

**Department:** MARN

**Course No.:**255W

**Title:** Coastal Studies Seminar

**Credits:** 2

**Contact:** Annelie Skoog

**WQ:** W

**Catalog Copy:** Second Semester (Avery Point). Two credits. Prerequisite: MARN210 and 211 or instructor consent; Engl. 110 or 111 or 250.

Scientific analysis of coastal zone issues and their interdisciplinary implications. Written analysis and discussion of readings from the primary literature.

**W Criteria:** Part of the course is the requirement that each student write five 3-page papers on a range of topics directly related to the primary literature assigned for class reading. These papers are due at two week intervals throughout the semester and the grades on the written work count for half of the grade in this two credit course. Each of the papers is revised at least once by the students after receiving substantial comments from the instructor on the initial draft. If the revision is still not satisfactory, a second revision is required. This series of five short papers (vs. a single long paper) gives the students ample opportunity to improve subsequent writing by applying the feedback from work early in the term. Written comments are supplemented with individual conferences for students who have especially weak writing skills. The students must complete all the writing assignments (five 3p. papers plus revisions on each) to pass the course.

The writing assignments in this course are an integral part of content of the class. Each short paper challenges the students to think about the topic and write an organized, articulate essay of his thoughts which stands up to the analytical standards of science, and incorporate information from the assigned reading. Each paper is graded according to three criteria: content; organization and logical development; and mechanics (grammar, spelling, and punctuation).