

Course Guidelines

Independent Research in Ocean Science

Department of Oceanography

OCEA 4302.03

Course Description

This course provides upper-level undergraduate students with the opportunity to conduct independent original research into some aspect of the ocean with a faculty supervisor. Every student must have a faculty supervisor that facilitates a research project. Together, they submit a course proposal outlining the project and assessments, which must include a formal research paper. The course proposal must be approved by the course coordinator before a student can register.

Independent Research courses are custom made courses and distinct from regularly offered courses. The Independent Research course is an umbrella under which many different courses are offered, one course for each different student project. All Independent Research courses *must have a research project* that can include field work, lab experiments, literature meta-analysis, and/or modeling exercises.

- Instructors are regular faculty members in the Department of Oceanography and *volunteer* to mentor students in the Independent Research course.
- The course coordinator is the Chair of the Department of Oceanography's Curriculum Committee or designate.
- Course proposals must be sent to the course coordinator *no later than 3 days after the start of the term* in which the course will be offered.
- A proposed course cannot proceed without a faculty supervisor and research project.
- Students must submit a Registration Form to the course coordinator before the add/drop date for the term.
- A maximum of 3 credit hours can be taken as an Independent Research course.
- The Independent Research course cannot replace one of the required core OCEA courses.

Prerequisites

- OCEA 2001.03 & 2002.03 – The Blue Planet I & II
- OCEA 2020.03 & OCEA 2021.03 – Tools & Concepts in Ocean Sciences I & II
- At least one 3000-level OCEA course
- An average grade of 'B' (GPA 3.0) in all OCEA courses
- All of the above OR permission of instructor

Exclusions

- E2 – must have 60 credit hours completed

Guidelines for Proposals

To propose a course, submit a complete course syllabus to the course coordinator with a short description of the proposed research project and motivation. A course syllabus should describe the following course elements:

- Course details
- Course format
- Course materials
- All assessments and weights
- Learning objectives
- Schedule of content
- Course policies, including for late or missed assessments

Students submitting proposals must already have identified a faculty member to teach the course, and they should submit a Registration Form at the same time.

Faculty submitting proposals should notify interested students to submit Registration Forms to the course coordinator after the course has been approved. Note, this is NOT intended to be a vehicle to regularly deliver a course and proposals to do so will be rejected.

Considerations for students with Honours or Co-op

- Students must produce new, original work for any course assessments.
- Material produced during an Honours cannot be used to fulfill the requirements of an assessment in the Independent Research course (and vice versa).
- Material produced during Co-op work terms, as a routine expectation of employment, or for paid summer student internships cannot be used to fulfill the requirements of an assessment in the Independent Research course.

Regulations for Completion

All course assessment is done by the course instructor. Instructors submit final course grades to the course coordinator by the grade submission deadline for the term. The course coordinator submits final course grades online. An Incomplete Grade (INC) will be assigned to students for whom no grade is received by the grade submission deadline.