

WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Oceanography
Junior/Senior Level
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Room Number 130

I. Course Overview:

This is a half-year introductory course. Oceanography is a broad field in which many sciences are focused on the common goal of understanding the oceans. By blending contemporary information and research with basic principles, an integrated introduction to the study of the oceans is presented. The contents of the course are reasonably rigorous. Individual research and group projects will be a component of this course. Each topic will be reinforced with laboratory experiments or inquiry-based activities.

II. Overall Course Objectives (from curriculum):

Topics Covered –

- History of Oceanography
- Structure of Earth and Location of Oceans/Seas
- Location Systems & Modern Navigational Techniques
- Plate Tectonics
- Sea Floor & Its Sediments
- Physical Properties of Water
- Chemistry of Seawater
- Circulation & Currents
- Waves
- Tides
- Coasts, Beaches & Estuaries
- Marine Biology

III. Material Required:

Textbook – *An Introduction to the World's Oceans (9th Edition)*, and a three-ring binder
Access to the internet outside of school will be helpful.

IV. Class/Behavior Expectations:

Students are expected to attend class, actively participate in class, complete the assigned work to the best of their abilities and get along with others. Students are strongly encouraged to come for extra help as needed. If a student is absent, he/she is expected to check his/her weekly syllabus and/or powerschool to stay on track with the material. Students are responsible for any missed work due to absence or illness; this **does** include labs and class activities. **Labs must be made-up afterschool or during a mutually agreed upon time, within two school days of the missed lab.**

V. *Attendance Policy (BOE Policy #5113) – as stated in handbook:*

The learning experiences that take place in the classroom are considered to be meaningful and essential parts of the education process. Absences tend to disrupt the continuity of that process. The time lost from class is irretrievable, particularly in terms of opportunity for interaction and exchange of ideas between students and between students and teachers. Knowing and abiding by the attendance regulations and procedures are student and parent responsibilities. On January 2, 2008, the State Board of Education approved the following definition of attendance for public school districts:

A student is considered to be “in attendance” if present at his/her assigned school, or an activity sponsored by the school (e.g., field Trip), for at least half of the regular school day. A student who is serving an out-of-school suspension or expulsion should always be considered absent.

Students attending the North Stonington Public Schools must remain on school property during the normal school day, unless the building principal authorizes a student to leave school grounds. Exceptions to this rule may be approved by the building principal for those reasons which would justify an excused absence under this policy.

1. There shall be no penalty for an excused absence. Students must bring a note from their parent or guardian to the main office on the day of return to school. For an illness, the student should provide documentation from a doctor. This note must specify the reason(s) for the absence and must conform to the Board of Education Policy # 5113. Excused absences will be listed on the morning bulletin of the day the note is received, and students will be allowed to make up all work missed. Excused absences as defined by the Board of Education are:
 - a. Illness or injury,
 - b. Death in the immediate family,
 - c. Religious obligation,
 - d. Court appearance,
 - e. School sponsored activity,
 - f. College Visitation (prior approval needed from building principal)
 - g. An emergency, or
 - h. Other exceptional circumstances.
2. For every unexcused absence, the student will not be allowed to make up or receive credit for work missed.
3. Students who are absent from school should make every effort to obtain their assignments during their absence. When a student is absent for extended periods of time--more than three days-- parents may obtain assignments from the teachers through the guidance office. Failure to make up assignments may result in a grade of zero for each missing assignment. A student may expect to have one day for each day of absence in order to make up missed work.
4. If a student is absent from school, he/she may not be on school grounds. Extenuating circumstances will be dealt with on a case by case basis by the administration.
5. IF A STUDENT MISSES MORE THEN 15 MINUTES FROM CLASS, OTHER THEN BECAUSE OF A SCHOOL SACTIONED EVENT, THEY WILL BE CONSIDERED ABSENT FROM CLASS.

Limit on Total Number of Absences: No student will receive course credit for a full year course after having been absent from that course for more than 20 class periods (excused or unexcused) the school year for reasons other than school sponsored activities (i.e. field trips). The total number of absences will be pro-rated for less than full year courses and for courses which meet other than five times per week

Notification Procedures: When a student has accumulated one-half (ten (10) full year or five (5) half year) of the maximum allowed number of total absences for a particular course, excluding school functions, the teacher will notify the student, parent/guardian (by mail), administration, and the guidance counselor on a form designated for that purpose.

VI. *Grading Policy (percentages, total points, etc.):*

Grades are determined by the accumulated point method. Each assignment, on-line quiz, activity, test, project, etc., is worth a specific number of points. Points will also be given for laboratory work ethic and percent of labs/activities completed. Final grades are determined by comparing the number of points attained with the number of points offered.

VII. *Final Assessment Policy*

For one-credit or half-credit full year courses, *course assessments* (exams/activity) are given at the conclusion of each semester, a mid-term, and a final. For half-credit courses, a *course assessment* (exam/activity) will be given at the end of the semester. All *course assessments*, except in selected classes, are one and one-half hours in length. All students must arrive on time and remain in class for the full duration of the period. Students taking the AP test will not be required to sit for a final exam. Seniors are exempt from taking a *final course assessment*, in any course where the students have at least a 90 average. Physical Education classes will not be required to give an exam, but there will be a health exam which could be given earlier. Normally, no excuse for missing a *course assessment* other than illness will be accepted. The principal must give such permission.

VIII. *Academic Integrity Statement*

The faculty and administration of Wheeler Middle/High School demand high standards of academic performance and academic honesty. Anything less would jeopardize quality education and allow our students to deny themselves needed skills and knowledge. For this reason students who cheat on their assigned work, reports, research papers, quizzes, tests or examination risk prompt and punitive action by both their teacher and the school. Examples of violations may include, but are not limited to:

- Giving or receiving aid on tests and graded assignments
- Unauthorized talking during tests
- Copying regular homework/exercises
- Unapproved discussion of examinations/assignments contents
- Cheating on peer reviews of student work
- Misuse of technology

Documentation of all sources is important to avoid plagiarism, which is the stealing of another's ideas, words, writing, or academic work, and implying that it is original. Both quoting and paraphrasing information from an outside source, including any technology without crediting that source is a form of plagiarism. Students who are found cheating or plagiarizing will be subject to the following guidelines:

First offense:

- Academic penalty up to and including zero.
- Parent contacted.
- Administration notified (by teachers completing a discipline form).

Subsequent offenses:

- Academic penalty up to and including zero.
- Parent contacted.
- Disciplinary action by administration which may include office detention or suspension

IX. Teacher Availability for Extra Help:

I am available most days after school until 3:00 pm and during break. Sometimes all you need is 5 minutes to get the help you need.

X. Wheeler High School Academic Expectations met by this course:

- Literacy
- Collaboration
- Communication
- **Analysis**