

Big Blue and You: An Interdisciplinary Look at Science and the Ocean



HPR 110
Spring 2012
Tuesday/Thursday 3:30-4:45
Lippitt 403

Course Facilitators

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We all live, work, or go to school in Rhode Island, the Ocean State, but how many of its people know anything about the ocean beyond the best beaches, surf spots, and fishing sites? No matter what field each student goes into, the ocean will have an effect on them and they will have an effect on it. This is the generation that will be deciding ocean policy in a few years and this course is our effort to create informed citizens. You will learn the science involved, but this course will focus more on the relationship between the ocean and its people, especially in respect to these four major issues: pollution, coastal development, climate change, and fishing. We will take you on an interdisciplinary exploration of why we have these issues, what the world is currently doing to remedy the situations, and what can be done by anyone from the highest

public official to the everyday citizen.

Course Objectives:

Students will:

1. Become informed about the issues facing the ocean and what is currently being done to address them.
2. Use creative thinking and writing to disseminate scientific information to the public.
3. Create original methods that everyday citizens can use to help move the globe towards ocean sustainability.

Class Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Notes
Week 1	1/24	Introduction		
	1/26	The Human Connection		
Week 2	1/31	The Ocean Environment		
	2/2	The Ocean Organisms		
Week 3	2/7	Relationships and the Ocean		
	2/9	Communications		
Week 4	2/14	GUEST LECTURE		
	2/16	Marine Pollution (I)		
Week 5	2/21	Marine Pollution (II)		
	2/23	GUEST LECTURE		Documentary review due
Week 6	2/28	Climate Change (I)	IPCC Report	
	3/1	Climate Change (II)		
Week 7	3/6	Climate Change (III)		
	3/8	Mock debate		
Week 8	3/13	--	--	Spring break!

	3/15	--	--	Spring break!
Week 9	3/20	GUEST LECTURE		
	3/22	Marine Bioresources		
Week 10	3/27	Coastal Development		
	3/29	GUEST LECTURE		
Week 11	4/3	Fisheries (I)		
	4/5	Fisheries (II)		
Week 12	4/10	Fisheries (III)		Public awareness project due
	4/12	GUEST LECTURE		
Week 13	4/17	Presentations		
	4/19	Presentations		
Week 14	4/24	Presentations		
	4/26	Closing lecture		

Reading List:

Grading

Participation 20%

Current events 15%

Documentary review	15%
Public awareness project	15%
Mock debate	10%
Presentation	25%

Participation: Students will be graded on attendance and contribution to class discussions

Current events: Every week students will take turns looking up a recent article about the issue currently being discussed, writing a brief summary, and presenting the summary to the class.

Documentary review: Students will write an in-depth review of a documentary, including a discussion on the science involved and how the facts and opinions are presented. Writing skills are important to this project, as is critical thinking when students must take an unbiased look at the issues.

Public awareness project: Groups will develop a creative project aimed towards spreading public awareness of the subjects we are discussing. This will involve showing others how to make a difference and thinking creatively. A possible collaboration with the Good Five Cent Cigar to publish articles on the ocean will also help students develop writing skills.

Mock debate: To explore the political system, a proposal will be put forth and students will hold a mock debate to decide whether or not it would be passed and then they will compromise on a bill that could pass.

Presentation: Since the span of this course does not allow for going into deep detail on each possible solution available, each student will deliver to their peers a 15 minute presentation on a solution they would like to see implemented.

Grading Scale

A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	84-86%

C+	77-79%
C	74-76%
C-	70-73%
D+	67-69%
D	60-66%

Course Expectations:

Students should attend class and actively engage in class discussions and out of class work and research. Current event assignments will be shared weekly and both these articles and class participation make up 35% of your grade. If you do plan to miss class, you must present a university approved excuse to earn credit for the class missed. Please let us know as far in advance as possible, as this may determine assignments for the mock discussion and other in-class activities.

Be courteous to both your fellow students and your teachers by turning off your cell phones before class. No texting allowed during class.

Student Disabilities:

Any student with a documented disability is welcomed and urged to come to us as early as possible so that we may arrange reasonable accommodations. As part of this process please be in touch with the Disability Services for Students office at 330 Memorial Union, (874-2098).

Academic Ethics:

Students are expected to abide by the highest standards of academic integrity. Cheating and plagiarism are forbidden and unethical. This may include:

- Cheating on exams
- Reuse of assignments without permission,
- Unauthorized electronic assistance
- Plagiarism
- Unauthorized collaboration
- Forgery
- Alteration of graded assignments

Anyone that is found to be involved in any of the above activities will be given a zero and subject to the consequences of such activities.

Academic Enhancement Center (AEC):

The course may be difficult at times. Feel free to make use of the facilitators and the tutors at the AEC that is found on the 4th floor in Roosevelt Hall. They are open Monday

through Thursday from 10 AM to 9 PM and many tutors are available to help. The tutors may help clarify concepts, check your understanding, revise papers and help to study effectively. A complete schedule for the tutor availability is found at www.uri.edu/aec, or by phone at 874-2367.