Project Title: University of Maryland Course Evaluation Fall 2021

Number of Students Invited: **46**
Number of Evaluations Submitted: **15**
Response Rate: **32.6%**

Report Comments

This report presents feedback received from students for the course **INTRO TO THE BLUE OCEAN** and for the Instructor **James Carton** in that course. Course means are calculated from all responses by all students in the unit (i.e., course section) on that item and exclude N/A (not applicable) responses. A grade table is included on the next page if available.

Indication is provided below for the Report Group if there is one affiliated with this course section, otherwise it is blank. The Report Group will be the lead section of a grouped course (i.e. multi-section lecture) and/or the primary of cross-listed courses. Subsections are found in the Instructor Subgroup Report.

Semester: Fall 2021
College: College of Computer, Math & Natural Sciences
Department: CMNS-Atmospheric & Oceanic Science, CMNS-Geology
Course #: AOSC375, GEOL375
Section #: 0101
Course Title: INTRO TO THE BLUE OCEAN
Report Group: 202108-AOSC375-0101

Instructor: James Carton

Creation Date: **Wednesday, January 05, 2022**

blue®

Grade Distribution

Grade distribution is not available in this report for courses in a report group. The Instructor Subgroup Report displays grades for individual sections in the report group.

Administrator University-Wide Course Items Applied to All Section Instructors

Results for use by faculty/instructors and for administrative purposes.
N/A responses have been excluded from the following calculations.

By Score

Scale is Strongly Disagree (0) to Strongly Agree (4) with a Neutral mid-point

Question	Course Mean
The course was intellectually challenging.	3.3
I learned a lot from this course.	3.6

By Frequency

1. The course was intellectually challenging.			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0	0	0.0%
Disagree	1	0	0.0%
Neutral	2	4	26.7%
Agree	3	2	13.3%
Strongly Agree	4	9	60.0%
Statistics			Value
Response Count			15
Mean			3.3
Standard Deviation			0.9

2. I learned a lot from this course.			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0	0	0.0%
Disagree	1	0	0.0%
Neutral	2	1	6.7%
Agree	3	4	26.7%
Strongly Agree	4	10	66.7%
Statistics			Value
Response Count			15
Mean			3.6
Standard Deviation			0.6

How does this course fit into your academic plan or course of study?

How does this course fit into your academic plan or course of study?	Score	Count	Percentage
General Education or CORE Requirement	0	2	13.3%
Major/Certificate/Minor/Program Requirement	1	9	60.0%
Elective	2	4	26.7%

Additional comments (e.g. about course content/materials, teaching style, etc.):

Comments
The textbook Essentials of Oceanography was mainly what I used to study. Dr. Carton is a very engaging lecturer, but the lecture slides themselves were difficult to interpret, as it was all diagrams and pictures with very few words. The Homework was more math and physics intensive than most students were expecting. I thought the exams were challenging, and though we were given practice quantitative problems, I think that a study guide would have helped tremendously since this class comes with a lot of information to memorize. The best part of this class was the group research project since it allowed students to take a specific topic and really go in depth as well as hone teamwork skills. Above all though this is a fun course complete with a field trip, and I hope that it continues in the years to come.
This course is very hard to get a good grade in for someone who doesn't excel in math or physics. The exams were heavily weighted on calculation problems and if you struggle in math, there is no chance the exam grade will be good. The written response questions were harshly graded.
1. For problem sets, I think there should be a few example problems done in class so that we can understand the type of questions that are going to be asked. 2. The way the course was offered this semester is perfect! I liked having friday lectures online and the rest in person. The field trip was one of the favorite things about the course.
Course prof spoke very fast, which is why for me, the recorded panopto was ESSENTIAL to review– again and again– and to take notes on. Quite clearly, the professor knew his material, and if he didn't know an answer to a question outside his area of expertise, ,he said so. He is fair, kind and gracious. I would have liked more office hours available. There is one mystery though. I signed up for the course based on info on the AOSC course list. Later, I discovered it was co–listed on Geology– and suggested that we have various prerequisites. I think you ought to add that to the description in AOSC – Otherwise, students won't know what they are getting into. About a third of grades involve calculus. A person will need a lot of catch up– if he/she is not conversant.
I believe that you should explain how the math problems are done. Giving students random math problems that you haven't shown us how to do is extremely difficult. Then to put them onto our exams is completely unbelievable. I know more than half of the students in this class were just as clueless as I was as well. Please show us how to do some math problems before giving us homework and exams on stuff we don't know how to do.
The professor for this course did an amazing job teaching this course. He moved back to in person teaching very well while also utilizing the resources created during online learning to make sure accommodations were made for those who were sick and to just create more study resources for the course available to the students. He was a great teacher and made the course content engaging and made it fun to come to class each and every day. He clearly wanted to get to know the students and wanted the students to get to know each other. My only critique of the course is I wish there were more field trips.
The professor was very engaging and the course was very interesting. My only problem with this course is that, even though it says a physics based course was recommended, it just seemed like math was being thrown at me. Granted the math had its basis in oceanography but it seemed so disconnected from what we learned in lecture.
Professor Carton is super nice and conveys the material in a way that helps keep you engaged
The lectures were interesting and well structured and the exams were fair and predictable. The TAs grading was a bit unequal however and at times difficult to follow or understand. Professor Carton was great and even scheduled a fun field trip to the aquarium for the class, which was very fun and helped us to connect to the course material. I would take another class with Carton given the opportunity. Great guy

Administrator University-Wide Instructor James Carton Items

Results for use by faculty/instructors and for administrative purposes.
N/A responses have been excluded from the following calculations.

By Score

Scale is Strongly Disagree (0) to Strongly Agree (4) with a Neutral mid-point

Question	Course Mean
The instructor treated students with respect.	3.9
The instructor was well-prepared for class.	3.7
Overall, this instructor was an effective teacher.	3.6

By Frequency

1. The instructor treated students with respect.			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0	0	0.0%
Disagree	1	0	0.0%
Neutral	2	0	0.0%
Agree	3	2	13.3%
Strongly Agree	4	13	86.7%
Statistics			Value
Response Count			15
Mean			3.9
Standard Deviation			0.4

2. The instructor was well-prepared for class.			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0	0	0.0%
Disagree	1	1	6.7%
Neutral	2	0	0.0%
Agree	3	1	6.7%
Strongly Agree	4	13	86.7%
Statistics			Value
Response Count			15
Mean			3.7
Standard Deviation			0.8

3. Overall, this instructor was an effective teacher.			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0	0	0.0%
Disagree	1	1	6.7%
Neutral	2	1	6.7%
Agree	3	1	6.7%
Strongly Agree	4	12	80.0%
Statistics			Value
Response Count			15
Mean			3.6
Standard Deviation			0.9

Overall Score

Averaging the following five scaled Administrator items (from above, repeated below) results in the Overall Score.

Scale is Strongly Disagree (0) to Strongly Agree (4) with a Neutral mid-point

Competency	Course
The course was intellectually challenging	3.3
I learned a lot from this course	3.6
The instructor treated students with respect	3.9
The instructor was well-prepared for class	3.7
Overall, this instructor was an effective teacher	3.6
Total Score	3.6

The standards the instructor James Carton set for students were...

By Score

Scale is Too Low (0) to Too High (2) with an Appropriate mid-point

Question	Course Mean
The standards the instructor set for students were...	1.1

By Frequency

The standards the instructor set for students were...			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Too Low	0	1	6.7%
Appropriate	1	11	73.3%
Too High	2	3	20.0%

Student University-Wide Course Items Applied to All Section Instructors

Results for use by faculty/instructors and students.
N/A responses have been excluded from the following calculations.

By Score

Scale is Strongly Disagree (0) to Strongly Agree (4) with a Neutral mid-point

Question	Course Mean
Course guidelines were clearly described in the syllabus.	3.6
The required texts (e.g. books, course packs, online resources) helped me learn course material.	2.7

By Frequency

1. Course guidelines were clearly described in the syllabus.			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0	0	0.0%
Disagree	1	0	0.0%
Neutral	2	0	0.0%
Agree	3	6	40.0%
Strongly Agree	4	9	60.0%
Statistics			Value
Response Count			15
Mean			3.6
Standard Deviation			0.5

2. The required texts (e.g. books, course packs, online resources) helped me learn course material.			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0	0	0.0%
Disagree	1	1	8.3%
Neutral	2	6	50.0%
Agree	3	1	8.3%
Strongly Agree	4	4	33.3%
Statistics			Value
Response Count			12
Mean			2.7
Standard Deviation			1.1

Based on the quality of my work in this course, the grades I earned were

By Score

Scale is Too Low (0) to Too High (2) with an Appropriate mid-point

Question	Course Mean
Based on the quality of my work in this course, the grades I earned were	0.9

By Frequency

Based on the quality of my work in this course, the grades I earned were			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Too Low	0	2	14.3%
Appropriate	1	11	78.6%
Too High	2	1	7.1%

Given the course level and number of credits the workload was

By Score

Scale is Too Low (0) to Too High (2) with an Appropriate mid-point

Question	Course Mean
Given the course level and number of credits, the workload was	1.0

By Frequency

Given the course level and number of credits, the workload was			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Too Low	0	0	0.0%
Appropriate	1	15	100.0%
Too High	2	0	0.0%

How much effort did you put into the course?

By Score

Scale is Little (0) to Considerable (2) with a Moderate mid-point

Question	Course Mean
How much effort did you put into the course?	1.2

By Frequency

How much effort did you put into the course?			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Little	0	2	13.3%
Moderate	1	8	53.3%
Considerable	2	5	33.3%

Student University-Wide Instructor James Carton Items

Results for use by faculty/instructors and students.

N/A responses have been excluded from the following calculations.

By Score

Scale is Strongly Disagree (0) to Strongly Agree (4) with a Neutral mid-point

Question	Course Mean
The instructor was effective in communicating the content of the course.	3.7
The instructor was responsive to student concerns.	3.6
The instructor helped create an atmosphere that kept me engaged in course content.	3.4

By Frequency

1. The instructor was effective in communicating the content of the course.			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0	0	0.0%
Disagree	1	0	0.0%
Neutral	2	1	6.7%
Agree	3	2	13.3%
Strongly Agree	4	12	80.0%
Statistics			Value
Response Count			15
Mean			3.7
Standard Deviation			0.6

2. The instructor was responsive to student concerns.			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0	0	0.0%
Disagree	1	0	0.0%
Neutral	2	1	6.7%
Agree	3	4	26.7%
Strongly Agree	4	10	66.7%
Statistics			Value
Response Count			15
Mean			3.6
Standard Deviation			0.6

3. The instructor helped create an atmosphere that kept me engaged in course content.			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0	0	0.0%
Disagree	1	1	6.7%
Neutral	2	2	13.3%
Agree	3	2	13.3%
Strongly Agree	4	10	66.7%
Statistics			Value
Response Count			15
Mean			3.4
Standard Deviation			1.0

End of Report