Oceanography 100 Extra Credit  
Instructor: John Gilson

There will be three opportunities to earn extra credit in this class (3 x 10 points = 30 points total).

I can best describe each extra credit assignment as an essay. In the essay you will critically comment on a statement (opinion) which is provided. Perhaps the statement is false, perhaps it is true (perhaps it is true sometimes and false others), perhaps you agree with the statement, perhaps you disagree. The assignment is the same, whatever your feeling about the statement.

**What I will look for** (if missing, it will reduce your score)
- Do you look at all sides of the argument?
- Do you support all of your statements with facts **backed up with references**?
- Is a bibliography included stating where the facts you quote came from?
- Typed double-space, 12-point font
- Text of not more than three pages (the bibliography will make it longer). I believe that at least two pages are required for a good essay. Your paper may be shorter than 3 pages but it must have the elements I seek.
- Proper grammar/good spelling/CLEAR ARGUMENT (with word processing programs there is little excuse for spelling errors)

I must reiterate that I require a bibliography. Unsubstantiated facts are as useless as opinions. Research will be needed for these assignments. Facts from other than your text book are required. Quotes or FACTS MUST be cited within the text as (Author, 2003). Then in the bibliography you MUST declare the cited work using proper citation format. There are many online guides for the format of citation/bibliographies (here is [one](#)). Ask me if you have questions.

Some Hints:
- You do not have to treat the statement as true or false. It may be both depending on the situation or how someone reads the statement. It is best that you argue both sides. There are always at least two sides.
  - Try to leave your own prejudices aside. Be neutral. Let the facts speak for you.
  - I am more interested in the facts that you provide and your argument then eloquent prose.

As an example of a statement..... The earth is round!

You may agree with this statement and in your critique you may say in essence  Duh! Everyone knows that!  This would be an example of a low scoring essay.

Questions to ask yourself as you write the essay:
- Is the earth round? (Actually it is not...it is a spheroid)
- What evidence supports the fact that the earth is round? (If we fly around the world we return back to the same place?) What would be the force that formed the earth into its round
shape? Do these forces affect all planets equally? Are there square planets somewhere?

- Who believes the world is round and why? If someone else believes the earth is round and you do not, why does he think so? Why is he mistaken? Does his view make sense in his context?
  - What evidence supports the fact that the earth is not exactly round? (The Earth's radius at the equator is greater than at the pole)
  - Why is this true (centripetal force?)
  - How did the belief that the earth is flat effect people/history in our past?
  - How does the fact that the earth is nearly round effect us today?

Answering all of the above questions is not necessary. I present them only as a guide for what you may look for in the assigned statements below.

Oceanography 100 Extra Credit Statements:

#1 Due 02/23/05

The money currently allocated to the study of the ocean is wasted.

#2 Due 04/06/05

Satellites are the best way to study the ocean.

Or

The role of the ocean and atmosphere in global climate change is easily separable.

#3 Due 05/04/05

San Diego wastewater treatment outflow is discharged several miles offshore of Point Loma at a great enough depth to adequately protect the coastal environment of the San Diego region.

Or

All research utilizing sound waves in the ocean should be halted due to its effect on marine mammals.