

MET 1010: Introduction to Weather

Spring Term 2009

Syllabus

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Synopsis

The material covered in this class will introduce you to some basic concepts of the physics and the chemistry of the Earth's atmosphere. Upon completion of the class, and provided you study hard, you will have a good understanding of the processes that determine the structure and the dynamics of the terrestrial atmosphere. During the semester we will cover a variety of topics ranging from small-scale atmospheric phenomena to planet-wide weather patterns. We will discuss the role of natural and anthropogenic factors in the global change of the terrestrial climate.

Time and Location

The class will be meeting three times a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3:00 - 3:50 pm (8th period) in the big auditorium (NPB 1001) on the first floor of the New Physics Building (NPB).

Office Hours

Office hours will be held on Mondays from 4:00 - 4:30 pm.

Required Materials

The main textbook for this class is "Meteorology Today" by C. Donald Ahrens, which last year came out with a new, ninth edition. Use older editions at your own risk (see feedback from previous students in the slides of the introductory lecture). The book is accompanied by an optional "Workbook and Study Guide" which has exercises and example problems. The study guide is recommended, but **not** required for the class.

MET 1010 web page

<http://www.phys.ufl.edu/%7Ematchev/MET1010>

The web page will contain information relevant for the class. There you will find the lecture notes, old exams and other study materials. Please check for updates regularly.

Assignments

There will be no homework assignments in this class.

Exams

There will be three in-class midterm exams and one final exam. Each exam will last 50 min and consist of 33 multiple choice questions. Samples of old exams from previous years can be found on the web-page of the class. The dates of the exams have already been announced: **February 16, March 20, April 17** and **April 28**. Since you are allowed to drop one exam score (see grading policy below), **there will be no makeup exams given under any conditions**. If two midterm exams are missed you will be expected to withdraw from the course. You should make sure you show up for the final exam! The final exam carries double weight (see grading policy below), therefore, if you miss the final, your grade in the course will suffer significantly. Your exam scores will be posted on e-Learning as soon as they become available. The professor will not tolerate any questions of the type "Can you tell me what my exam scores are?".

Grading

Your grade will be based entirely on your performance on the exams, with the final exam carrying double weight. You will also be allowed to drop one lowest score among your exams. For example, if your lowest score is on a midterm exam, say M1, then the final grade is made up of the other two midterm scores, M2 and M3, plus twice the final exam score F: $M2+M3+F+F$. If your lowest score is on the final exam, the grade will be determined simply by the sum of the 3 midterm exams and the final exam: $M1+M2+M3+F$. The grades will not be curved. Anyone who scores **80 points or higher on each** of the three midterm exams will be given an A and **will not be required** to take the final exam. A student whose *average* grade on the three midterms is 80 points or above, but who has **at least one midterm score below 80 points, will be required** to take the final. The grading scale is shown in the table below. The left column shows the required percentage score. The middle column shows the corresponding total number of points. (There will be 33 questions on each exam, and each question is worth 3 points, so the maximum number of points on each exam will be 99. Since there are 4 scores entering the final grade calculation, the maximum number of points one can accumulate is $4 \times 99 = 396$.)

Compounded score (in percent)	Compounded score (points total)	Grade
80% and above	317 - 396	A
73% and above	290 - 316	B+
65% and above	258 - 289	B
57% and above	226 - 257	C+
46% and above	183 - 225	C
41% and above	163 - 182	D+
36% and above	143 - 162	D
under 36%	142 or less	E