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# OUR OCEANS

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## Human Impacts & Impacts on Humans



Our oceans. They are stunningly beautiful, profoundly impacted by humans, and vitally important to human existence. In this course, we will explore the biodiversity and ecology of our oceans, human impacts on ocean ecosystems, how ocean ecosystems impact humans, and solutions for ecological problems. We will read and discuss a book, articles, papers, and films; learn from local projects and scientists in the field; educate our local community; critically examine approaches to lessen or alleviate our impacts, both published and original; and discuss how human impacts on the ocean inform our own lives, practices, and careers. We will make a *positive* impact.

**Galapagos Sea Lion pup with tourist boat in the background. Photo by Melissa Meadows. 2018.**

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## Course Information

**Course number:** ZOO 4926 Special Topics

**Credit hours:** 3

**Class meetings:** T 10:40 - 11:30, Th 10:40 - 12:35 on Zoom

**Instructor:** Dr. Melissa Meadows

**Zoom Office:** <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/3066712046>

**Office Hours:** T 4-5, W 3-5 BY APPOINTMENT

**Make an appointment:** <https://tinyurl.com/yxnky196>

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## What will I need?

**E-learning/ Canvas:** All reading materials, announcements, assignments, and other materials will be available on the e-Learning site for this course. Please make sure that you are enrolled on the site, and set notifications to come to you in whatever way is convenient (text, email, etc.) so that you receive them in a timely manner.

**Book:** Throughout the semester, we will be discussing *The World is Blue: How Our Fate and the Ocean's are One* by Sylvia A. Earle, National Geographic Partners LLC, 2009. ISBN 978-1-4262-0639-9

**Mindset:** Come to class each day ready to think critically. Read all assigned material, complete any pre-class assignments, and prepare to participate every day in this course. The quality of the course and how much you learn and grow will depend upon YOUR valuable input and ideas.

**Netflix Account:** Each student will need access to Netflix to watch several films throughout the semester.

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## What will I learn?

**What are Quest 2 courses?** Quest 2 courses provide an opportunity for students to engage in thought-provoking General Education coursework that builds on and expands upon their Quest 1 experience in the Arts and Humanities. If Quest 1 courses ask what it means, Quest 2 courses ask what we can do. Rather than offer an introduction to or survey of a specific field, Quest 2 courses invite students to encounter important real-world issues that cut across disciplines. They introduce scientific methods and discourse for students to become familiar with the ways that data, methods, and tools from diverse fields can be brought to bear on pressing questions facing human societies and/or the planet today. What are the unintended consequences of technological progress, climate change, structural racism? How do the various social and/or biophysical sciences substantively contribute to life on our planet? How do these disciplines converge towards improving the human condition?

## What will I learn? (continued)

### Course Objectives

- Address the history, key themes, principles, terminologies, hypotheses, and methodologies of studying the ocean, how we are impacting it, and how it in turn impacts us.
- Consider how our study of and impacts on ocean ecosystems impact the state of the planet and the human condition.
- Enable students to analyze and evaluate (in writing, and other forms of communication) data relevant to the pressing question of how we impact the ocean and the results of these impacts.
- Analyze critically the role human impacts on the ocean play in the lives of individuals, societies, and students' degrees and careers.
- Explore marine science resources outside the classroom (such as museums, field stations, UF scientists, and opportunities to engage the public) and explain how engagement with those resources complements classroom work.
- Students will assist in the further development of this special topics course as a Quest 2 course for Spring 2020.

### Student Learning Outcomes

- Identify, describe, and explain the cross-disciplinary dimensions of the pressing issue of human impacts on oceans and ocean impacts on humans. (Content)
- Critically analyze data for informing an approach or policy that addresses some dimension of human impacts on oceans. (Critical Thinking)
- Develop and present, in terms accessible to an educated public, clear and effective responses to proposed approaches, policies, or practices that address human impacts on oceans. (Communication)
- Connect what you learn and critically reflect upon in this course to your intellectual, personal, and professional development at UF and beyond. (Connection)

## How will my learning be assessed?

**Grading Scale:** Please note that grades will not be rounded. For example 89.99% is a B+ rather than an A-. Grades will be based upon a variety of activities as described on the following page.

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
≥ 93%	≥90%	≥87%	≥83%	≥80%	≥77%	≥73%	≥70%	≥67%	≥63%	≥60%	<60%

## How will my learning be assessed? (continued)

**Grade Weighting:** Grades will be weighted as follows:

- 15% **Leadership** in discussion of a book chapter or film.
- 15% **Assignments and Participation** in class and outside of class.
- 20% **Scientist Interview Project** in which you will interview a UF researcher (professor, research scientist or graduate student) about their research related to human impacts on the marine environment and present it as a class presentation, video, or podcast.
- 20% **Public Education Project** in which you will present a topic of your choice related to the course to the public in a format of your choice (YouTube video, Blog, presentation, etc.)
- 30% **Final Paper or Project** on an issue of your choice related to the course in which you critically evaluate the issue using approved sources of information, examine its impact on your life and those around you, and present both published and original ideas for solutions or mitigation. OR Final Creative Project of your choice.

## What policies should I follow?

**Attendance:** This is a small class, and if you aren't here, I'll worry! Attendance is *required*. Missed in-class assignments and participation points cannot be made up in most cases. If you have a planned conflict for a UF activity, discuss it with me as far in advance as possible. If there is an unforeseen circumstance, please let me know as soon as possible and ensure that it is for a university-approved reason. Please see the UF policy for excused absences here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>.

**Conduct in class:** PARTICIPATE. Ask questions. Connect. Bring your computer, but don't use it for non-class activities. Be respectful. Silence your phone. Don't do anything that distracts your neighbors' learning or your instructor's teaching.

**Diversity:** We need diversity of opinion, social class, culture, religion, sexual orientation, gender, race, ethnicity, and ability in science. Enjoy the diverse scientists you learn about. Ask why diversity is lacking. Maintain an environment of respect and inclusion at all times. Listen and learn from all.

**Time commitment:** The university policy is that students should expect to spend 3-4 hours per week per credit hour studying, reading, and completing assignments, and participating in class. This is a 3 credit course, so budget 9-12 hours per week to succeed. Do not procrastinate.

**Recording:** Class sessions on Zoom will be recorded. Therefore if you speak during class your voice and image may be recorded. Recordings with NOT be available publicly and will only be available to members of this course.

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## Academic Honesty

**All students** must review and abide by the University Honor Code. If you witness any instances of academic dishonesty in this class, please notify the instructor or contact the Student Honor Court (392-1631) or Cheating Hotline (392-6999). For additional information on Academic Honesty, please refer to the University of Florida Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code at: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>

**Plagiarism** will not be tolerated. Please do not copy anything from other sources including other students or your own work from other courses. Remember - if you hit copy on an article or internet site, and then hit paste into your paper - even if you plan to reword it - is a bad idea and will result in plagiarism. Be careful and review what is or isn't plagiarism with many excellent online sources and with your instructor if needed. When in doubt, leave it out. **Academic dishonesty will result in a 0 on the assignment and a reduction in the final grade of one letter.**

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## Accommodations

Contact the Dean of Students Office of Disability Resources, Peabody 202, 352-392-1261. I will work with them to accommodate your needs. More info: <https://disability.ufl.edu/>

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## What if I need help?

**Questions and Concerns:** If you don't understand something or are concerned about a grade, talk to me ASAP. Please do not wait until a failed project or other grade. Ask in class, during office hours, or via email. I am fully committed to your learning and success! I want everyone to make an A (but you will work for it)!!! Seriously, come visit! I will be available by appointment on Zoom using my Google calendar at <https://tinyurl.com/yxnkyl96> T 4-5, W 3-5. If those times don't fit your schedule, email me to make an appointment. I will respond to emails within 24 hrs M-F. After 5 on F, I will not respond until M.

**UMatter, WeCare!** ASKING FOR HELP IS A SIGN OF STRENGTH. College can be stressful. If you or a friend is in distress, contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or call the 24/7 crisis counselor at (352) 392-1575. Also available is UF Counseling and Wellness Center [www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/) 392-1575.

**Counseling and Wellness Center:** Visit [counseling.ufl.edu](http://counseling.ufl.edu) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

**Field and Fork Campus Food Pantry:** <https://pantry.fieldandfork.ufl.edu/>

**Student Health Care Center:** Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit <http://www.shcc.ufl.edu>

## Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change. Updates will be posted on Canvas as needed. All readings are from The World is Blue by Sylvia Earle unless specified as a handout.

Week of	Day	Live meeting?	Topic	Reading/watching due by class time
8/23	Tues	Y	Discussion: Syllabus, Course Introduction	
	Thurs	N	Watch: <u>Mission Blue</u> (1:40)	
8/30	Tues	Y	Discuss: Film	Watch: <u>Mission Blue</u> (1:40)
	Thurs	Y	PPT on mammals Discussion: Reading	The World is Blue Introduction, Perspective
9/6	Tues	Y	Discussion: Reading	Taking Wildlife I – The Mammals
	Thurs	Y	Our Changing Planet PPT and discussion	Our Changing Planet (handout)
9/13	Tues	Y	Discussion: Reading	Taking Wildlife II – The Fish
	Thurs	N	Watch: <u>SeaSpiracy</u> (1:30)	
9/20	Tues	Y	Discussion: Film	Watch: <u>SeaSpiracy</u> (1:30)
	Thurs	Y	Discussion: Reading Project: NCBS Open House	Taking Wildlife III – The Shellfish
9/27	Tues	N	Meet group and work on projects	
	Thurs	Y	Discussion: Reading More project work	The Ultimate Garbage Disposal
10/4	Tues	N	Watch: <u>A Plastic Ocean</u> (1:40)	
	Thurs	Y	Discussion: Film	Watch: <u>A Plastic Ocean</u> (1:40)
10/11	Tues	Y	Discussion: Reading	Biodiversity Loss
	Thurs	Y	LIVE: Algae CS and discussion Finish projects and turn in	
<b>Friday 10/15 Optional Field Trip to Nature Coast Biological Station Open House</b>				
10/18	Tues	Y	Discussion: Reading	Drilling, Mining, Shipping, Spilling
	Thurs	Y	LIVE: Gulf Hypoxia CS and discussion Project: Interview a Scientist	
10/25	Tues	Y	Discussion: Reading	Changing Climate, Changing Chemistry
	Thurs	N	Watch: <u>Chasing Corals</u>	

Week of	Day	Live meeting?	Topic	Reading/watching due by class time
11/1	Tues	Y	Discussion: Film	Watch: <a href="#">Chasing Coral</a> (1:29)
	Thurs	Y	Discussion: Reading Work on Projects	Exploring the Ocean
11/8	Tues	Y	Menjangan CS and discussion	
	Thurs	Y	Discussion: Reading	Governing the Ocean
11/15	Tues	N	Work on Projects	
	Thurs	Y	Discussion: Reading	Farming the Ocean
11/22	<b>FALL BREAK NO CLASS</b>			
11/29	Tues	Y	Discussion: Reading	Protecting the Ocean
	Thurs	Y	Project Presentations	
12/6	Tues	Y	Course wrap-up	