

**THE GLOBAL CARBON CYCLE AND GREENHOUSE GASES**  
**The Program on Climate Change, Winter 2005 (OCE/ATMS/ESS 588)**

Meeting Time: MWF 1:30-2:20; Meeting Place: OTB 205

Course Web Page: <http://www.ocean.washington.edu/courses/oc588>

**Instructors:**

Steven Emerson, OSB 419, 3-0428, [emerson@u.washington.edu](mailto:emerson@u.washington.edu)

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**TA:**

Lia Ossiander, OSB 416, 3-0632, [ossiandla@u.washington.edu](mailto:ossiandla@u.washington.edu)

**Office hours:** To be discussed in class.

**Course Goals and Structure:**

The goals of the course are to review what is known about the natural global carbon cycle and greenhouse gases and to explore mechanisms controlling the changes caused by anthropogenic forcing.

The course is divided into 5 blocks in which there will normally be four-five lectures, and a paper discussion. In four of the blocks there are problems assigned to be solved using the computer program Matlab. The first block has a lecture on the use of Matlab. Students are asked to prepare a paper and give a 15-minute presentation in the finals week on one of the topics on the attached list or one of their own choosing. Topics should be discussed with one of the instructors. Papers should be 5-10 pages (1.5 spacing) with greater than 10 references.

**Assessment:**

Grades will be assigned based on the student's performance on the four problems (60%), the quality of the paper and presentation (20%), and participation in the paper discussions (20%).

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Winter 2005, Instructors: Steven Emerson and Lyatt Jaeglé, T.A.: Lia Ossiander

Week	Topic	Reading, Problem
<b>1&amp;2</b> Jan. 3 M Jan. 5 W Jan. 7 F Jan. 10 M Jan. 12 W Jan. 14 F	<b>INTRODUCTION</b> Radiative Forcing (LJ) Radiative Forcing (LJ) Matlab (LO) Paper Discussion Carbon Fluxes (SE) Carbonate Chemistry (SE)	Hand out paper (IPCC, 2001) Hand out Problem #1  Hand out paper (Toggweiler and Sarmiento, 1985)
<b>3&amp;4</b> Jan. 17 M Jan. 19 W Jan. 21 F Jan. 24 M Jan. 26 W Jan. 28 F	<b>THE OCEAN BIOLOGICAL PUMP</b> Holiday -- NO CLASS Biological Pump (SE) Biological Pump (SE) Paper Discussion Biological Pump (SE) Biological Pump (SE)	Problem #1 due + Hand out Problem #2  Hand out paper (Quay et al., 1991)
<b>5&amp;6</b> Jan. 31 M Feb. 2 W Feb. 4 F Feb. 7 M Feb. 9 W Feb. 11 F	<b>NON-CO<sub>2</sub> GREENHOUSE GASES</b> GH Gases (LJ) GH Gases (LJ) GH Gases (LJ) Paper Discussion GH Gases (LJ) GH Gases (LJ)	Problem #2 due; Hand out Problem #3  Hand out Paper (Sabine et al., 2004)
<b>7&amp;8</b> Feb. 14 M Feb. 16 W Feb. 18 F Feb. 21 M Feb. 23 W Feb. 25 F	<b>FOSSIL FUEL UPTAKE</b> Ocean Uptake – tracers (SE) Ocean Uptake (SE) Paper Discussion Holiday -- NO CLASS Ocean/Terrestrial Uptake (SE) Ocean/Terrestrial Uptake (SE)	Problem #3 due; Hand out Problem #4
<b>9&amp;10</b> Feb. 28 M Mar. 2 W Mar. 4 F  Mar. 7 M Mar. 9 W Mar. 11 F	<b>TERRESTRIAL CO<sub>2</sub> UPTAKE</b> Guest Lecture (Tom Hinckley) Historical Trends (SE) Paper Discussion <b>MITIGATION</b> Sequestration of CO <sub>2</sub> (SE) Non-CO <sub>2</sub> Greenhouse Gases (LJ) Student Presentations	Problem #4 due; Hand out paper
<b>Finals wk</b> Mar. 14-18	<b>PRESENTATIONS</b> Student Presentations (continued)	

### **Discussion Papers:**

Reading assignments will be put on the class web site and/or handed out.

IPCC (2001) *Climate Change 2001: the scientific basis, Contribution of Working Group I in the Third Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* (Houghton et al., eds.), Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, U.K. and New York, NY, USA, 881 pp. (We will discuss parts C, D & E of the Technical Summary, p 36-61)

Toggweiler, R. and J. Sarmiento (1985) Glacial to interglacial changes in atmospheric carbon dioxide: The critical role of ocean surface water at high latitudes, in: *The Carbon Cycle and Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>: Natural variations Archean to Present*, (Sundquist, E. and Broecker, W. S., eds) A.G.U. Geophysical Monograph 32, Wash. D. C.

Sabine, C.L., et al., The oceanic sink for anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub>, *Science*, 305, 367-371, 2004.

Takahashi, T., The fate of industrial carbon dioxide, *Science*, 305, 352-353, 2004.

Quay, P., et al., Carbon isotopic composition of atmospheric CH<sub>4</sub>: Fossil and biomass burning source strengths, *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, 5, 25-47, 1991.

Long, S.P., E.A. Ainsworth, A. Rogers, and D.R. Ort, Rising atmospheric carbon dioxide: Plants FACE the Future, *Annu. Rev. Plant Biol.*, 55, 591-628, 2004.

C. Korner, Through enhanced tree dynamics carbon dioxide enrichment may cause tropical forests to lose carbon, *Phil. Trans. R. Soc. Lond. B*, 359, 493-498, 2004.

### **Possible Paper Topics:**

Current trends in atmospheric methane concentration

Methane hydrates and climate change

Stratospheric H<sub>2</sub>O: trends and climate effects

Tropospheric ozone: past and future changes

Effect of climate change on CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O emissions

Mitigation solutions for CH<sub>4</sub> emissions

Stratospheric ozone and global warming

The interpretation of atmospheric  $\delta^{13}\text{C-pCO}_2$  changes in ice cores

Atmospheric O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> ratios as tracers of marine and terrestrial CO<sub>2</sub> uptake

Experimental results of the terrestrial CO<sub>2</sub> fertilization effect

Climate change and nitrogen fixation

CaCO<sub>3</sub> dissolution response to anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub>

Iron fertilization in the southern ocean during the last glacial age

Potential consequences of continued iron fertilization in iron-limited regions of the ocean

The feasibility of sequestering anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> by pumping it into the ocean

Comparing different GCM results for anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> penetration into the ocean