

## **OCES 4974/4984 Ocean Science and Technology Research Project I/II**

### **Course Description**

Students will undertake a research project in ocean science and technology under faculty supervision. OCES 4974 is the first part of a two-term project. After completion of OCES 4974 in the Fall semester, students will need to register for OCES 4984 in Spring. Through the reading of scientific literature, field/laboratory studies, meetings with supervisors, and presentations in laboratory meetings, students will learn:

- (i) the latest knowledge in their chosen field of research,
- (ii) skills in hypothesis synthesis and testing,
- (iii) experimental design,
- (iv) data collection and analysis, and
- (v) scientific communication. Students will be evaluated for their performance through continuous assessment by the supervisor and an oral presentation held at the end of the Fall semester. For third-year or fourth-year OCES students only. Instructor's approval is required for enrollment.

### **Intended Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of this course, students are expected to be able to

- 1) Explain in detail the current and emerging trends in the area of ocean science and technology research chosen by the student.
- 2) Demonstrate basic skills in formulating objectives, making hypotheses and designing experiments for a scientific investigation.
- 3) Conduct independent lab experiments and/or field studies.
- 4) Critically analyze and interpret the data of the experiments and/or field studies, address the limitations and biases of the investigation methods, draw scientifically valid conclusions, and explain the importance of the research findings by making reference to existing knowledge.
- 5) Effectively communicate the research findings in oral presentations and in written reports.
- 6) Work independently and collaborate effectively.

### **Meeting with supervisors**

Students are required to meet with their supervisor for a minimum of one hour each week to discuss project progress, findings, and any challenges encountered.

## **Assessment**

1. Experiment (continuous assessment by project supervisor(s)) (40%)

2. Oral presentation (30%)

- Presentation will be scheduled in **Study Break**
- Presentation duration: Each student 10 min + 5 min Q&A
- The content of the presentation should include:
  - i. Introduction to the research topic
  - ii. Project objectives
  - iii. Research methodology

3. Written report (30%)

\*Students should submit their written reports to their corresponding supervisor(s) directly for grading.

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- The content of the report should include:
    - i. A short literature review related to the research topic
    - ii. Project objectives
    - iii. Research methodology
    - iv. Preliminary results (if any)
  - Note: Turnitin and similar provides evidence (via text similarity scores) but are themselves not the sole basis for determining a plagiarism case.

## **Important Notes:**

\* The usual academic plagiarism guidelines apply (<https://registry.hkust.edu.hk/resource-library/how-avoid-plagiarism-and-copying>). Where there is a case for academic plagiarism the minimum penalty is zero on the relevant section; the marker reserves the right to escalate to larger penalties (e.g. failing the course, recording a case of academic misconduct, etc.)

\* The use of AI tools is allowed for this course for all parts but citations should be given accordingly (e.g. <https://libguides.hkust.edu.hk/ai-literacy/faqs>). Usage without citation is regarded as academic plagiarism and above point applies.