

Oceanography seminar (1 credit) Fall 2011

Course meets for 1 hr Tuesdays 11 am to 12 p.m.

Objective: To foster discussions and critical analysis by students on important scientific papers and issues.

Instructors: Liz Sikes (ext 3-3257 room 114C) and Silke Severman (ext 2-3487 room 303C)

Other faculty (as listed on the syllabus) will participate as resource people for the session when they have expertise relevant to specific papers.

Format. Scientific papers will be read and discussed by the graduate students. One or two papers will be assigned each week. Papers will come from all disciplines with an emphasis on interdisciplinary papers.

Each week every student will turn in a one paragraph synopsis and interpretation of the assigned paper(s). Additionally, each student is expected to arrive in class with 1 to 2 talking points and questions for the class.

Each week one student will be responsible for giving a short (~15) minute overview of the paper(s) and lead the subsequent discussion with participation by all students in the class. In addition to the presentation, the discussion leader should prepare discussion topics and questions for the other students to facilitate class interactions. Depending on the final numbers in the class, we expect that each student will lead the discussion on ~2 papers. (a separate synopsis is not needed the week a student is discussion leader).

The faculty instructors will provide guidance and comment as necessary, but will not lead the discussion. Depending on the paper, faculty expertise may make more significant contributions to the discussion in some weeks. In general, however, most of the talking should be done by students.

Assignment and choice of papers will be interactive between the instructors and students. Every effort will be made to assign students papers of their choice, but if more than one student chooses the same paper assignments will be random. After the papers are assigned any changes in paper designations should be discussed with the instructors.

Grading. Grading will be based on three components: Students will be graded on their presentation for their assigned topic. Students will receive a grade each week based on their on their synopsis. The weekly level of participation in the discussion will also be a basis for the final grade..