

# Ocean Dynamics

## Department of Oceanography

### OCEA 4221/5221 Fall 2024

*Dalhousie University acknowledges that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People and pays respect to the Indigenous knowledges held by the Mi'kmaq People, and to the wisdom of their Elders past and present. The Mi'kmaq People signed Peace and Friendship Treaties with the Crown, and section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 recognizes and affirms Aboriginal and Treaty rights. We are all Treaty people.*

*Dalhousie University also acknowledges the histories, contributions, and legacies of African Nova Scotians, who have been here for over 400 years.*

### Course Instructor(s)

Name	Email	Office Hours
Eric Oliver	eric.oliver@dal.ca	Please contact

### Course Description

An advanced course for students in Physical Oceanography and Atmospheric Science that studies the basic equations governing rotating geophysical flows, plus applications. Topics include geostrophy, conservation of potential vorticity, quasi-geostrophic dynamics, geostrophic adjustment, response to surface forcing (steady and unsteady).

**Required:** 1000-level calculus course and 1000-level physics course. Familiarity with differential equations and vector calculus is strongly recommended; an introductory course on fluid mechanics is also helpful. Undergraduate students should obtain the instructor's consent before taking for this course.

### Course Structure

#### *Course Delivery*

Classes will be delivered in person unless: university policies change, requiring classes to be taught online; a majority of students and instructor prefer to move the class online; the instructor is sick/symptomatic/awaiting COVID test results; the instructor must remain home to care for their child who is sick/symptomatic/awaiting COVID test results. If classes are moved

online they will be delivered live via Zoom at regular lecture times, with recordings made available afterwards on YouTube.

### *Lectures*

Mondays and Wednesdays, 13:05-14:25, LSC 3652 (Riley Room)

### *Laboratories*

*n/a*

### *Tutorials*

*n/a*

## **Course Materials**

Primary text (available in PDF online at [libraries.dal.ca](http://libraries.dal.ca)):

Vallis, G. K. (2017). Atmospheric and oceanic fluid dynamics. Cambridge University Press.

Secondary and supporting texts:

Gill, A. E. (1982). Atmosphere-Ocean dynamics (International Geophysics Series). Academic press.

Cushman-Roisin, B., & Beckers, J. M. (2011). Introduction to geophysical fluid dynamics: physical and numerical aspects (Vol. 101). Academic press.

Marshall, J., & Plumb, R. A. (2016). Atmosphere, ocean and climate dynamics: an introductory text (Vol. 21). Academic Press.

## **Assessment**

The course evaluation is based on periodic assignments, a term project (only for students enrolled in OCEA 5221) and a final exam.

The term project will involve each graduate student being given, or choosing under guidance, a research article to read and present to the class. The presentation will be 20 min long, and followed by a round of questions and answers. The research articles will be related to the material in the course, and the presentations will take place toward the end of term, after the relevant material has been treated in the lectures.

Assessment	OCEA 4221	OCEA 5221
Assignments	70%	50%
Term Project	<i>n/a</i>	20%

Final exam                      30%                                      30%

Conversion of numerical grades to final letter grades follows the

[Dalhousie Grade Scale](#)

A+ (90-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (65-69)	D (50-54)
A (85-89)	B (73-76)	C (60-64)	F (0-49)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (55-59)	

### **Course Policies on Missed or Late Academic Requirements**

For each or any part of a day that an assignment is late, including weekends and statutory holidays and other days when the University is closed, the student will lose 5% of the maximum possible value of the assignment for the first day or part of a day that the assignment is late and an additional 2% for each subsequent day or part of a day.

There will be no supplementary exam.

### **Course Policies related to Academic Integrity**

Education is based on discussion and exchange of ideas. You are strongly advised to discuss the course material with your classmates, other students, professors and/or to form study groups. Discussing how best to approach problem sets can be very useful. However, the solutions you hand in must be your own work. Do not copy any part of someone else's assignment. Do not copy material found from any source (e.g. books, articles, websites), aside from properly cited short quotations. Nor is it sufficient to take the derivation from an outside source and rewrite it in your own hand. This is plagiarism and is a serious academic offense.

### **Learning Objectives**

The main objective of this course is to provide students an in-depth overview of geophysical fluid dynamics as it relates specifically to the ocean.

### **Course Content**

Lectures will be structured around the following topics, to be presented approximately in the sequence listed below.

#### 1. The Basics

- Conservation of momentum and mass

- Equations of motion on a rotating sphere, in tangent plane coordinates
- Boussinesq approximation, hydrostatic balance, incompressibility
- $f$ - and beta-plane approximations
- Rossby number, geostrophy, thermal wind
- Static stability and buoyancy frequency

## 2. Shallow Water Systems

- The shallow water equations
- The 1-1/2 layer model
- Geostrophy and thermal wind
- Form stress
- Conservation of potential vorticity
- Continuous stratification and vertical normal modes
- Barotropic and baroclinic modes

## 3. Shallow Water Waves and Adjustment

- Wave basics
- Non-rotating gravity waves
- Poincare/Inertia-gravity waves
- Coastally-trapped Kelvin waves
- Planetary/Rossby waves
- The Rossby/geostrophic adjustment problem
- Equatorial waves (Kelvin, Rossby, Yanai/Mixed Rossby-Gravity)

## 4. General Ocean Circulation

- Friction, viscosity and Reynolds stresses
- Surface and bottom Ekman layers
- Wind-driven gyres
- Sverdrup transport
- Stommel model
- Munk model

- Thermocline dynamics
- Meridional overturning circulation
- Abyssal circulation
- The Antarctic Circumpolar Current

#### 5. Instabilities and eddies

- Kinetic Energy and Available Potential Energy
- Mean energy, eddy energy, and energy transfer rates
- Barotropic instability and necessary conditions
- Kelvin-Helmholtz instability
- Quasi-geostrophic potential vorticity

## University Policies and Statements

### Recognition of Mi'kmaq Territory

Dalhousie University would like to acknowledge that the University is on Traditional Mi'kmaq Territory. The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel, and support. Visit or e-mail the Indigenous Student Centre at 1321 Edward St or [elders@dal.ca](mailto:elders@dal.ca). Additional information regarding the Indigenous Student Centre can be found at: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/indigenous.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html)

### Internationalization

At Dalhousie, 'thinking and acting globally' enhances the quality and impact of education, supporting learning that is "interdisciplinary, cross-cultural, global in reach, and orientated toward solving problems that extend across national borders." Additional internationalization information can be found at: <https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/internationalization.html>

### Academic Integrity

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility, and respect. As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity. Additional academic integrity information can be found at: [https://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/academic-integrity.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html)

### Accessibility

The Student Accessibility Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for matters related to student accessibility and accommodation. If there are aspects of the design, instruction, and/or experiences within this course (online or in-person) that result in barriers to your inclusion, please contact the Student Accessibility Centre ([https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/accessibility.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.html)) for all courses offered by Dalhousie with the exception of Truro. For courses offered by the Faculty of Agriculture, please contact the Student Success Centre in Truro (<https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/agricultural-campus/student-success-centre.html>)

### Conduct in the Classroom – Culture of Respect

Substantial and constructive dialogue on challenging issues is an important part of academic inquiry and exchange. It requires willingness to listen and tolerance of opposing points of view. Consideration of individual differences and alternative viewpoints is required of all class members, towards each other, towards instructors, and towards guest speakers. While expressions of differing perspectives are welcome and encouraged, the words and language used should remain within acceptable bounds of civility and respect.

### **Diversity and Inclusion – Culture of Respect**

Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. We stand for equality. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity. We are a respectful and inclusive community. We are committed to being a place where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our Strategic Direction prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness (Strategic Priority 5.2). Additional diversity and inclusion information can be found at: <http://www.dal.ca/cultureofrespect.html>

### **Student Code of Conduct**

Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner - perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can't be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution. The full Code of Student Conduct can be found at:

[https://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/student-life/code-of-student-conduct.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/student-life/code-of-student-conduct.html)

### **Fair Dealing Policy**

The Dalhousie University Fair Dealing Policy provides guidance for the limited use of copyright protected material without the risk of infringement and without having to seek the permission of copyright owners. It is intended to provide a balance between the rights of creators and the rights of users at Dalhousie. Additional information regarding the Fair Dealing Policy can be found at: [https://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/academic/fair-dealing-policy-.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/fair-dealing-policy-.html)

### **Originality Checking Software**

The course instructor may use Dalhousie's approved originality checking software and Google to check the originality of any work submitted for credit, in accordance with the Student Submission of Assignments and Use of Originality Checking Software Policy. Students are free, without penalty of grade, to choose an alternative method of attesting to the authenticity of their work and must inform the instructor no later than the last day to add/drop classes of their intent to choose an alternate method. Additional information regarding Originality Checking Software can be found at:

[https://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/academic/student-submission-of-assignments-and-use-of-originality-checking-software-policy-.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/student-submission-of-assignments-and-use-of-originality-checking-software-policy-.html)

### **Student Use of Course Materials**

Course materials are designed for use as part of this course at Dalhousie University and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as books, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law. Copying this course material for distribution (e.g. uploading to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of Copyright law.



Faculty of Science

# Student Resources and Support

## University Policies and Programs

Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates):

[http://www.dal.ca/academics/important\\_dates.html](http://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html)

Classroom Recording Protocol: [https://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/academic/classroom-recording-protocol.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/classroom-recording-protocol.html)

Dalhousie Grading Practices Policies:

[https://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html)

Grade Appeal Process: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/grades-and-student-records/appealing-a-grade.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/grades-and-student-records/appealing-a-grade.html)

Sexualized Violence Policy: [https://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/health-and-safety/sexualized-violence-policy.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/health-and-safety/sexualized-violence-policy.html)

Scent-Free Program: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html>

## Learning and Support Resources

General Academic Support – Advising (Halifax): [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/advising.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html)

General Academic Support – Advising (Truro): <https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/agricultural-campus/ssc/academic-support/advising.html>

Student Health & Wellness Centre: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/health-and-wellness.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness.html)

On Track (helps you transition into university, and supports you through your first year at Dalhousie and beyond): [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/On-track.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/On-track.html)

Indigenous Student Centre: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/indigenous.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html)

Indigenous Connection: <https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/indigenous-connection.html>

Elders-in-Residence (The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel, and support. Visit the office in the Indigenous Student Centre or contact the program at [elders@dal.ca](mailto:elders@dal.ca) or 902-494-6803: <https://cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/academics/UG/indigenous-studies/Elder-Protocol-July2018.pdf>

Black Student Advising Centre: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/black-student-advising.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html)

International Centre: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/international-centre.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/international-centre.html)

South House Sexual and Gender Resource Centre: <https://southhousehalifax.ca/about/>

LGBTQ2SIA+ Collaborative: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/vpei/edia/education/community-specific-spaces/LGBTQ2SIA-collaborative.html>

Dalhousie Libraries: <http://libraries.dal.ca/>

Copyright Office: <https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office.html>

Dalhousie Student Advocacy Services: <https://www.dsu.ca/dsas?rq=student%20advocacy>

Dalhousie Ombudsperson: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html)

Human Rights and Equity Services: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/hres.html>

Writing Centre: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html)

Study Skills/Tutoring: [http://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html](http://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html)

Faculty of Science Advising Support: <https://www.dal.ca/faculty/science/current-students/undergrad-students/degree-planning.html>

## **Safety**

Biosafety: <http://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/biosafety.html>

Chemical Safety: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/chemical-safety.html>

Radiation Safety: <http://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/radiation-safety.html>

Laser Safety: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/radiation-safety/laser-safety.html>