

Geol 123: World Ocean Laboratory

Fall 2012

Instructor: Simmie Chehal

Office hours:	LO 1224 Tuesday 11 am to 12 pm, Wednesday 12 pm to 1 pm. Other times available by appointment.
Phone:	Office/818-677-2039; Department office/818-677-3541
Email:	simarjit.chehal.18@my.csun.edu
Course objectives	GEOL 123 fulfills a natural science lab requirement in the CSUN General Education program, as well as an introductory lab for the geology major. The course allows you to: 1) use the scientific method to evaluate data and reach reasoned conclusions about key concepts in oceanography and 2) recognize that understanding of the physical, chemical, and biological systems of the world ocean is critical in assessing real world issues.
Attendance:	It is essential that you attend all labs and that you arrive on time and stay until your group has completed the lab. If you are more than 15 minutes late, you receive a 5-point deduction for the lab. In order to get credit for the lab, you must be present when your group lab is submitted to the instructor. THERE ARE NO MAKE-UPS FOR MISSED LABS.
Moodle access	You must be able to access Moodle on a regular basis and to check weekly for class notices and lab exercises. There is no excuse for not being able to access Moodle because there is an app available for the program. Several labs will be conducted online via this platform (see below). It is your responsibility to know and follow all the guidelines and deadlines posted by the instructor on Moodle.
Coming prepared to lab	You are responsible for printing and bringing in the lab each week. Everyone who has a laptop is asked to bring them to these labs, which are noted in the Weekly Schedule below and on Moodle.
How to load Google Earth	Some of the labs require laptops with the free Google Earth download. These directions might not exactly follow the download sequence on your computer, depending on your operating system and security settings, but it will get you to the right starting point. Go to http://www.google.com/earth/index.html and click the blue download button in the upper right. On the next screen, uncheck the Google Chrome boxes if you don't want this to be your browser! Then click the blue agree & download button and continue following the download instructions.
In-class lab reports and lab groups	You will usually work in a lab group of four to six people. I will give each group a copy of the lab on which you can record your group answers to submit to me. Each group will turn in one lab report, for which you will all get the same grade. However, you should bring your own copy and record the answers so that you have it to study for the exams. Everyone must be a contributing member to their group. If there are problems, I will resolve them to ensure fairness of grades.
Online labs	There are three online labs conducted through Moodle. Each person must log in and submit his/her own lab. If you wish to work together with classmates, you can; but you still must submit your own lab through Moodle. If you fail to submit the lab before it closes, you will get NO CREDIT. Deadlines will NOT be extended.

Field trips	There is one optional extra-credit field trip to the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium and tide pools. Transportation will be provided for this trip, but you must pay the entrance fee, which is about \$5.00 for students. Participation in the field trip will earn 20 points (equivalent to one lab).
Exams:	There will be two exams, each worth 50 points. There are no make-ups for exams, no exceptions. If you miss an exam, you can make up points with perfect attendance and performance in labs and by participating in the field trip.
Grading:	Each lab report is worth 20 points and there are 12 labs total. However, the point distribution counts only 220 points for labs, allowing you to miss one lab with no penalty. If you attend all labs, the points earned for the twelfth lab will count as extra credit and will boost your total point score. labs 220 points <u>exams</u> 100 points TOTAL 320 points Final grades are determined by the percentage of the total points as follows: A >92% B+ 88-89.9% C+ 78-79.9% D+ 68-69.9% F <60% A- 90-91.9% B 82-87.9% C 72-77.9% D 62-67.9% B- 80-81.9% C- 70-71.9% D- 60-61.9% NO GRADE OF INCOMPLETE WILL BE GIVEN FOR THIS COURSE.
Last day to drop	Through SOLAR: September 14. With hardcopy form with permission of instructor and department chair: September 21, 4 pm. NO DROPS ARE PERMITTED AFTER THIS DATE.

Weekly Lab Schedule.

Unforeseen circumstances during the semester might require changes to the schedule. In this event, a revised schedule will be posted to Moodle. Dates of examinations will never be moved forward. **Please check Moodle often for updates!!!**

DATE	TOPIC
August 28 & 29	Review of syllabus and class policies and Moodle. How to download Google Earth
September 4 & 5	Lab 1: Geography, Globes, and Maps. BRING LAPTOPS.
September 11 & 12	LAB 2. Nautical Charts and Navigation
September 18 & 19	Lab 3. Bathymetry
September 25 & 26	Lab 4. Sea Water
October 2 & 3	Lab 5. Waves in the sea and Tsunamis. BRING LAPTOPS.
October 9 & 10	Lab 6. Coastal Processes and Tides. BRING LAPTOPS. Sign up for optional field trip to Cabrillo Marine Aquarium field trip.
October 16 & 17	EXAM 1. Labs 1-6 Sign up for optional field trip to Cabrillo Marine Aquarium field trip.
October 23 & 24	Lab 7. Shallow Ocean Motion Deadline to sign up for field trip to Cabrillo Marine Aquarium.
October 27, Saturday Optional field trip	Field trip to Cabrillo Marine Aquarium. Transportation will be provided to those who signed up for trip.
October 30 & 31	ONLINE Lab 8. Deep Ocean Motion
November 6 & 7	ONLINE LAB 9: Life in the Oceans
November 13 & 14	Lab 10. El Nino OR Oil Spill. Select topics for individual and group reports. Receive handout on expectations for your presentation on November 27 or 28.

November 20 & 21	ONLINE LAB 11. Human Impact on Ocean Systems. Individual component of your group topic. Individual report must be posted on Moodle through Turnitin by November 26, 5 pm for T class and November 27, 5 pm for W class. Your individual posting will be grading for your lab for this week.
November 27 & 28	Lab 12. Oral Presentations of group reports on Human Impact on Ocean Systems. Each group must include two possible questions from their report for the final exam. The quality of your presentation and your questions will be graded for your lab this week.
December 4 & 5	Exam 2 on Labs 7 through 12. This is the last class.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE:

Talking, texting, tweeting on mobile devices are a rude distraction during the lab. Please respect me and your classmates and turn them off. Engage with actual humans (your classmates and me) and with lab exercises and not with your iPod, iPad, or laptop. In some labs, you will use laptops as learning tools—and not for surfing the web and keeping up with social media. Treat each other and me with courtesy—and have fun with the lab exercises and making new friends.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

I will not tolerate any form of academic dishonesty. This includes, but is not limited to copying answers during an exam, plagiarism, facilitating cheating by another student, and altering answers after I have graded your work. If I find evidence of academic dishonesty, I will report it to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and recommend either a letter of admonishment or disciplinary action. If you are caught cheating on an exam or assignment, you will receive a failing grade for the exam or assignment AND will receive a full grade deduction the entire course.