

**Oceanography 320 (Writing Intensive)**  
**Aquatic Pollution**

**SAMPLE SYLLABUS**

**Instructor:** Dr. Rosie Alegado, CMORE Hale 118; [rosie.alegado@hawaii.edu](mailto:rosie.alegado@hawaii.edu); 956-0565

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Syllabus subject to change

**Course Goal:**

Empower ourselves to make informed decisions regarding future environmental issues.

**Student Learning Objectives:**

Lecture

- Describe the important and diverse ways in which water systems interact with human activities.
- Recognize the fragility of Earth's water systems and describe the challenges to balancing pristine 'natural' aquatic systems and human activities.
- Describe key 'natural' aquatic components and processes and the effects of human activity on these natural systems.
- Identify the compromises society must make between protecting natural systems and providing for the vital needs of growing populations.

Writing

- Distinguish science writing from scientific writing and formulate examples of each.
- Distinguish between primary and secondary sources and recognize that students are writing as secondary sources.
- Interpret scientific data (figures, tables) relating to water quality and critically evaluate the validity of such data.
- Apply federal, state, local laws to issues of water quality and water usage.
- Recommend course of action in venues where public opinion is being solicited by the government.

**Course resources:**

- **Laulima**
- **Aquatic Pollution: An Introductory Text**
  - 4th Edition, by Edward Laws (\$64.90 new; \$12.29 Kindle); also available on reserve at Hamilton Library.
- **Class tumblr blog:** <http://ocn320.tumblr.com>

**Grading:**

Short Writing Assignments	30%
Major Assignment: Journal Article Critique	10%
Major Assignment: Blog Post	5%
Major Assignment: Public Testimony	5%
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Final Exam	15%
Class Participation	5%

***All writing assignments must be satisfactorily completed to pass the course with a D grade or better and get credit for completing a writing-intensive (W) course. Students who do not complete all writing assignments will get a D- or an F and will not earn W Focus credit.***

**Short Writing Assignments (30%):**

- To increase proficiency in writing, multiple short writing assignments will be given to hone student's skills at individual components of the major assignments as well as to improve skills at giving peer feedback.
- Assignments will consist of in-class exercises as well as longer exercises.
- All SWAs are due on THURSDAY at 11:59 pm.
- Files should be saved as: SWA<number>\_yourUHID (e.g. SWA01\_12345678) or Essay<number>\_your UHID.
- To ensure unbiased grading, do not put your name on the assignments or essays.

**Major writing assignments (20%):**

- Major assignments must be double-spaced and the assigned minimum; reference lists and figures are not included in the page length limits.
- Use Times or Times New Roman font, size 12 only.
- Files should be saved as: <Assignment>\_your UHID (see above) and uploaded by 11:59 pm on the due date (see syllabus).
- Plagiarism will not be tolerated; you are encouraged to look at and read the content at <http://plagiarism.org/plagiarism-101/overview>.

**Exam (45%):**

- Each exam will include course materials covered up to the exam date. The exam will consist of multiple choice, true/false, short answer and short essay questions.
- To make up the exam, you must have an absence excused by the instructor.
- Contact the instructor as soon as you know you will miss the exam.
- You must take the final exam during the scheduled time, or you will receive an incomplete grade in the class. Note that a cheaper airfare to the mainland is NOT a valid excuse to miss the final exam.
- Eric will schedule reviews outside of class hours.

Class Participation (5%):

- Students are expected to engage in the course.
- Class participation includes consistent participation in the peer editing exercise for each of the assigned essays (**as expressed by focused effort**, not just your presence), participation in class discussions and responding to questions posed by the instructor and others, and attendance to at least 1 of 2 field trips.

Have a great semester!

OCN 320: Aquatic Pollution

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Read/Watch/Listen</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>SWA Pts</u>
1	Course fundamentals, why study aquatic pollution Science vs. Scientific writing; Food chain theory	Ch.1	SWA: What is pollution (class); SWA: toolkit/studyguide (start) SWA: Correlation vs. Causation	5 5
2	Photosynthesis/Primary production Primary Production/Dissecting a journal article	Ch.2/Handouts	SWA: Parts of an article	10
3	Physical factors affecting primary production	Ch.3	SWA: Journal critique rough draft	50
4	<b>Hamilton Library</b> Pathogens (Guest lecture: Craig Nelson)	Ch.7	<b>SWA: Annotated bibliography DUE</b>	10
5	Pathogens <b>Exam 1: Water quality toolkit</b>	Ch.7	<b>SWA: study guide DUE</b>	10
6	Case Studies: Lake Washington Case Studies: Kāne'ohe Bay Case Studies: Kāne'ohe Bay	Ch.4 Ch.4	<b>SWA: Journal critique rough draft DUE</b> SWA: Legislative matters	5
7	Sewage: Primary and secondary (Guest lecture: Karen Selph)	Ch.6		
8	Sewage: Tertiary <b>8am: Field trip to Sand Island Waste water</b>	Ch.6		
9	Federal laws/water wars Kanawai: Hawaiian water law (Guest lecture: Kapua Sproat)	Ch.16, Ka Wai a Kane PDF on water law	SWA: Parts of public testimony (in class) on legislative topics <b>Journal critique DUE</b>	1, 1
10	Federal laws cont'd Non-point source pollution	Ch.16 Ch.5	<b>SWA: Public testimony rough DUE</b>	50
11	Spring Break			
12	<b>Hand out Exam 2</b> Science writing	Handouts	SWA: Science writing (in class)	12
13	Toxicology, <b>Exam 2 DUE (in class)</b> Toxicology II	Ch.8, handouts	SWA: Blog topics, <b>Public testimony DUE</b>	10
14	Pesticides: General Pesticides: DDT	Ch.10	<b>SWA: Blog draft DUE</b>	50
15	Pesticides: cont'd; Metals: General Metals: Lead, Arsenic & Mercury	Ch.12		
16	Metals: Remediation, Industrial & Thermal pollution Industrial and Thermal pollution	Ch.9 Ch.11	<b>SWA: Peer review of blog DUE</b>	15
17	Oil pollution Plastics	Ch.13, NPR Planet Money: How oil got into everything Ch.17, The 1A: Plastic in everything	<b>SWA: Final exam study questions DUE</b>	10
	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>		<b>Final blog DUE</b>	