THE COURSE: This “Oceans of Change” course has been developed by Dr. Stephen Schellenberg here in the College of Sciences at SDSU. I will use his proven design and format and the many tools we have available.

What is this course about? Given our species ever-increasing impact on the global ocean, we will focus on three oceanographic issues that are increasingly encountered in the media and of broad socioeconomic relevance:

- How our global burning of fossil fuels is warming and acidifying the ocean
- How our global fisheries are affecting ecosystems and driving the rise of aquaculture
- How our global demand for energy and products is affecting the ocean in myriad ways

In the spirit of the GE Explorations, each of these issues will be examined primarily from a scientific perspective, and secondarily from economic, social, and political perspectives. The scientific principles underlying each issue will serve as a foundation for exploring subsequent issues; for example, we will build on our model of global ocean-atmosphere circulation (first issue) to understand why coastal regions historically had such abundant fish populations (second issue) as well as why petroleum reservoirs are found where they are (third issue). In addition, we will examine all three issues as potential examples of the “tragedy of the commons” and “shifting baselines” – two broad conceptual frameworks that will be explored early in the course.

What is its broader context? OCEAN320 fulfills your GE Explorations Natural Sciences requirement and builds upon the goals and skills of your earlier GE Foundation courses. As such, the course employs an interdisciplinary approach with more complex and in-depth theory, deeper investigation of local problems, and wider awareness of global challenges. Such Exploration courses include more extensive reading and written analyses incorporating complex comparisons, well-developed argumentation, and appropriate references to the scientific literature. More specifically, OCEAN320 will promote your ability to: (1) explain basic concepts and theories of the natural sciences; (2) use logic and scientific methods to analyze the natural world and solve problems; and (3) argue from multiple perspectives about issues in natural science that have personal and global relevance.

What are the Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)? SLOs provide a set of explicit learning goals for students, and thereby directly guide the selection, organization, and delivery of our course content. The course-level SLOs are provided below.

*Week 12: Spring Break I will not be available and there will be no required activities*
**How will the course work?** The Blackboard (Bb) course page for OCEAN320 will serve as the access site for all course materials (e.g., streaming video, pdf and online readings, webpages, etc.) as well as scheduled live sessions using the Wimba Classroom. The course is divided into a sequence of modules, and the first item in each module is a Learning Guide (LG) – essentially the roadmap for the module. I will send out a message every Sunday evening about the goals for the week, this will include more details on the scheduling of ……

• **Live Wimba sessions:** Wimba is a web-conferencing tool within Bb that allows live interaction among the logged-in participants (e.g., you can ask questions via a chatbox or headset microphone). You are strongly encouraged, but not required, to attend these Wimba sessions – each will be archived and viewable anytime during the course. If you cannot attend live, you are very strongly encouraged to watch the archive later that day to avoid falling behind! I will update on the details of scheduled sessions.

• **Posted Camtasia sessions:** Camtasia is a software program that allows more media-rich and higher-production-value course sessions than possible through Wimba. These Camtasia sessions will be posted for viewing on specific days and will remain available anytime during the course. As with the Wimba sessions, you are very strongly encouraged to watch the Camtasia session on the scheduled day to avoid falling behind!

• **Live Wimba office hours:** I will hold at least one Wimba office hour per week. I encourage you to attend these sessions in a quiet space where you can use your computer microphone or a headset-microphone since the chatbox isn’t very effective for the one-on-one or group discussions that typically occur during office hours. Note that if you can’t make it to these Wimba office hours, you can post specific questions in the Discussion Board or attend my formal office hours on Wednesdays from 2:00-3:30 in GMCS-228A.

• **Course Activities:** Activities consist of reading annotated articles, watching streaming videos, exploring web sites, etc. For each activity, any “actionable” content (e.g., directions, questions, assignments) will be included in the module’s LG. While these activities will not be formally collected or graded, they will be an integral part of our sessions and are fair-game on quizzes and exams!

• **Quiz Time-Windows:** Each module will conclude with a Bb quiz that can be completed at anytime during the stated time-window. Questions will be directly related to content from our learning sessions and related module activities. Missed quizzes may not be made up, but the lowest score (including zero) will be dropped.

**How will your learning will be assessed and graded?** Your course grade will be based on best (7/8) module quizzes (140 pts) and 2 exams (200 total pts) Each exam will consist of two parts: Part A will consist of a set of “microessay” questions with responses typically limited to less than 400 words. The questions and directions will be posted as a downloadable pdf on the dates indicated below and logistics will be explained in more detail prior to the first exam. Part B will be a Bb-based “super-quiz” comprised of multiple choice, multiple-answer, true-false, etc. questions. Quizzes and exams are designed to assess your mastery of the major learning outcomes for each module, not your ability to regurgitate specific facts, figures, and terms. So, while you are free to refer to any materials during quizzes and exams, you simply will not have time to start from scratch and “look up” answers to each question. Please note that you are not allowed to collaborate with other OCEAN320 students or to be assisted by any other individuals for quizzes or exams. Start arranging your busy life and work schedules now to accommodate the examination days and times below. Missed exams may not be made up without a medical excuse. Alternate times will only be arranged in the case of a documented class schedule conflict and must be finalized between us at least three days prior to the exam. For more information on how to maximize your performance on quizzes and exams, see the pdf entitled “OCEAN320 Procedures for Blackboard-Based Quizzes and Exams” in the Bb “Logistics” folder.

CONTACT ME EARLY IF YOU HAVE A DOCUMENTYED SCHEDULE CONFLICT

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Exam I</th>
<th>Part A-posted March 4th DUE March 8th-MIDNIGHT, Part B- LIVE on Blackboard Friday March 8th-9-10:10 am</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Exam II</th>
<th>Part A-posted May 6th DUE May 10th-MIDNIGHT, Part B- LIVE on Blackboard Friday May 10th-9-10:10 am</th>
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<td>(Covers 8 April – 3 May)</td>
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Total points for the course = (2X100) + (7X20) = 340 Total Points….. There is no extra Credit

90%A///85%A-///80%B+///75%B-///70%B-///65%B+///60%B///55%B=C///50%B=D///45%B-///Really?

Credit ---No Credit minimum is 60%
How can you get comfortable with Blackboard and the Wimba Classroom? Go to the Bb Student Help page by either clicking “help” at the top of any Bb page or by pointing your browser to its.sdsu.edu/blackboard/student/index.html. For Wimba, go to the “Wimba” link on the Bb course page, where you can verify that your computer is Wimba-ready using the “Setup Wizard for Wimba” link. How can you ask questions about course content? If you can attend the live Wimba sessions or office hours, those are great times to ask questions on recent or current content. Otherwise, you should post your question, written as clearly and specific as possible, to the appropriate module folder in the “Discussion Board” link. This approach will allow my response to be read by you as well as your classmates. I will check and respond to Discussion Board posts once a day, and may modify/combine/refer to postings as appropriate. Thus, whether you post or not, I recommend that you check out the Discussion Boards frequently. For more details on communication in the course, see the pdf entitled “OCEAN320 Procedures for Course Communication” in the Bb “Logistics” folder.

When should you email me? As mentioned above, not when you have a content question – if you do, then I’ll simply reply requesting that you post your question to the appropriate discussion board within Bb! However, if there is ever a problem with Bb content (e.g., link not working, etc.) or you have a non-content-based concern or problem, please do email me through the “Email” link in Bb. Your email should include a title that is informative (e.g., not “ocean320”, “question”, etc.). I will respond to your email as soon as possible, but it is your responsibility to re-contact me if you do not hear back within 24 hours. If we can’t solve the issue via email, an individual Wimba session or face-to-face office hours can be arranged. For more details on communication in the course, see the pdf entitled “OCEAN320 Procedures for Course Communication” in the Bb “Logistics” folder.

How can you ensure that you get course-related emails? Check and update your email address at SDSU WebPortal (https://sunspot.sdsu.edu/portal/) as Bb announcements will be sent to your listed email address. Will the syllabus or course design change? I reserve the right to make minor modifications to this syllabus and schedules as we progress through the course. Any such changes will be widely announced via Bb and email, and an updated course syllabus will be posted.

What constitutes academic misconduct? Section 41301 of Title V of the California Code of Regulations defines academic misconduct as “cheating or plagiarism in connection with an academic program at a campus.” Examples of cheating include copying others’ work during an exam, falsifying data or records for an exercise, etc. Note that while you can use your course materials (e.g., handouts, notes, etc.), you may not collaborate with other OCEAN320 students or receive assistance from other individuals during quizzes or exams. Examples of plagiarism include copying other students’ answers or, when working in collaborative groups, not stating answers in your own words based on your own understanding. More information is available from the SDSU Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities (http://csrr.sdsu.edu/index.html).

Can this course accommodate students with disabilities? If you have or think that you may have a disability, please immediately contact SDSU Student Disability Services (SDS) at http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/sds/index.html. Once you have established a formal dialog with SDS, please contact me so that we can all work together to provide effective accommodations for your specific needs.

Twitter Anyone? For this course I will have a special Twitter account. I follow certain news organizations and ocean related tweeters, follow me and see who I follow. I’ll see you and see who whom you follow. I will be using Twitter to remind you of important current events and course related news. I will use tweets to help guide you through the weekly activities. At the very least I hope that the Tweets will help to remind you of your online oceans course and keep you on track. Get an account or make special account for this class and then follow me @SDSUoceans320. I also tweet @GeoBuddha & @PacificPhotos