Integrated Offshore Exploration (C003998)

Valid as from the academic year 2021-2022

Due to Covid 19, the education and evaluation methods may vary from the information displayed in the schedules and course details. Any changes will be communicated on Ufora.

Course Specifications

Course

Lecturers in academic year 2021-2022
Van Rooij, David
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Offered in the following programmes in 2021-2022
Master of Science in Geology
Master of Science in Marine and Lacustrine Science and Management
Exchange programme in Geology (master's level)

Teaching languages
English

Keywords
Drilling and coring techniques, site survey, geophysical borehole logging, seismic profiling, multibeam bathymetry, sidescan sonar, visual seabed mapping

Position of the course
The sampling of sedimentary archives through drilling is a common technique for academic and economical goals, both onshore as offshore. The selection of the target site is taking in account many prerequisites, among which a thorough risk analysis. Therefore, a detailed site survey needs to be carried out. This course will zoom in on all aspects of such a site survey as well as the execution of the drilling, with special attention to the geophysical characterisation of the seafloor and the (shallow) subsurface. The objectives of this course contribute to the skill of unravelling the multidisciplinary and integrated exploration strategies of shallow shelf seas down to continental slopes.

Since this is a practical course, there is a limit to the number of participating students (12 max) due to logistical reasons. Students who have this course as obligatory unit in their major, or students of the Master of Science in Geology, Major Basins & Orogens, will get priority.

Contents
1 Introduction: fundamental scientific and industrial objectives of seafloor research, as well as legal, ethical, logistical and budgetary aspects. Importance of a correct site survey prior to invasive drilling: risk assessment. Aspects of (subsea) navigation.
2 Visual & oceanographic observation techniques: ROV, ADCP, CTD
3 Basic principles and techniques regarding geophysical seafloor mapping: multibeam bathymetry & backscatter, sidescan sonar, AUV.
4 Visual & oceanographic observation techniques: ROV, ADCP, CTD
5 Seismic profiling: single- vs. multichannel seismics. Advanced processing & interpretation
6 3D-4D seismics: acquisition, processing and interpretation (attributes)

(Approved)
7 Sampling techniques: long cores, vibrocoring, drilling
8 Geophysical characterisation of cores and boreholes
9 Integration of drilling and seismics: practical aspects

Initial competences
Bachelor geology and has followed the course of exploration geophysics

Final competences
1 The student has acquired qualities in the drafting of a multidisciplinary offshore exploration strategy.
2 The student is aware of potential technical and environmental risks and can make a risk assessment for a drilling campaign.
3 The student possesses an overview of the most common marine surveying techniques and knows the basic skills for acquisition.
4 The student possesses the basic skills to process a geophysical dataset and to provide a first interpretation.
5 The student can integrate geophysical drilling data into a geophysical seabed survey project.
6 The student is familiar with the technical vocabulary and can report and present the technical results of a survey.

Conditions for credit contract
Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract
This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods
Project, fieldwork, seminar: practical PC room classes, online lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods
• The research activities are interactive in which the active contact between student and lecturer or instructor is central.
• During the fieldwork on board of a hydrographic vessel (VLIZ or Flemish Hydrography) or RHIB Zeekat (VLIZ), shallow geophysical data will be acquired. This also includes a visit to the “Marine Robotics Centre” of the VLIZ in Ostend. The fieldwork will be scheduled ad hoc, but most likely will be carried out during the Easter Holidays.
• The PC-class exercises endeavor to learn the students a set of basic software skills in order to process and present the acquired data. This will be performed using both academic, industrial and self-acquired datasets.
• The project includes a critical interpretation, evaluation and presentation of a technical and scientific dataset of an IODP (or other) drilling project and site survey. This will be concluded in writing a paper and a presentation. The evaluation process will use peer-review among the students.
Because of COVID19 modifications can be applied when necessary.

Learning materials and price
Collection of powerpoint slides and a selection of scientific papers and relevant study material. This material is made available as PDF through the UGent Ufora system.

References

(Approved)

Course content-related study coaching
The study counselling will be directly performed by the lecturers, assisted by post-docs, PhD students and teaching assistants.

Evaluation methods
end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period
Oral examination, assignment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period
Oral examination, assignment

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation
Participation, assignment, skills test, peer assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods
• Non-Periodical Evaluation project: oral presentation and discussion of the project with fellow students
• Non-Periodical Evaluation participation: active participation to the PC-class exercises. Knowledge of the theoretical basic elements during the field work.
• Non-Periodical Evaluation skills test: processing of a geophysical dataset (and first interpretation)
• Periodical Evaluation: the oral examination will interrogate the student about the written part of the project (paper), regarding the content as the aspects of the theory that have been addressed

Calculation of the examination mark
• NPE: active presentation of a project proposal with discussion and (self-)evaluation by lecturer and students (20%), participation (20%), skills test (20%).
• PE: oral exam about the project (20% project, 20% oral)
Unlawful absence during the practical exercises and fieldwork will lead to a total score (theory & practicals) of maximum 7/20, regardless the scores of the theory.
In case of non-participation to the evaluation of one or more parts, one cannot pass for the course. The final score, when higher than 7/20, will be reduced to 7/20.

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