Syllabus for OCSC 4910:
Oceanography is the study of the physics, chemistry, geology and biology of the world oceans. “Hot Topics” in oceanography are the areas of study of heightened current interest to both oceanographers and the public. Current “Hot Topics” are changes in ocean conditions under global warming and degradation of the marine environment by polluting plastics. This course provides enrolled students with current information on a Hot Topic and prepares students for public speaking. Students are encouraged to think about relevant issues from both a scientific and societal perspective.

One hour of faculty lecture or student presentation, one hour of classroom discussion and one hour of class debate per week.
PR: OCSC 1000 and a minimum of 3 credit hours at the 3000 level in any MUN Science course

No Textbook; Scientific publications and news media articles provide information for the faculty lecture or student presentation, classroom discussions and class debates.

Should classes be disrupted by Sars-CoV-2 during the Winter 2022 Semester, the course will transition to remote delivery. Students registered for the course will be notified of changes to the course syllabus through the Brightspace course shell Communications and through student’s MUN emails sent by the instructor.

Course Co-ordinator/Instructor :
Professor: Dr. Joe Wroblewski Office: C4047, Physics Chemistry Building
Phone: 864-2410 e-mail: jwroblew@mun.ca
Office hours: By appointment

Lecture: MWF 11:00-11:50 AM Room: C4011, Physics Chemistry Building

Course Outline:
One Hot Topic will be covered per week during the semester.
The Monday lecture by a Department of Ocean Science Faculty Member or by a course-enrolled student will provide the background science on that Hot Topic.
The Wednesday class will be a round-table discussion of relevant news media articles.
The Friday class will be a student-led debate to understand the various views of the public.

Evaluation
Presentation (25%) – Each student will choose a Hot Topic. The instructor must approve the topic. The student will present a 30-minute briefing on the science background of the Hot Topic on a Monday during class time.
Assignments (60%) - Each week, after the Monday topic background presentation (by a Dept. of Ocean Science faculty member or a course-enrolled student) and after the Wednesday discussion of relevant news media articles, all enrolled students will write a summary of the key issues of the Hot Topic, plus a list of points for the Friday class debate, plus a three-sentence “elevator talk.” This 1-2 page assignment is due to the course co-ordinator/instructor on Friday before class time. Each of these 12 weekly assignments will account for 5% of the final mark. Debates & Discussions (15%) – Students will be graded by the course co-ordinator/instructor on their level of participation during the Wednesday class round-table discussion and during the Friday class student-led debate.

Structure of Course Evaluation | Marks
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Presentation | 25
Assignments | 60
Class participation | 15
Total: | 100

Course Material: Recommended readings, assignments and class updates will be posted on the Desire2Learn/Brightspace course shell. Course material will come from a number of different sources, including scientific journal articles and news articles (e.g. CBC, New York Times, other popular news outlets). Students will be expected to check Brightspace for updates.

Class policies: All students are expected to display respect for the learning environment. This includes respecting opinions of your instructors, classmates and any guests in class. MUN welcomes students from all ethnic and cultural backgrounds. MUN expects course discourse to be collegial and respectful across disciplinary, ethnic, cultural, and personal boundaries. This course challenges your understanding of contentious views. Each student will debate views that may not be held personally. All students are bound by the Memorial University Student Code of Conduct (https://www.mun.ca/student/supports-and-resources/respectful-campus/student-code-of-conduct.php).

Dropping the course (after the last drop date) or requesting deferred presentation for health reasons requires a doctor's note. The information required in the doctor's note is listed in Section 6.14.6 of MUN Calendar, http://www.mun.ca/regoff/calendar/sectionNo=REGS-0859

Academic Integrity: All students are personally responsible for knowing which actions could be viewed as dishonest. Students found guilty of an academic offence may be subject to penalties commensurate with the offence. The standards to Academic Integrity are outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar: http://www.mun.ca/regoff/calendar/sectionNo=REGS-0748

This class is designed to provoke thought, encourage discussion, and improve your scientific communication skills. In your assignments - any direct quotes must be clearly identified, using quotation marks, and referenced properly. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and if detected you will receive a zero mark for that assignment.

Inclusion and Equity: Memorial University of Newfoundland is committed to ensuring an environment of understanding and respect for the dignity and worth of each student and also to supporting inclusive
education based on the principles of equity, accessibility and collaboration. Students who may require physical or academic accommodations are encouraged to contact the Glen Roy Blundon Centre https://www.mun.ca/student/new-student-experience/access.php

Support Services offered to students at Memorial include:

- The Counselling Center http://www.mun.ca/counselling/home/
- The Glen Roy Blunden Center http://www.mun.ca/blundon/about/index.php
- The Writing Center http://www.mun.ca/writingcentre/about/
- Student Affairs and Services http://www.mun.ca/student/home/
- The International Student Advising Office http://www.mun.ca/isa/main/