

Course Syllabus: Grand Challenges in Ocean Leadership
UBC Vancouver Summer Program 2024

Course Title	Room	Time
Grand Challenges Facing the Ocean and How to be an Ocean Leader	AERL 107	9am-4:30pm Mon-Fri

Instructors	Email	Course Dates
Meaghan Efford	m.efford@oceans.ubc.ca	Jul 12-Aug 12
Julia Adelsheim	j.adelsheim@oceans.ubc.ca	

Contacting Instructors

Instructors will respond as soon as possible to emails but may not be able to address concerns over the weekend. As the course is full time, Mon-Fri, 9-4:30, there are no office hours, so you are encouraged to speak to your instructors in class, or send an email if after hours.

Overview

Welcome to the Ocean Leaders: Grand Challenges in Ocean Leadership course handbook. In the Course Handbook, [found here](#), you will find the course syllabus, expectations, assignments, readings, digital resources, and more.

These courses will develop leadership and advocacy skills that are required to address key challenges facing the ocean, from overexploitation and marine pollution to climate change and ocean acidification. Students will address real-world challenges from the research and analysis stage through to the response and action stage under the guidance of the instructors. Through lectures, workshop activities, and a central project, students will learn about integrating and synthesizing disparate knowledge, project development, policy analysis and briefing, public communication, and knowledge translation.

Prerequisites:

This course is adapted from a graduate level course. Students are encouraged to have an interest in ocean leadership and issues relating to oceans generally, but are not expected to have any professional or educational experience in the topic.

Program Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain key challenges facing our oceans, and the people who need to manage them.
2. Integrate a diverse array of information to develop nuanced appreciation of specific issues related to ocean futures, taking international agreements and obligations into account.
3. Produce analyses on specific issues that can inform policy decision-making.
4. Turn critical concerns about ocean issues into constructive contributions to progress toward sustainability.
5. Propose, plan, and take action on ocean issues.
6. Act to translate knowledge into policy action, drawing on mentorship and collaboration.

7. Deploy new skills in communication (e.g. policy briefings, public presentations) in preparation for professional careers.

Course Assessment and Expectations

There are no midterm or final exams. The relationship between each assignment and the learning outcomes is noted in the full descriptions of each assignment. Students will receive feedback on each assignment, and due to the short time frame, all assignments are expected to be handed in on time. This seems like a lot to get through in four weeks, but a lot of the assignments work together and many are group work to spread the effort across more than one person. Students are expected to attend all class time unless there is an emergency or you are sick, in which case you must email the instructor so they can support you in completing the course.

Late assignments policy: 5% grade reduction per late day for 3 days, no assignments accepted after 3 days late. Late assignments are only accepted for those first 3 days if you give your instructors notice that they will be late.

Plagiarism and Citation Policy: You must cite all work and ideas that are not your own. [Plagiarism](#) will not be tolerated. You may use any citation style you like, but it must be consistent. Plagiarism will result in a 0% on that assignment.

General Instructions for Written Work:

- Use Times New Roman or other clear font style;
- Use 12 pt font for paragraph text, and no more than 14 pt font for headings;
- Keep normal margins (the default in Word: 2.54cm all around);
- Use page numbers for all writing that exceeds 1 page;
- If group work, ensure that all group member names are at the top of the document;
- If individual work, ensure your name is at the top of the document.

Assessment Components

Assignment	Component	Weight	Due Date
1. 3-Minute Presentation [^]	Final	10%	end of Week 1
2. Annotated Bibliography*	Final	20%	end of Week 2
3. Blog Post Draft*	Draft	– no weight –	end of Week 2
4. Policy Briefing (1-Pager) [^]	Draft	– no weight –	end of Week 2
	Final	10%	end of Week 3
5. Legacy Project*	Final	20%	end of Week 3
6. Presentation: ‘Making Waves’* on your Legacy Project research	Presentation	20%	during Week 4

7. Participation and Collaboration [^]		10%	Throughout the course
8. Blog Post Final*	Final	10%	end of Week 4
Total		100%	
*Group work [^] Individual work			

1. 3-Minute Presentation

Completed by the end of Week 1, this 3-Minute Presentation will be on a topic of the student's choosing (anything to do with ocean science, fisheries, aquatics ecosystems, or similar). Students will create **1 static slide** to go with their presentation. This assignment supports learning outcomes 1 and 7, and aims to introduce students to presentation skills with low stakes. Instructors will fill out a feedback form that will help you develop your presentation skills.

Key Information:

- This is an **individual project**
- The presentation will happen on the last day of Week 1, and class time will be dedicated to creating the slide
- The topic can be on anything related to ocean science, fisheries, aquatic ecosystems, or similar

2. Annotated Bibliography

During Week 1, you will pick a group and a research topic that will be the focus of all of your group assignments. You will prepare an [annotated bibliography](#) on your topic, which will focus on a pressing problem in ocean science. Instructors will guide you throughout this process. You will canvas written documents ranging from academic papers to parliamentary records and from government reports to community newsletters. Review other records, including conventional and electronic media reports. Done in a group of 3-4 students. Supports learning outcomes 1-3. Assessment will focus on the submitted work itself: the group collaboration aspect of this assignment will be assessed under "Participation and Collaboration".

Key Information:

- This is a **group project** (3-4 students per group)
- You will stay with this group and topic for all of your group work, although your topic will evolve as you learn more
- This assignment is due at the end of Week 2
- This research will be necessary for the Blog Post, Legacy Project, and Presentation assignments

3. Blog Post

A first draft will be completed by the end of week 2, with the final version finished in our last week. Our Ocean Leaders Blog will host the Blog Posts after submission and the instructors

support the groups in editing the final versions. Your blog post will be public facing, and so you will be using language that the general public can understand. Supports learning outcomes 1-2 and 6-7.

Key Information:

- This is a **group project** (2-4 students per group)
- This assignment is due at the end of Week 2 (Draft) and Week 4 (Final)
- This will be a short post about your group research topic, linking your Legacy Project within the post in the Final version

4. Policy Briefing (1-Pager)

Completed by the end of week 3. Each student will prepare a one page document about their group's Scholarly Project or another topic of interest, designed to leave behind after a visit with a policymaker or participation in an engagement event. The one-pagers can be tailored to specific audiences, including different senior bureaucrats at the local, provincial or federal level, university administrators, attendees of a public event, etc. The expectations may be adjusted to match the project topic. While the topic is based in the group's Scholarly Project, this assignment is completed and graded for each individual student. Supports learning outcomes 4-7.

Key Information:

- This is an **individual** assignment
- A draft is due 9am Friday, end of Week 2
- The final version is due 9am Friday, end of Week 3
- This can be on any topic relevant to marine science, ocean leadership, coastal ecosystems, etc.

5. Legacy Project

Completed by the end of week 3. Based on the scholarly project, **develop and document a policy product** to address their specific pressing challenge. This can take many forms, according to what response might best effect societal change. Possible products might include some of the following: a mobile or web app, op-ed campaign, video, web page, policy or opinion piece, blog post, ministerial briefing, bylaw, stakeholder training, or other publicly accessible contribution. Since the legacy product(s) may be actions or videos, each group will submit a brief report (1-2 pages plus bibliography) describing the product, its rationale, its delivery mechanisms and its sustainability (e.g., proposed for continued engagement). Done in a group of 3-4 students. Supports learning outcomes 3-6. Assessment will focus on the submitted work itself: the group collaboration aspect of this assignment will be assessed under "Participation and Collaboration".

Key Information:

- This is a **group project** (3-4 students per group)
- Due date is 9am Friday, end of Week 3
- As part of this, you will be able to update your original blog post as you learn new information

6. Presentation at the ‘Making Waves’ Event

Completed in week 4. Student groups will prepare a spoken presentation with visual aids for the public policy event. This will be presented at an event held over the final days of the Course. Evaluated as a group, and may be a presentation sharing Scholarly or Legacy Projects, or your Policy Briefing. You may also present on another topic that your group would like to work on, but note that this will add to your work load. Supports learning outcomes 4-7.

Key Information:

- This is a **group project**: you will be presenting on your Legacy Project
- Your presentation will be evaluated during the Event by your instructors and/or IOF Faculty

7. Participant and Collaboration

Students are expected to be active and engaged members of this course community. They should participate in all sessions and be effective contributors to group activities, including interactive exercises and practice presentations. Students are expected to contribute equally to all group work. They should also assist with organization of the public policy event. Students are expected to arrive on time and participate in all class activities and group assignments. Your instructors will be evaluating your participation and collaboration throughout the course.

This is assessed individually over the duration of the course.

UBC Policies and Resources to Support Student Success

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious, spiritual and cultural observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available [here](#).