

Saddleback College

Vessel Command & Organization

Marine Science Technology 215

Instructor:
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This course is a companion to MST 214B, Advanced Ocean Sailing, in that it provides the command and organization for the lab portions of the course. Class work is concurrent between the two courses. While most students taking MST 215 have taken MST 214B previously, if your experience includes sailing and cruising similar to that of this course you may elect to attempt MST 215 directly.

The subject of command and organization for the purposes of the class is really all about the study of leadership and seamanship. These are two discreet subjects but they are intertwined and a successful cruise requires the effective practice of both. Leadership can be a very individual thing and the purpose here is to make you think about what techniques you use and how effective they are. And if leadership involves How the captain and crew work together, then seamanship involves What the captain and crew do and everything else.

How to Successfully Complete this Class

Your overall grade will be based in equal parts on the following: 1) in the subject area of leadership, completion of 2 midterm papers (item I below); 2) in the subject area of seamanship, attendance and participation at class meetings ashore (item II below); 3) completion of your responsibilities while serving as student skipper on one or more of the cruises (item III below).

- I. Regarding leadership. Completion of 2 midterm papers, one for each cruise, evaluating your leadership experience. There is no minimum or maximum length requirement, but shorter is better so long as in each midterm paper, you evaluate your experience with reference to these issues:
 - a. Overall organization of your crew;
 - b. Specific leadership problems you experienced;
 - c. Specific leadership successes you experienced;
 - d. Relationship between you and the certified boat captain;
 - e. Compare the above with similar situations outside of class, especially experiences with your own crews.
 - f. Using at least one outside reference on leadership principles as it relates to your own ideas, what conclusions do you draw about leadership based on your experiences here?

Your grade on these papers will be based in equal parts on the following:

- 1) Completion of subject matter as outlined above;
- 2) Insight - what did you learn, and what would you do differently?

3) Creativity - aside from the standard best practices of a skipper, what new ideas can you bring forward that would have made the cruise better, safer, faster, and more enjoyable?

II. Regarding Seamanship. Attend and participate in the classroom meetings in which we discuss the various aspects of seamanship and leadership as they apply to our cruises.

Class 1 Jan 14

- Student Rights and Responsibilities
- Review MST 215 Syllabus – How to successfully complete this class
- Review MST 214B Syllabus – Expectations for your crew
- Pre-Cruise Vessel Preparation
- Provisioning & Meal Plans
- Gear and Equipment Recommendations
- Resource Conservation

Class 2 Jan 28

- Leadership in your role as student skipper
- COB Prevention
- COB Rescue

Class 3 Feb 11

- Vessel and Crew General Organization and Safety Procedures
 - Float plan
 - Watch standing and watch schedules
 - Rules for jacklines and harnesses
 - Maintaining visual and radio contact with other vessels
 - Navigation and log entries
- Crew Assignments and Cruise Organization and Provisioning

Trip 1 Feb 16-18 Depart Saturday AM

Class 4 Feb 25

- Trip Review – lessons learned
- Anchoring Essentials
- Navigation Essentials

Class 5 Mar 10

- First Mid-term paper due**
- Route Planning and Weather in the Southern California Bight
- Heavy Weather procedures and options

Class 6 Mar 31

- Common problems: prevention, diagnosis, treatment
 - Sea sickness
 - Overheating engine – gradual, and sudden
 - MSD-Holing tank problems
 - Kelp wrapped on the prop

Class 7 Apr 14

Emergencies and urgent situations: prevention, diagnosis, treatment

Engine failure

Steering failure

Hypothermia

Aground

Dismasting

Fire

Taking on water – gradual and sudden

Class 8 Apr 28

Mark How Lecture

Cruise Organization

Review Student Skipper responsibilities

Crew Assignments and meeting for provisioning and meal plan

Cruise provisioning

Trip 2 May 1-4 Depart Thursday PM**May 5**

Cruise Review

Make up

May 19

Second Mid-term paper due

Your grade for this section will be based on participation during class, and may be improved by taking on extra credit research assignments

Regarding Seamanship

Preparation for the Cruise and Seamanship Underway

- III. Preparation for the Cruise and Seamanship Underway. Below is a list of what the student skipper is responsible for – at a minimum – with assistance as necessary from the boat captain or the instructor.

Pre-cruise boat preparation

Completion of the checklist for your vessel, with particular emphasis on your first hand knowledge of the following:

Adequate fuel level

Inspection of rig, lifelines, and safety equipment.

Location of thru-hulls

How the MSD plumbing works and how to pump out

Fresh water system

Condition and adequacy of ground tackle

Condition and operation of all sail controls and reefing gear

Crew preparation – appropriate gear, adequate gear

Navigation charts and tools

Provisioning

Adherence by crew to cruise policies and procedures outlined in the MST 214 syllabus

Keeping to the planned schedule

Underway

- Staying in sight of class vessels

- Watch schedule

- Watch standing

- Ship's log

- Navigation

- Maintaining communication with other vessels

- Sail handling

- Deciding whether to motor

- Deciding where and how to anchor

Deciding whether to maintain an anchor watch

Completion of crew evaluations

Your grade for this section will be based on the completion of your responsibilities as a student skipper with input from the boat captain.