Valencia College

Introduction to Oceanography –CRN 26262

Spring 2024

## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

PROFESSOR: Will Weiss

Contact: Please use Canvas messenger as primary contact

EMAIL: wweiss2@valenciacollege.edu can be used in an emergency.

Phone: 407-582-5149 (Science Dept. Office)

OFFICE HOURS: Canvas email any time

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Contact days and hours/week:** Online

**Class meeting location:** Canvas

**Term the course is offered:** Spring 2024

**Credit Hours earned upon passing:** 3 credit hours

**Prerequisite(s) and Co-requisite(s):**  None

**Course Description:** Acquaints student with elementary physical, biological, chemical and geological characteristics of world ocean system. Emphasis on Florida's unique relationship with ocean environment.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS

We will be using Essentials of Oceanography by Trujillo and Thurman. ISBN **9780135486948**. We will be using the 13th edition. You may use the type of book that works best for you (eBook or hardcopy). This course will also require the use of Mastering Oceanography which is an online program from the publisher to go along with the book (Pearson). The code can be obtained on its own through the website or through the bookstore (store version has book and code together).



## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, you should be able to do the following:

* Students will understand the formation of the Solar System, including planet Earth and its related systems (ocean, atmosphere, and geology).
* Students will identify the major historical milestones in Oceanographic Sciences.
* Students will understand the Theory of Plate Tectonics and its effect on Earth systems.
* Students will identify and describe the origin and characteristics of continental margin and seafloor structures.
* Students will identify the chemical origin and composition of seawater.
* Students will identify and understand the mechanisms that drive global ocean circulation.
* Students will identify and understand the origin, characteristics, and classification of ocean waves.
* Students will understand the mechanisms that drive ocean tide cycles.
* Students will identify the characteristics and classification of living organisms.
* Students will understand the relationship between the oceans and the Earth's climate and weather.

**DISCLAIMER**

**Changes in the syllabus and/or schedule may be made at any time during the term by announcement of the professor. It is your responsibility to stay informed of any changes.**

## STUDENT CORE COMPETENCIES

This course seeks to reinforce the following Valencia Student Competencies:

* **Think** clearly, critically and creatively by analyzing, synthesizing, integrating and evaluating knowledge.
* **Evaluate** your own and others’ **values** from individual, cultural and global perspectives.
* **Communicate** by reading, listening, writing and speaking effectively.
* **Act** purposely, reflectively and responsibly by implementing effective problem solving and decision making strategies.
* **Understand** and **use** quantitative information.

## ACADEMIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The academic policies and procedures for this course follow those established for Valencia Community College. You can access this information by selecting this link: [Valencia College Catalog](http://valenciacollege.edu/catalog/current/). Please note that each student is responsible for knowing and adhering to the policies and requirements that affect them.

Per Valencia Policy 4-07 (Academic Progress, Course Attendance and Grades, and Withdrawals), a student who withdraws from class before the withdrawal deadline of March 15 @ 11:59 PM will receive a grade of “W.” A student is not permitted to withdraw after the withdrawal deadline. A faculty member MAY withdraw a student up to the beginning of the final exam period for violation of the class attendance policy. A student who is withdrawn by faculty for violation of the class attendance policy will receive a grade of “W.” Any student who withdraws or is withdrawn from a class during a third or subsequent attempt in the same course will be assigned a grade of “F.” For a complete policy and procedure overview on Valencia Policy 4-07 please go to: [Valencia College Withdraw Policy](http://valenciacollege.edu/oit/lts/StudentResources/integrity/documents/09B_policies.pdf)

The drop refund date is January 16@ 11:59 P.M.

This college believes that regular attendance and class participation are significant factors which promote success in college. Students are expected to attend all classes in which they are enrolled (Policy 6Hx28:10-22). Each instructor determines the specific attendance policy for his/her class, but attendance must be recorded for each student. Your professor can withdraw you from a course for excessive absences without your permission.

The criteria for excessive absence for this class are as follows:

This class is structured to make the best possible use of your time. It is essential that you attend every class to get the most out of it you can. However, I know that in in life things happen and you may miss a class. Student must complete at least one assignment in the first two weeks. Failure to do so will result in being withdrawn. If you miss **one week** of assignments, you will be sent an excessive absence notice. At that point, you are **required** to meet with me on Zoom to discuss your class progress or to fill out a withdrawal slip and take it to the Registrar’s Office.

Tardiness causes distractions that are disruptive to learning and is a form of disruptive behavior. Disruptive behavior in the classroom is addressed in the Student Handbook in the Code of Student Conduct (6Hx28: 10-03). Tardiness is particularly unacceptable in the workplace and I consider being a student to be your job. I expect you to be on time to your “job” every class day. Federal financial aid regulations require that attendance be recorded. The following principle should be followed:

**If you are early you are on time;**

**If you are on time you are late;**

**If you are late you are left behind!**

**ACADEMIC HONESTY (Policy Number: 6Hx28:10-16)**

All forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited at Valencia College. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, furnishing false information, forgery, alteration or misuse of documents, misconduct during a testing situation, and misuse of identification with intent to defraud or deceive. Students shall take special notice that the assignment of course grades is the responsibility of the student's individual professor. When the professor has reason to believe that an act of academic dishonesty has occurred, and before sanctions are imposed, the student shall be given informal notice and an opportunity to be heard by the professor. Any student determined by the professor to have been guilty of engaging in an act of academic dishonesty shall be subject to a range of academic penalties as determined by the professor. These penalties may include, but not be limited to, one or more of the following:

* loss of credit for an assignment, examination, or project;
* reduction in the course grade;
* or a grade of "F" in the course.

At the option of the professor, the appropriate administrator of the campus may be furnished with written notification of the occurrence and the action taken. If such written notice is given, a copy shall be provided to the student. Students guilty of engaging in a gross or flagrant act of academic dishonesty or repeated instances of academic dishonesty shall also be subject to administrative and/or disciplinary penalties that may include warning, probation, suspension, and/or expulsion from the college.

**My personal philosophy is a follows:**

*A student in Professors Weiss’ class does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those that do.*

**Days off- No class on following Days**

Dr. MLK Day: Monday Jan. 15th

Learning Day: Friday Feb. 9th

Spring Break: March 18th-24th

## Grading

The final grade will be determined by the following system:

**Methods of Evaluation / Percent of Grade**

Homework = 10-15 points each

Exams = 80 points each

Projects = 50 points each

Activities = 10-20

On-line Chat = 10 points

**GRADING SCALE**

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = Below 60%

**Homework:** On Canvas/Pearson through Mastering Oceanography toevaluate understanding of the week’s chapter. These will be due **on Thursdays**. You are allowed hints and guesses and unlimited time. Questions will be activity based and permit you to dive deeper into the topics covered during the week. This could include virtual field trips, manipulative models, and reading questions.

**Exams:** Four exams will be given throughout the semester. They will be made up of any combination of multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay at my discretion. All exams will be cumulative from Day 1 of course (so don’t forget). Exams have a 180 minute time limit, questions must be answered as they appear, and you get one attempt. Exams will open on Friday mornings and close Sunday end of day.

 **Exams cannot be made up without explicit consent of instructor in documented extreme cases!!** They can be taken **early** if you know of an upcoming conflict with approval by me. If you miss the final exam you will receive a “0” for the test and may earn an “F” for the class, unless pre-approved for an extraordinary circumstance. The final exam will be due on **Thursday April 25, 2024** by the end of the day. That will ensure we have one full day to deal with any issues.

**Projects:** There will be 1-3 projects due during the semester

**Activities:** Students will complete a series of activities to further their understanding of course material. Points will be based on effort not accuracy, as activities are your opportunity to make mistakes. However, you have to try to get correct response.

**On-line Chat:** Students will participate in a discussion when assigned in a curious, courteous, and professional manner. There will be **no** tolerance for any cyber bulling or inappropriate language.

**Zoom Chats:** We will have a Zoom chat every week on Wednesday from 5:45- 6:15 PM. These will be voluntary and be used to answer questions, have discussions, and serve as reminders and updates. Additional Zoom times can be requested if a need arrives. The chats will be recorded so if you miss one you can go back and view. There will be a discussion page for any questions. Feel free to help each other out by responding and I may jump in as well.

## CANVAS COMPONENT

You ***will*** be using Canvas to access your online exams, quizzes, and assignments. If you do not presently have a computer, the Learning Resources Centers have computers available for you to use.

If you have difficulty accessing Canvas on your computer or difficulty opening different pages on the class website, you can do several things:

1. Contact Student Help at 407-582-5600,
2. follow the “help” link on the Canvas login page,
3. follow this link for Canvas online help: [OIT](http://valenciacollege.edu/oit/learning-technology-services/student-resources/),
4. send an email to: oithelp@valenciacollege.edu, or
5. use computers in the Learning Resource Center.

If you experience problems with Canvas, try these above options immediately. If use of these options fails to take care of the problem, contact me as soon as possible. You are responsible for insuring that you receive all and any information relating to this course!

## STUDENT RESOURCES

Students with documented disabilities who may need academic adjustments or auxiliary aids or service for this course are required to contact the Office for Students with Disabilities.

Valencia College has contracted with BayCare, a private and confidential counseling service, to provide short-term assistance to students who need to resolve problems that are affecting their college performance. Examples might include: stress, relationship/family issues, alcohol/drug problems, eating disorders, depression, and gender issues. Students who are experiencing any of these issues should call the BayCare toll-free number **1-800-878-5470** to speak to a professional counselor. If needed, the counselor may refer the student to appropriate resources or to speak face-to-face with a licensed counselor.

We ask that you follow college policy relating to children on campus. Please make arrangements for childcare outside of classrooms or labs. Please make note of evacuation route from you classroom in case of emergency. Interpret all audible alarms as valid and act accordingly.

## Special Needs

Students with documented disabilities who may need academic adjustments or auxiliary aids or service for this course are required to contact the Office for Students with Disabilities.

Any issues requiring special consideration (child/family care, work, etc.) should be addressed at the beginning of the semester.

## Valencia I.D. Cards

Valencia ID cards are required for LRC, Testing Center, and IMC usage. No other form of

ID at those locations will be accepted. Possession and utilization of a Valencia ID is mandatory

in order to obtain these services.