LAB SAFETY AND INFORMATION

Welcome to our (almost) new lab-based environmental science class. Lab sections will meet in room 206 of the Ocean Teaching Building (OTB-206), a.k.a., the Teaching Lab. Most of the experiments will not involve any dangerous chemicals or equipment, however you must always be aware of the situation around you and exercise common sense to keep yourself and fellow class members from being injured. One injury in a lab class can ruin your whole day (or life), so practice safety first.

The lab has some basic safety gear you should know about:
• Safety glasses for eye protection are in the drawer above cupboard #23 (NW - under windows),
• First Aid kit is in a white box on the wall to the left of the south door,
• Eye-wash system is the on north edge of the middle sink,
• Overhead wash down system is in the ceiling near the eye-wash,
• Chemical spill clean-up items are in the right-hand glass-door cabinet,
• Broken glass box is under the sink near the fume-hood (even if something is just cracked, put it there so nothing shatters and no one is cut especially the janitor emptying the trash),
• Nearest phone to call 9-911 is across the hall in Room 209 (or downstairs in the admin office).

Please DO NOT:
• Leave anything unattended that is being heated,
• Touch any instrumentation you have not been shown how to use,
• Look directly into a laser beam (if you’re using one, be sure it has a beam-dump around it),
• Turn on any of the gas or air spigots unless instructed to do so,
• Combine electricity & water (particularly salt water) by spilling on power supplies or plug strips.

Please DO:
• Point out anything that seems amiss or dangerous to an instructor,
• Think about effective use of space…there’s a lot of you and not so much lab,
• Ask for tools, instruments and materials: they are in drawers, cupboards or bins around the lab,
• Clean up your space at the end of class and put things away,
• Leave tanks upside down so the bottoms are not scratched.

We have hand tools for building apparatus: please consult with the instructors to become familiar with them and the mechanical work area.

For storage of personal gear (or lab set-ups), there are 16 cupboards under the windows (labeled #6-21). Please use these to keep the lab counter-tops clear of un-used stuff (like backpacks, etc.)
Because this is a relatively new course, we’re experimenting a bit on how these projects make the most effective learning situations, so please bear with us as we learn too.

And don’t forget to THINK CREATIVELY and HAVE FUN!