NEW CLIMATE CHANGE STUDIES MINOR

Starting in 2019, Scripps Oceanography will begin offering a minor in climate change studies, the third minor administered by Scripps for undergraduate students.

The Climate Change Studies Minor is designed to help students develop knowledge of climate science, understand the human and social dimensions of climate impacts, and take advantage of opportunities to develop and implement solutions to climate change.

“This minor provides an opportunity for every student in every major across UC San Diego to equip themselves with the tools necessary to combat climate change,” said Sarah-Mae Nelson, a former Scripps Master of Advanced Studies student who helped champion the minor as part of her capstone project.

The curriculum for the minor follows an interdisciplinary approach to tackling climate change, placing emphasis on climate solutions and practical student internships. An intended hallmark of the minor is the practicum requirement, in which students learn about carbon neutrality initiatives and climate change research on campus.

MPL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Since 2005, undergraduate students from universities across the United States have come together at Scripps Oceanography every summer for a ten-week, research-driven internship program coordinated by the Marine Physical Laboratory (MPL).

In summer 2018, MPL welcomed 16 undergraduates to the program. Each student received a stipend and was paired with a principal investigator (PI) with whom they spent ten weeks working in the lab.

Combining hands-on research experience with group activities like a day cruise aboard R/V Robert Gordon Sproul, the MPL internship program goes beyond the typical undergraduate experience by fostering the interns’ curiosity and passions and training today’s students to become tomorrow’s scientists. Read more at: scripps.ucsd.edu/MPLinternship.
BENDING THE CURVE
CURRICULUM EXPANDS TO FIVE UCs

A new undergraduate course on climate change, “Bending the Curve: Climate Change Solutions,” was offered at Scripps Oceanography in 2017, and has now been added to five UC campuses. Pioneered by Scripps Professor Veerabhadran Ramanathan, the interdisciplinary course grew out of University of California’s 2015 groundbreaking report “Bending the Curve: Ten scalable solutions for carbon neutrality and climate stability,” as well as the university’s Carbon Neutrality Initiative, which commits UC to reaching operational carbon neutrality by 2025.

The course is cross-listed between Scripps Oceanography and the Department of Political Science at UC San Diego. Students learn the material prior to classroom discussions by watching online video lectures. This model of instruction engages students in more active learning and provides a richer, more collaborative in-person experience.

“There is no single technology that will solve climate change,” said Ramanathan. “If we want to prepare our students to fight global warming, they need to understand the scientific and the human dimensions of the problem, and we need to give them the tools to address the problem.”

Leaders of “Bending the Curve” are developing a digital textbook for the course and negotiating terms to offer the curriculum beyond campuses in California and the United States. Read more at: scripps.ucsd.edu/bendingthecurve.