

Operational Oceanography

The US Commission on Ocean Policy has recommended the creation of an Integrated Ocean Observing System for global and coastal waters (see <http://ioos.gov>). This course will explore the operational requirements for such an observing system, using the Tampa Bay Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (TB-PORTS) and the West Florida Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System (COMPS) as examples (see <http://comps.marine.usf.edu>). This course will provide hands-on experience in set-up, calibration, deployment, operation, and maintenance of real-time, operational ocean observing system instrumentation. Other topics include observing system design, data telemetry, database management, data products (including models), dissemination and distribution of products, end-user outreach, and organization of the IOOS. This course is meant to be a multi-semester, continuing effort. Students will participate in the construction and maintenance of observing system components as opportunities arise. During our regular class meetings, we will work on basic seamanship skills, such as nautical chart plotting and small boat handling. As this is a field-experience course, it will be offered as interest dictates as a recurring, continuing course. Grades will be determined by class participation. Each student will make a presentation summarizing an aspect of operational ocean observing systems. Each student will be required to participate in 4 to 5 field operations, to be scheduled as needed to install or service components of our ocean observing system.