain articles that related to oceanography. You should propose a realistic, scientific study that will contribute new and important information and thereby help solve a problem or answer a question. Describe your proposed project in a typed (double-space) paper (with figures if appropriate), and divide your proposal into the following sections (use these as headings):
  - Title of project and your name
  - Statement of Problem (~1/2 page)
  - Proposed Research (3 pages)
  - Significance of Research (~1/2 page -- how your work bears on problem)
  - Statement of personnel, facilities, and costs involved (1/2 page)
  - Reference List (list books, journals, or web sites from which you gathered information)
  - Include a copy of the main article that you used.

**DO NOT** write a standard report on your article -- you must propose something NEW!

*Research Proposals are due at the start of class on November 26.*
• **In-Class Presentations** (up to 10 points): This is an opportunity to earn extra credit points by presenting non-traditional oceanographic information to the class. Your presentation could be (1) a slide show in which you describe the oceanography or geology of some place that you have visited or lived, (2) a song (performed live!) with oceanographically oriented lyrics, (3) a multimedia depiction of a marine process, (4) a diagram that you have developed which describes a marine feature or process, etc. *Almost anything goes!* Note that we need to approve your idea beforehand, your presentation must be scheduled at least one week in advance, and we will do only one presentation per class period. Also note that points are awarded mainly on the basis of scientific content.

• **In-Class Activities** (up to 10 points): We will commonly ask for volunteers to work through a problem, describe a process, or help with a demonstration in class.

**GRADING:** 440 points are possible from exams (300 points), homework (80 points), project (20 points), quizzes (20 points), and extra credit (20 points).

Grades are calculated by percent out of 420 points:

- **A = ≥89.5% = 376-420 points**
- **B = 79.5% to 89.4% = 334-375 points**
- **C = 69.5% to 79.4% = 292-333 points**
- **D = 59.5% to 69.4% = 250-291 points**
- **E = <59.5% = <250 points**

**SUPPORT SERVICES AVAILABLE:** Representatives from various support groups on campus (e.g., Academic Advising, DRC, Residence Life, Think Tank, CATS Academics) will be available to help if you have questions or need assistance.

**ADDITIONAL HELP IN THIS COURSE:** You are encouraged to seek assistance from J. Russell, P. Goodman, or any of the TA’s during our scheduled office hours or through email. *If you are having any trouble, please come see any member of the teaching team!*

**LEARNING/TESTING CHALLENGES:** If you are enrolled in SALT or the DRC, we make the following standard accommodations: 1) Note-Taking – we provide access to our own class notes for each lecture for everyone enrolled in the DRC who requires note-taking; 2) Extra time on exams – we offer 3 opportunities for each exam, 2 of which are in the evenings in a much more relaxed, uncluttered setting, where you can have the time-and-a-half you need (see the schedule). We encourage you to take each exam during one of these opportunities. If you have other learning/testing challenges, or if at any time you are not doing as well in the class as you should be, please seek some advice ([geos212.f13@gmail.com](mailto:geos212.f13@gmail.com))!

**HONORS STUDENTS:** Honors students can earn Honors credit in this course by signing up for Section 4 of Geos 212. You will earn honors credit by serving as a preceptor in the course, which involves leading a one-hour-per-week study group (see above description of study group activities). You will also need to attend once-a-week meetings on Fridays 1:00-2:00 in GS 228A.

During these meetings you will learn all you need to lead the study groups, and we will also talk about general aspects of teaching, grading, etc. *Preceptors are also encouraged to sign up for two units of GEOS97A, which also count as honors credits.*
CHEATING: STUDENT GUIDELINES FOR INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP WORK
Department of Geosciences, University of Arizona, Academic Year 2013-2014

1. Underlying Principle: Unless specified in the assignment, all work and all words used to describe the results of an assignment must be the student’s own. No material, whether paragraphs, sentences or phrases may be copied from another student or from any external source. External material that is used, usually for a specific reason, must be accompanied by a citation of the source.

2. Individual Assignments: In some cases, students will be told that no conferring is allowed; if that is the case, students must not discuss their work with others, or show others their work. More often, Geosciences faculty will encourage discussion among students, because this facilitates learning. In such a case, any ideas and concepts may be discussed openly, but the student is still responsible for his/her own work turned in for grading. Identical paragraphs, sentences, phrases, or notations on a map/illustration can not be used by two or more students. The best way to avoid this is for students to discuss the assignment, but then separate from each other in order to produce the work to be turned in for grading, and not share electronic files using e-mail, flash drives or other methods.

3. Group Assignments: Geosciences faculty routinely give two kinds of group assignments. Category 1 is a group assignment where students work in parallel on the same material (for instance a mapping exercise), but then turn in individual work for grading. Discussion is encouraged, but it is essential that each student do the written or map work individually first, after which ideas may be exchanged and interpretations modified before the work is graded. Copying of another’s work is prohibited, and this can be avoided in the same way as for individual assignments. Category 2 is a group assignment where students work explicitly as teams, perhaps with each member performing parts of a complex task (such as a geophysical or analytical experiment), and a combined product will be graded with equal scores for all members of the team. In this case, full discussion of the work, before any write-up takes place, is expected. The instructor will inform students whether a group assignment is Category 1 or 2.

4. Reporting of Cheating: All incidents of cheating or plagiarism, including facilitating of same, will be reported to the Dean of Students’ office and the College of Science. As well as the violations in take-home or field assignments detailed above, this will include any violations during quizzes and exams. The University’s procedure and forms give students an opportunity to explain to the instructor, and to comment upon (or rebut) any accusations in writing before the forms are turned in. But the forms can be turned in, reporting the cheating incident, even if the student fails to meet with the instructor or does not countersign the paperwork.

5. Expectation of Student Integrity: Instructors in the Department of Geosciences set a high standard for themselves as educators, and they expect that students, both in general education and majors’ classes, will do the same for their own education. Thus cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated.

6. UA Code of Academic Integrity: This document is a statement of what students and faculty should expect within Department of Geosciences, or in general education courses offered by the Department. It does not replace the UA’s Code of Academic Integrity, which can be read in full at http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/codeofacademicintegrity.