Fall 2011 Syllabus (v1.0)
GEO 371C Marine Geology (27640); GEO 391 Marine Geology (27925)
WF, 2:00 to 3:30 pm, JGB 3.222

I. Instructors

Dr. Mead Allison: Contact Info: EPS 4.102B, 471-8453, mallison@mail.utexas.edu
  Office Hours: Wed., 3:30-5:00 and by appointment

Dr. Terry Quinn: Contact Info: JGB 5.220B, 471-0464, tquinn@mail.texas.edu
  Office Hours: Wed., 3:30-5:00 and by appointment

II. Course Objectives

The primary objective of this course is to survey the field of marine geology by exploring
the structure and evolution of the ocean basins and ocean margins, the chemistry of the
oceans, the sediments in the marine environments, the products and processes of the
land-sea interface, and the history of the oceans over geologic time.

III. Course Format and Procedures

Perquisites: GEO 416M

Course Material
There is no assigned textbook for this class. Reading material and select lecture notes
will be provided as pdf files on the Blackboard (Bb) website.

Use of Blackboard
In this class we use Blackboard—a Web-based course management system with
password-protected access at http:// courses.utexas.edu —to distribute course
materials, to communicate and collaborate online, to post grades, to submit
assignments, and to give you online quizzes and surveys. You can find support in
using Blackboard at the ITS Help Desk at 475-9400, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to
6 p.m., so plan accordingly.

Term Paper
The research paper will be an individual effort of the student of at least 10 page length
plus references on computer using double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman type
with 1” margins in all directions. A list of possible topics is posted on Bb now. A
student may work on a topic of their choosing subject to the prior approval of the
instructor. Graduate students are highly encouraged to self-select a topic. At least 10
references from the original, peer-reviewed journal literature will be required to
supply the information necessary for the body of the paper. References such as
textbooks, encyclopedias, web summaries, or monographs will not be accepted.

IV. Academic Integrity

University of Texas Honor Code
  Each student in this course is expected to abide by the University of Texas Honor
Code: “The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery,
freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the
university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness,
and respect toward peers and community.”
Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student’s own work.

V. Other University Policies

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone) or [http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd](http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd)

VI. Tentative Course Schedule

**Part 1: Introduction to Marine Geology**
- Ocean Basins
- Historical Perspectives
- Instrumentation

**Part II: Deep-Sea Sediments: Processes and Products**
- Marine Sediments
- Ocean Chemistry
- Ocean Circulation
- Proxies of ocean change
- Glacial-Interglacial Changes in the Ocean
- Marine Stratigraphy

**Part III: Coastal Marine Geology**
- Continental Slope and Rise Sedimentation
- Continental shelves
- Sequence Stratigraphy
- Littoral Zones and Beaches/Barrier Islands
- Reefs and Carbonate Environments
- Estuaries
- River Deltas and River Dispersal Systems

**Part IV: Ocean History – Select Examples (TBA); Class Discussion**

VII. Grading Procedure

Course grade will be determined as follows:
- Exam 1 (35%), Exam 2 (35%), Term paper (20%), Class Discussion (10%)

**Examination Dates:** Exam #1, October 5; Exam #2, November 18

Note: There will be no final exam in this class

**Term Paper**
- Must be submitted electronically to Drs. Allison and Quinn
- Graded for content, clarity, and structure with grammar and spelling considered.

**List of 10 References:** due on or before September 28

**Complete Research Paper:** due on or before November 9