ENST 540: Coastal California Science and Policy
Units: 4
Fall 2018
Thursdays 9:30-12:20

Location: TBA

Instructor: Jill Sohm
Office: CAS 116B
Office Hours: TBA
Email: sohm@usc.edu
Phone: 213-821-0534 (office)
818-824-4296 (Google Voice)

Course Description
This course will address current science and policy issues that are being used to characterize and manage coastal resources in California. Course goals include investigating coastal management issues from multiple perspectives, including legal, political, diverse stakeholders, and natural science. Key focus areas include: coastal pollution and public health; ecosystem management and marine protected areas; local and state infrastructure; and restoration ecology. Examples from a range of coastal zones will be studied around the Los Angeles region.

Learning Objectives
At the conclusion of the course students will be able to:
- demonstrate the ability to recognize the inter-relationships of physical and human interactions in coastal areas and identify and describe the (1) environmental problems facing the oceans and (2) policy responses to those problems. Comprehension will be evidenced by successfully completing mid-term and final exams covering course material.

- demonstrate the ability to analyze and evaluate policy decisions from specific stakeholder perspectives by developing formal public comments on a real-world, proposed ocean policy and by writing an opinion piece on an ocean policy issue.

- demonstrate the ability to interpret scientific data in support of a particular policy response by writing a policy briefing after an analysis of a specific issue or set of data.

- demonstrate integrated knowledge that comes from an evaluation of peer reviewed journal articles related to course topics.

- demonstrate the ability to formulate an integrated and interdisciplinary response to current ocean management issues by completing an individual report and group presentation on marine spatial planning for an assigned region.
Course Notes
This course will use Blackboard for communication, information and turning in assignments. Lecture slides will be made available after the lecture is given. Additional readings may be assigned periodically throughout the semester, and these will be announced in class, posted on Blackboard, and an email reminder sent to the class. Sometimes computers will be used in class to work with real life data in excel and run simple simulations – students will be notified when computers are needed. This course involves a lot of in depth reading and critical analysis outside of lecture, as it is a four unit course.

Required Readings and Supplementary Materials
- All other readings will be posted on Blackboard

Description and Assessment of Assignments

Exams:
This class will have one takehome midterm made up of four essay questions.

Stakeholder evaluation:
Students will be presented a coastal management scenario and will write up an evaluation of the stakeholders involved and their positions.

Letter to Coastal Commission:
Students will write a letter to the Coastal Commission about an issue that they are currently deciding and detail your opinion on what the Coastal Commission should do on this matter. See http://www.coastal.ca.gov/meetings/coming.html or http://www.coastal.ca.gov/mtgcurr.html for details on the issues currently before the Commission. The letter should be formatted as a formal letter and you must use as much scientific evidence and reasoning as possible in your arguments.

Ballona Wetlands:
We will take a trip to the Baloona Wetlands to see the last remaining coastal wetlands in LA. Students will then analyze the recently published Environmental Impact Assessment for the wetland restoration and take a position on the controversy surrounding the proposal.

Presentation on California coast related agency:
Students will research and generate a 10 minute presentation on one of the many agencies in California that is involved in coastal policy, regulation, management, restoration, or development.

Final Presentation:
For your final presentation, you will present a case study of a topic that relates to coastal management. The topic can focus in coastal waters, the interface between land and water, or management issues on coastal land itself. Your goal is to get an in depth understanding of your topic, the science behind it, and the possible solutions through management decisions, and then to communicate that understanding to the class. Presentations for groups of 2 should be ~80 minutes (the class period) and ~40 minutes for those working alone. You will be graded on your presentation style and content. Be sure also to include citations for research you cite, and a bibliography page with your sources on the last slide.
### Grading Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>% of Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final presentation</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>33%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stakeholder evaluation</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>8.33%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Letter to Coastal Commission</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>8.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballona Wetlands</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>8.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation on California coast related agency</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>8.33%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>8.33%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>300</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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### Grading Scale (Example)

Course final grades will be determined using the following scale:

- **A** 93-100
- **A-** 90-92
- **B+** 87-89
- **B** 83-86
- **B-** 80-82
- **C+** 77-79
- **C** 73-76
- **C-** 70-72
- **D+** 67-69
- **D** 63-66
- **D-** 60-62
- **F** 59 and below

### Additional Policies

Assignments will not be accepted late. Additionally:
- Come to class prepared
- Be respectful of me and other students in class
- Please leave cell phones outside the classroom or turned off
- If you have to miss class, make sure you arrange to get notes and announcements.
Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics/Daily Activities</th>
<th>Readings and Homework</th>
<th>Deliverable/ Due Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction and coastal zone dynamics</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Coastal zone ecosystem management</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Challenges of aquaculture</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Guest lecturers: Sea level rise</td>
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<td>Stakeholder analysis</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Ballona Wetlands trip – Saturday, NO CLASS THURSDAY</td>
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<td>Baloona EIR analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>In class case study</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Guest lecture: Coastal Commission</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Managing water quality through economics</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Coastal Commission meeting in San Diego</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Biodiversity, conservation, and MPAs</td>
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<td>Coastal agency presentation</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Guest lecture: MPA development and stakeholder negotiation</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>San Francisco Bay Delta Region</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Guest lecture: Coastal zone management tools and spatial planning</td>
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<td>Midterm due</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Guest lecture: winter storm epidemiology study</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>International Management: Antarctica</td>
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<td>Letter to Coastal Commission</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Aquatic invasive species and ballast water</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Thanksgiving: NO CLASS</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>FINAL</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

**Academic Conduct:**
Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

**Support Systems:**
*Student Counseling Services (SCS) – (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call*
Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling

*National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1 (800) 273-8255*
Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

**Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) – (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call**
Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.
[engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp](http://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp)

**Sexual Assault Resource Center**
For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: [sarc.usc.edu](http://sarc.usc.edu)

**Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance – (213) 740-5086**
Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. [equity.usc.edu](http://equity.usc.edu)

**Bias Assessment Response and Support**
Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. [studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support](http://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support)

**The Office of Disability Services and Programs**
Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. [dsp.usc.edu](http://dsp.usc.edu)

**Student Support and Advocacy – (213) 821-4710**
Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. [studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa](http://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa)

**Diversity at USC**
Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. [diversity.usc.edu](http://diversity.usc.edu)

**USC Emergency Information**
Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible. [emergency.usc.edu](http://emergency.usc.edu)

**USC Department of Public Safety – UPC: (213) 740-4321 – HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24-hour emergency or to report a crime.**
Provides overall safety to USC community. [dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu)