

Welcome to Oceanography 10 “Online”

Oceanography 10 has been taught at Cabrillo College for over 50 years in the traditional “face to face” format. The online version is a 4-unit transferable lab science course taught in a hybrid format, which combines required on-campus labs with online curriculum and required online discussions. Topics include some of the more important phenomena in geological, chemical, physical and biological oceanography.

Ocean 10 online can be a very rewarding experience, for the hardworking student. Please be aware that this course will take a tremendous amount of work and discipline to be successful. Online courses are typically more difficult than their “face to face” counterparts. In the online version of Ocean 10, students are learning more “on their own” and need to be seriously motivated and responsible. Instructors will do everything they can to help students be successful and remain in the course; however it is ultimately up to each student. Ocean 10 online is closed with a long wait list. Please make sure you are serious about the course. If you decide to drop, please let the instructors know immediately as some students on the wait list need this class and can not enroll in the traditional version. Currently the “face to face” version of Ocean 10 is OPEN; to help students on the wait list in this course, you may want to consider transferring to that course.

In Ocean 10 online, weekly communication with the instructor and other students is required and is worth more than 35% of your grade. This course is not for you if you desire to take a course where you work 100% at your own pace and never communicate with others. Please read the information below very carefully.

Rules / Rubric for the Discussion portion of the course

There are 13 Discussions and you are required to participate in all of them. Each will have a very specific Start Time and more important END TIME. You must reply before the end time for credit, no exceptions. This will be FIRM. Also, END times will change so be flexible and don’t get into a routine. Both Quantity and Quality will be tallied and evaluated by David Schwartz (aka daschwar, rockman).

For now, **ONLY REPLY TO THE INSTRUCTOR in the discussion area.** There will be opportunities later for you to reply to each other. Too many replies make the discussion board confusing. We strongly encourage you to get to know each other and communicate with each other in other ways other than the discussion area.

If you miss one discussion, you can no longer earn an “A” (90/100pts) in this portion of the course. If you reply on time to all of the discussions but your replies are weak, too short, incorrect, plagiarized, vague etc..., you will not earn an “A” in this portion of the course. Some discussions will have a 50 word minimum or more.

If you miss 2 discussions, you can no longer earn a “B” (80/100pts) in this portion of the course. Missing 3 or more discussions is below average, missing 4 or more discussion is not passing this portion of the course. Replies that are weak, too short, incorrect, plagiarized, vague or contain questions, answers or information already discussed, will always lower scores in this portion of the course.

Early replies help everyone. Eventually there will be a 2 point “Early Reply Reward”. If everyone or most students reply early, then the instructor can reply back over the course of each weekly discussion. The instructor may ask you to change or “fix” something in your discussion and you will give you a deadline. The later you reply, the shorter the deadline to “fix” your reply. **Therefore it is CRITICAL that you read the instructors reply to your reply.** Basically, it is advised that each student look at the discussion board daily.

IT IS ALSO CRITICAL THAT ALL STUDENTS READ ALL OF THE REPLIES. This will make sense to you as we proceed with the course. The instructor will be giving helpful information and tips regarding what to look for on quizzes and exams randomly, in various replies. If you don’t read all the replies, you will be missing this information and putting yourself in a more difficult position to score well.

Another reason why it IS CRITICAL THAT EACH STUDENT READ ALL THE REPLIES is that **you do not want to repeat questions, answer or comments that have already been made.** The instructor will not repeat information already given in a discussion. Therefore, you need to read all the replies **before** you reply back to the instructor so that you know what information has already come up. If you reply late and repeat a question, answer or comment, you will not get any credit for that particular discussion.

You may want to consider printing out the discussions after they are completed. Keep in mind that some students will reply in the last hour or even the last minute of the discussion. It will take the instructor a few days or more, depending on how many students do this, to officially finish up the discussion. **Therefore, you may want to wait and print until the instructor replies to ALL of the students’ replies, which will likely happen several days after the official deadline.**

This portion of the course is not that difficult. Think of it like answering your e-mail on a daily basis. Each student is asked to reply only once to all of the discussions. The instructor will reply to EACH student in ALL of the discussions so we all have our work cut out for us. Please read all the directions very carefully and good luck with the course.