

Syllabus, SMS302 - Oceanography

Instructors: [Emmanuel Boss](#) and [Charlotte Begouen Demeaux](#).

Meeting times: Tue and Thu. from 8:00am to 9:15am.

Meeting place: Barrows 126

Class philosophy and mechanics:

This class aims at deepening the knowledge students have about the ocean, beyond what they learned in SMS100. We aim at building a community of learners and are comfortable asking questions. Most of the learning will happen by the students inquiring about relevant topics.

Instructors will conduct mini-lectures on: 1. Background materials. 2. Materials students ask for (typically in the following class). We will bring hands-on demonstrations to class to showcase concepts. You can find them and many more in the materials available in <https://sites.google.com/maine.edu/sms204-2024/home>.

Students will bring a laptop computer or a tablet to class. It will be used in class working on group projects. Students will take notes as the materials taught in class will often be taught on the black/white board - not distributed to the students in the form of notes. Note taking is an important skill to learn. Students are encouraged to share their notes so they can learn this skill from each other.

Students will further their knowledge on:

1. How the ocean is forced by the sun, winds and tides and geophysical processes (earthquakes, vents, boundaries).
2. How materials within the ocean are distributed and cycled.
3. How life in the ocean is affecting the ocean's physio-chemical properties and is affected by the ocean physio-chemical properties.
4. How humans are affected by the ocean and are affecting the ocean.

Students will learn and sharpen the following skills:

1. Develop data literacy and practice critical thinking using data.
2. Reading, analyzing and visualizing data curated in public databases.
3. Extract geographical information (using ArcGIS online, QGIS and other software we would like to see you learn to use).
4. Manipulate and graph data (e.g. using Excel online).
5. Work in groups to produce an online document (storymap) and an oral presentation that they will present to the class.
6. Take and organize notes.

Grading in this class will be based on the following:

1. Two midterm exams focused on knowledge. (**25%**)
2. Short pre-class quizzes focused on knowledge. (**15%**)
3. Group projects, done in pairs (online - **35%**) and group (4 people oral presentation, **5%**) focused on skills and knowledge. The grade for this will take into account peer evaluation.
4. Attendance (when not notifying instructors of absence, **20%**)

Conversion from numerical to letter grade.

Letter grade	Numerical grade
A	93.33-100
A-	90.00-93.33
B+	86.67-89.99
B	83.34-86.66
B-	80.00-83.33
C+	76.67-79.99
C	73.34-76.66
C-	70.00-73.33
D+	66.67-69.99
D	63.34-66.66
D-	60.00-63.33
F	<60.00

There is no curving in this class. Everybody can get an A if they do quality work. Since you are not competing with your classmates on grade, you are welcome to share and help each other (though not by **copy/paste**).

Reference/resource materials for the class are available at:

<https://sites.google.com/maine.edu/sms302-fall2025/home>

They include online accessible books:

Segar-Introduction to Ocean Sciences, 5th edition (upper level undergraduate textbook).

Steward-Introduction to physical oceanography (upper level undergraduate textbook).

Kennish-Practical handbook of Marine Science (upper level undergraduate textbook).

Webb- Introduction to Oceanography (lower level undergraduate textbook).

GIS resources:

A Gentle Introduction to GIS (excellent resource on GIS @

https://docs.qgis.org/3.34/en/docs/gentle_gis_introduction/index.html)

Sherman- Desktop GIS (a book covering the main concepts associated with GIS).

These books/resources are for your enrichment, providing you with materials to better understand the topics you are working on in class. We will keep adding resources throughout the semester.

Academic Honesty Statement: Academic honesty is very important. It is dishonest to cheat on exams, to copy term papers, to submit papers written by another person, or generated by software or systems without the explicit approval of the instructor, to fake experimental results, or to copy or reword parts of books or articles into your own papers without appropriately citing the source. Students committing or aiding in any of these violations may be given failing grades for an assignment or for an entire course, at the discretion of the instructor. In addition to any academic action taken by an instructor, these violations are also subject to action under the University of Maine Student Conduct Code. The maximum possible sanction under the student conduct code is dismissal from the University. Please see the University of Maine System's Academic Integrity Policy listed in the Board Policy Manual as Policy 314 (***Date Issued:** September 1, 2020):

<https://www.maine.edu/board-of-trustees/policy-manual/section-314/>

Course Schedule Disclaimer (Disruption Clause): In the event of an extended disruption of normal classroom activities (due to COVID-19 or other long-term disruptions), the format for this course may be modified to enable its completion within its programmed time frame. In that event, you will be provided an addendum to the syllabus that will supersede this version.

Observance of Religious Holidays/Events: The University of Maine recognizes that when students are observing significant religious holidays, some may be unable to

attend classes or labs, study, take tests, or work on other assignments. If they provide adequate notice (at least one week and longer if at all possible), these students are allowed to make up course requirements as long as this effort does not create an unreasonable burden upon the instructor, department or University. At the discretion of the instructor, such coursework could be due before or after the examination or assignment. No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to a student's grade for the examination, study, or course requirement on the day of religious observance. The student shall not be marked absent from the class due to observing a significant religious holiday. In the case of an internship or clinical, students should refer to the applicable policy in place by the employer or site.

Sexual Discrimination Reporting

The University of Maine is committed to making campus a safe place for students. Because of this commitment, if you tell a teacher about an experience of **sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, relationship abuse (dating violence and domestic violence), sexual misconduct or any form of gender discrimination** involving members of the campus, **your teacher is required to report** this information to Title IX Student Services or the Office of Equal Opportunity.

If you want to talk in confidence to someone about an experience of sexual discrimination, please contact these resources:

For *confidential resources on campus*: **Counseling Center: 207-581-1392** or **Northern Light Primary Care, University of Maine: at 207-581-4000**. *Confidential Resource Advisor: 207-571-5372 (call or text)*. Or see the [Confidential Resource Advisor website](#) for a complete list of services and resources (open in a new window).

For *confidential resources off campus*: **Rape Response Services: 1-800-871-7741** or **Partners for Peace: 1-800-863-9909**.

Other resources: The resources listed below can offer support but may have to report the incident to others who can help:

For *support services on campus*: **Title IX Student Services: 207-581-1406**, **Office of Community Standards: 207-581-1409**, **University of Maine Police: 207-581-4040 or 911**. Or [see the Title IX Student Services website for a complete list of services \(open in a new window\)](#). Also, [Student Wellness Resource Center \(opens in a new window\)](#).

Students Accessibility Services Statement

If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, please contact Student Accessibility Services, located at the Center for Accessibility and Volunteer Engagement at the UCU, 139 Rangeley Rd, um.sas@maine.edu, 207.581.2319, as early as possible in the term. Students may begin the accommodation process by submitting an accommodation request form online and uploading documentation at https://umaine-accommodate.symplicity.com/public_accommodation/. Once students meet with SAS and eligibility has been determined, students submit an online request with SAS each semester to activate their approved accommodations. SAS creates an accessibility letter each semester which informs faculty of potential course access and approved reasonable accommodations; the letter is sent directly to the course instructor. Students who have already been approved for accommodations by SAS and have a current accommodation letter should meet with me (Emmanuel Boss) privately as soon as possible.