

**Nova Southeastern University
Oceanographic Centre
Distance Course Syllabus**

COURSE PREFIX, NUMBER, AND TITLE:

CZMT-0735 DE1 (26026), MACS-0735 Oil Pollution in the Marine Environment

COURSE DATES: Fall II 2013: November 18 to December 13, 2013

FACULTY CONTACT:

Name: Donald S. McCorquodale Jr., PhD
Email: for general enquiries: de-marpol@mail.ocean.nova.edu
In-course students: please use Blackboard..

If a student is unable to contact their instructor regarding an important matter, please inform the distance education office at the Oceanographic Center, by telephone to 1 800 541 6682 Ext. 23621 (954 262-3621), or by email to online@nova.edu.

Once term has started, it is preferred that course related communication takes place within the web-based course management system. Please remember that any official NSU communication outside of the course should be sent from, and will be sent to, the student's NSU SharkLink email address (e.g. xxxxxxx@nova.edu).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Description of sources of oil pollution in the marine environment. Chemistry of crude oil. Environmental effects of oil on organisms and ecosystems. Historical major events and cleanups evaluated.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- The nature of oil pollution and its possible sources.
- Tools and knowledge to scientifically evaluate effects.
- What treatment or remediation may be effective?

Prerequisite/s: Students should have some familiarity with general chemistry and biology.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

No text required; suggested resources, article citations and websites provided with each unit.

CALENDAR OF WEEKLY REQUIREMENTS

This is a 4-week course:

Unit One	Aug 18	Sources of oil spills.
Unit Two	Aug 25	Chemistry of crude oil.
Unit Three	Dec 2	Major events and cleanup methods
Unit Four	Dec 9	Environmental effects

Course Learning Activities

Online discussion question response and interaction at 3 hours per week = 12 hours

Reading and viewing required course material at 4 hours per week = 16 hours

Submit written answer to weekly question at 2 hour per week = 8 hours

Total required participation for four week course = 36 hours.

A discussion question will be provided at the start of each unit. Additional student-generated discussion related to the topic is encouraged. There are four discussion units with possible individual score of 0 to 15, total of 60 maximum points. One question per week that requires a one page written answer at 10 points per week (40 total points).

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS AND THEIR RUBRICS

Online asynchronous unit discussion

Students will be evaluated based upon their contributions to the asynchronous web-based course discussions. This rubric explains the basic criteria used to assess participation in the on-line discussion forums.

Points	Frequency of Participation	Discussion & Feedback	Readings
15	Participates in discussion at least three times a week.	Excellent and thoughtful answers to the discussion exercises and questions; offers original analysis and comment; uses assigned readings text, as well as web-links to back up arguments. The student offers valuable feedback to	Comments clearly demonstrate that the student has done the required readings, and that the student comprehends the course material and its significance.

		help classmates better understand an issue.	
10	Participates at least 2 times a week in lengthy discussions.	Good and thoughtful comments to the discussion exercises. Takes a solid interest in the comments and questions of fellow classmates.	Has done the majority of the readings. Provides competent summaries and analysis of the main issues in answers.
5	Sporadically participates.	Not good. Comments to the discussion exercises marred by misunderstanding of key concepts. Rarely offers any comments on the course readings.	Actual knowledge of material is outweighed by improvised comments and remarks.
0	Rarely participates.	Poor. Rarely answers the discussion exercises on the web.	Little familiarity with the readings.

Course Evaluation

Final Grade Breakdown:

Online Discussion Questions @15 point/weeks	60%
Written Discussion Questions @10/week	40%

	100%

CLASS POLICIES & RESOURCES

Students should familiarize themselves with the policies and procedures of the Oceanographic Center as described in the catalog found at:

<http://www.nova.edu/ocean/academics/course-catalog/index.html>

Attendance: Students are expected to actively participate online from the first week of class until the end of term. If a student anticipates that they may be unable to access their online course for several days, they should notify the instructor in advance to make alternate arrangements for any missed coursework. Similarly if an unanticipated event such as illness or an emergency takes them away from coursework, they should inform their instructor.

Withdrawals and Refunds:

Masters students may withdraw from a course at any time before the first class meeting and receive a partial refund. A request for tuition refund must be made in writing at the time of withdrawal. Refunds will be made solely at the option of the university and will be based on the legitimacy of the reason for withdrawal. If granted, refunds are adjusted as follows:

- Before the first week of class 100%
- Before the end of the second week of class 75%

Academic honesty/Plagiarism: Please read **Section 5.0 Student Conduct** of the [catalog](#) for details. The essential points are:

- Assignments such as exams, tests, projects, term papers, etc., must be the original work of the student.
- All academic work submitted for credit or as partial fulfillment of course requirements must adhere to the specific accepted reference manuals and rules of documentation (e.g. Chicago Manual of Style). It is plagiarism to represent another person's work, words, or ideas as one's own without use of a center-recognized method of citation.
- Giving or allowing one's work to be copied, giving out exam questions or answers, or releasing or selling term papers is prohibited.
- Violations of academic responsibility include, but are not limited to:
 - plagiarism
 - any form of cheating
 - conspiracy to commit academic dishonesty
 - misrepresentation
 - bribery in an attempt to gain an academic advantage
 - forging or altering documents or credentials
 - knowingly furnishing false information to the institution
 - falsifying excuses for missing attendance

For clarification on plagiarism and copyright, students are referred to the online overview provided by the library at: <http://www.nova.edu/library/dils/lessons/plagiarism/>

Faculty members at the Oceanographic Center have access to comprehensive web-based *Turnitin.com* plagiarism prevention software. Registered students may request to submit their papers to *Turnitin.com*, prior to assignment submission, as a learning tool.

The institution reserves the right to require a student to withdraw at any time for misconduct as described above. It also reserves the right to impose probation or suspension on a student whose conduct is determined to be unsatisfactory.

Proctored Quiz: We know that many of you chose online coursework for the convenience; we want to ensure that testing is convenient as well.

A proctor is an impartial person, usually in a position with some authority, who is not related to you. The role of the proctor is to monitor you as you write a test to ensure your identity and the integrity of the process.

If you live close to the Oceanographic Center, you can arrange to come to the OC to have your test proctored, either with one of the librarians on site (Jaime Goldman, hjaime@nova.edu, telephone 954 262-3681) or with Jazmin Zea, Outreach and Student Services Coordinator (email jz164@nova.edu, telephone 954 262-3622). Please arrange directly with them for a convenient time. You can find the library hours and other details at: <http://nova.campusguides.com/oclibrary>.

If it is not convenient for you to come to the OC, you can find someone in your community to proctor who meets the definition above. They can be a supervisor at your workplace, a librarian, at your local community college or university, doctor, minister, etc. You can also check the website of the National College Testing Association to find a proctoring organization near to you. (Please see: <http://www.ncta-testing.org/cctc/index.php>)

Finally, if you have audio-video capabilities with your computer, you can arrange with ProctorU (<http://proctoru.com>) to be proctored virtually at your computer. There is a cost associated with this service and you will need to do this 72 hours before the exam time

For technical help: If you encounter technical problems within the course, please contact the NSU Help Desk at: <http://www.nova.edu/help/index.html>. Call: (954) 262-HELP (4357) Toll Free: (800) 541-NOVA (6682) x24357.

For library and study support: The Oceanographic Center is fortunate to have its own dedicated library and librarians on site to assist in-house and distance students. Please explore the learning resources, including the extensive full-text journals, and don't hesitate to email or telephone to speak with a librarian. You can find details at: <http://nova.campusguides.com/oclibrary>.

GRADING CRITERIA

The following system is used to grade academic performance:

GRADE	DESCRIPTION
A	Excellent
B	Satisfactory
C	Marginal Pass
D	Poor
F	Failure
W	Withdrawal: Given after the third class week or termination by the instructor for non-completion of the course by the student.
I	Incomplete: Given when most (80 percent), but not all, work has been completed.
Au	Audit
P	Pass

Professors may use + or – in grading. However, the grading scale ranges from A to D-, no A+ or F+ is awarded.

A grade of incomplete (I) must be requested from the instructor, have the Director's approval, and be accompanied by a completed contract specifying outstanding course requirements and completion dates. Completion of the course graded incomplete must occur within one term (or 3 months) of the end of the course and the incomplete be changed to a different grade. If the course is not completed in 3 months, or the student has not withdrawn and received a W, the incomplete will automatically be converted to a grade of F. Under unusual circumstances students may request a time-extension to complete the course. Such requests must be submitted to, and approved by, the Director of Academic Programs prior to the end of the 3-month time limit. There are no exceptions to this rule. Securing the completed and signed incomplete contract forms is the responsibility of the student.