

Honours in Ocean Sciences

Department of Oceanography

OCEA4201/4202 Fall and Winter 2025/2026

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
Sarah Fortune	Sarah.fortune@dal.ca	By appointment LSC Ocean Wing Rm TBD

Lectures: Mon 2:30 pm to 3:30pm (schedule below) LSC Ocean Wing Rm 3652

Course Description

This course provides students guidance for completing their Concentrated Honours in Ocean Science. In Part 1 students will have a series of weekly meetings and also be expected to present short presentations to the class on their thesis.

Course Prerequisites

Permission given by instructor, based on approval of Honours requirements by the oceanography undergraduate advisor

Student Resources

The instructor will be available by appointment. Students are encouraged to work with each other as well and get help from their peers when needed.

Course Structure

Course Exclusion

OCEA 4200.06

Course Materials

Brightspace- This is where you'll find the class announcements, course readings, dropbox for submitting assignments.

Assessment

Component	Weight (% of final grade)	Date
Thesis background presentation	5%	Nov 24
Thesis data presentation	5%	Jan 5
CDOGS poster presentation	20%	TBD
Draft Thesis	20%	March 23
Honours Thesis	50%	April 6

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

Due dates are firm. Late assignments will incur a penalty of 2% per day. Exception: mutual agreement of professor and student(s). Students are expected to use the Student Declaration of Absence form for late or missed requirements during the term. [Student Declaration of Absence Form](#)

Course Policies related to Academic Integrity

University regulations on plagiarism and cheating will be strictly enforced.

http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect (The Center for Academic Integrity, Duke

University, 1999). As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of 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.

Plagiarism

https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity/plagiarism-cheating.html

Dalhousie University defines plagiarism as "the submission or presentation of the work of another as if it were one's own."

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. A finding of plagiarism may result in a **failing grade** of an assignment or course or, if very serious **suspension** or **expulsion** from the university. In fact, if plagiarism is discovered after a student has completed his or her studies, and the penalty results in that student no longer meeting the requirements of a degree that has been awarded, the university may **rescind** that degree.

Some examples of plagiarism:

- **Failure to attribute authorship** when using sources such as written or oral work, computer codes/programs, artistic or architectural works, scientific projects, performances, web page designs, graphical representations, diagrams, videos, images and AI.
- Downloading all or part of the work of another from the Internet and **submitting as one's own**.
- **The use of a paper** prepared by any person other than the individual claiming to be the author.

Plagiarism is committed when you do not acknowledge using someone else's (including AI generated):

- words or phrases
- ideas or thoughts
- term paper
- recording
- images
- computer code
- experiment results
- lecture content
- falsified data, citations or other text
- OR your own previously submitted work

Plagiarized materials can come from:

- books
- journal articles
- CD's
- encyclopedias
- web pages
- online term papers
- email or listservs
- talks or lecture
- AI platforms (e.g., ChatGPT)

AI tools

Students may use AI tools such as Grammarly or ChatGPT to assist with their coursework (e.g., coding for figure generation, assisting with grammar), but any use must be clearly acknowledged. In your assignments, please indicate where and how AI was used. Failure to disclose the use of AI will be considered a violation of academic integrity. Here is an example of how AI disclosure statements can be made: https://subjectguides.uwaterloo.ca/chatgpt_generative_ai/attribution.

*It is expected that your thesis reflects your **own ideas** and **critical thought**. This means that students are responsible for writing without the help of AI prompts. However, to help improve clarity of writing, AI tools may be used to address **grammar and spelling**.*

Other Cheating

https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity/plagiarism-cheating/other-cheating.html

The Academic Calendar also identifies other types of cheating including:

- **falsifying data** in reports, theses, dissertations and other presentations
- attempting to complete, by **irregular procedures**, any requirements for a class (this may include attempts to cheat)
- **collaborating** on an assignment unless specifically allowed by professor
- providing or **obtaining access**, without permission, to tests, assignments, essays or term papers
- writing an examination or test **for someone else**
- attempting to obtain or accepting assistance from any other person **during an examination** or test
- using or **having material** in an exam that is not specifically approved by the instructor
- **obtaining a copy** of an examination or test, topic for an essay or paper, or other work
- submitting any work for academic credit when one is not the **sole author** or creator
- submitting any work that has been **previously accepted** for academic credit
- **aiding** in the commission of an academic offence by lending another student an assignment knowing that he or she may copy it for submission or allowing another student to copy answers during an examination
- providing false or **misleading information** during an investigation of a suspected academic offence

Class Expectations

You're expected to attend class time and participate in the learning activities with your peers, and you'll be required to integrate relevant information discussed into your class assignments.

Students are expected to behave in an appropriate manner. Lively discussion and conflicting opinions are welcome and encouraged, but personal attacks, disrespectful comments, and gender or racial slurs **will not** be tolerated.

You're responsible for directing your learning in this course. You can be more successful by:

- Creating weekly checklists
- Familiarizing yourself with the syllabus and course schedule. Plan and set aside time in your calendar to work on course assignments.
- Asking questions!

Learning Objectives

- How to conduct background research through literature reviews;
- How to construct and organized message;
- How to analyze and present data in a useful way;
- How to present research to a mixed audience;

Course Content

The content of this course will be subject to change to change based on interest of students. We will have a dialogue throughout the course to tailor the class time to activities that will be most helpful to you.

Date	Lecture
Sept 29	Introductions and reviews of past theses
Oct 6	Research questions and hypothesis <i>Read: Barroga, E. & Matanguihan, G. J. A Practical Guide to Writing Quantitative and Qualitative Research Questions and Hypotheses in Scholarly Articles. J. Korean Med. Sci. 37, e121 (2022)</i>
Oct 13	Thanksgiving
Oct 20	TBD
Oct 27	Data collection and management
Nov 3	Literature review and reference management
Nov 10	FALL STUDY BREAK
Nov 17	<i>Peer-feedback on thesis abstract</i>
Nov 24	Presentations on thesis background
Dec 1	Effective figures and tables/Discussion on Data presentation requirements
Jan 5	Presentations on Thesis Data
Jan 12	Revised data tables and figures
Jan 19	Peer-review draft methods
Jan 26	Revised methods
Feb 2	Peer-review draft results
Feb 9	Revised results
Feb 16	How to prepare a poster <i>Read: Willis, L. D. How to Present Your Research Findings at a Scientific Meeting. Respir. Care 68, 1598–1605 (2023).</i>
Feb 23	WINTER STUDY BREAK
Mar 2	Peer-review draft into and discussion
Mar 9	Revised into and discussion
Mar 16	Peer-review CDOGS Poster
Mar 23	Draft thesis due
Mar 30	Final thesis edits
Apr 6	Thesis Due

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. Additional information regarding the Indigenous Student Centre can be found at: 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

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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) 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

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

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

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.

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

Classroom Recording Protocol:

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

Grade Appeal Process: 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

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

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

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

Indigenous Student Centre: 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 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

International Centre: 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

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

Study Skills/Tutoring: 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>