

## ESM 257 Coastal Marine Policy and Management Fall 2025

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:00-6:15 pm

**Instructor:** Kristen Hislop

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**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Course Description:** ESM 257, Coastal Marine Policy and Management, provides an overview of approaches and governance tools used in coastal and marine policy and management. This course examines relevant state and federal agencies, policies, and programs to provide a balanced understanding of the complexities of coastal and marine policy and management. Students learn directly from professionals in government, academia, and non-government organizations.

**Attendance:** The breadth of learning throughout this course will occur in lectures and attendance is therefore a major component of the final grade. Students who are unable to attend a lecture due to another compulsory activity or illness should email the instructor **prior** to class. An alternate assignment can be completed to replace one missed class during the quarter.

Changes to the class schedule:

- September 25: No class
- October 21: No class
- November 14: Participation at Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council in lieu of cancelled classes

**Discussion:** Students are expected to complete required readings prior to the lecture to aid in discussion with the instructor, other students, and guest lecturers. Students are expected to come to class prepared with questions and will be assigned to lead at least one in-class discussion.

**Reading:** Required reading will be made available one week prior to each lecture.

**Assignments:** All assignments shall be submitted electronically via Canvas prior to the start of lecture on the due date, unless otherwise noted. Assignments should be typed, 12-point font with 1-inch margins. Pages should be numbered and a header should be used to identify the assignment, brief descriptive title, the student's name, and date of submittal. Guidelines for the number of pages assume single-spaced text with one line between paragraphs.

**Grade:**

| Assignment                    | Description                                                                                     | Percent of total grade                             |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Class Attendance              | Participation, reading assignments, and in-class assignments                                    | 25%                                                |
| Sea Level Rise Memo           | Compose a 3-page memo on policy and management solutions to sea level rise                      | 25%                                                |
| Attend Public Meeting/Hearing | Attend a meeting and compose a 2-page memo describing the process, outcomes, and key takeaways. | 20%                                                |
| Comment Letter                | Compose a 3-5 page comment letter to an agency on a relevant and timely topic.                  | 30% (2% extra credit for submitting to the agency) |

**Discussion topics and reading:** The following is a list of expected topics, subject to change depending on guest lecture availability.

- Introduction to Coastal and Ocean Policy and Management
- California History and Natural Resources Agencies
- Advocacy: The Art of the Comment Letter
- Managing California's State Waters
- California Coastal Commission / Coastal Zone Management and Sea Level Rise
- Ocean Protection Council
- Federal Policy
- The Role of Science and Policy in Marine Protected Areas Management
- Law and Policy
- Ocean Stewardship and Stakeholder Engagement, National Marine Sanctuaries
- Offshore Oil and Gas
- Offshore Wind
- Ocean Stewardship and Stakeholder Engagement, National Marine Sanctuaries
- Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary - Creating a New Sanctuary
- Whales and Shipping, a case study