

ATMS 345
Tropical Meteorology
Fall 2013

Professor : Dr. Chris Hennon
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Office Hours : MW 10:30-11:30, R 11:00 – 12:00 and by appointment

Course Description

The tropical atmosphere is a unique but critically important component of our earth-atmosphere system. It serves as the driving force of the general circulation, creates destructive storms, and alters global weather on many time scales. This course will examine the characteristics and processes of the tropics and how they connect to weather and climate on a global scale.

Class Information

Call Number : 60010
Days and Time : M W F 9 – 9:50 am
Building / Room : RBH 238 (Robinson Hall)

Textbook : *Tropical Meteorology: A First Course*
by C.C. Hennon (Available online and on course page)

Website : Moodle (all course materials, homework, info)

Prerequisites : ATMS 103 (ATMS 305 Atmospheric Thermodynamics and Statics recommended)

Laboratory : None

Grading Information

Your grade in this class is based on three (3) components: exams, homework exercises, and online quizzes. Following is a brief description of each and the weight each carries towards your final grade.

EXAMS (125 points for each midterm x 2 + 200 points for final exam = 450 points)

There will be three examinations during the course. Each midterm will cover material since the previous exam. Exam material will be based off of lecture notes, textbook reading, quizzes, and homework exercises. The final exam will be based on new material (2/3) and old material (1/3). Exams will be graded on a standard scale (in other words, no curving!).

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS (75 points each x 6 assignments = 450 points)

There will be 6 homework assignments during the course. They will usually be more in depth than problems that would appear on an exam, but exam questions will be heavily borrowed from

homework exercises. Except for group homework assignments, you are generally expected to do your own work.

ONLINE QUIZZES (10 points each x 10 quizzes = 100 points)

There will be quizzes during most weeks on the assigned readings in the textbook. Once you begin a quiz, you will have 15 minutes to complete it. The quizzes are designed to determine if you read the assigned pages. You should not have much problem doing well on the quizzes if you had carefully read the text. Quizzes are taken through Moodle online.

Learning Outcomes

UNC Asheville and the Department of Atmospheric Sciences have a number of specific “student learning outcomes” (SLOs), or skills and knowledge that we believe each of you should acquire during your studies here. This relevant ATMS SLOs for this course are possessing:

- accurate scientifically-based conceptual models of atmospheric structure and evolution on multiple spatial and temporal scales,
- an understanding of mathematical devices applied to governing laws that determine the evolution of atmospheric structures,
- an ability to recognize disagreements among scientists – being able to identify points of contention, analyze evidence, and respectfully address differences between competing scientific theories.

Grading Scale

The total points available in the course are 1000. Your final grade will be based on the following scale:

925 – 1000 points	A
900 – 924 points	A-
875 – 899 points	B+
825 – 874 points	B
800 – 824 points	B-
775 – 799 points	C+
725 – 774 points	C
700 – 724 points	C-
675 – 699 points	D+
600 – 674 points	D
< 600 points	F

Make Up Policy

Homework: No make ups. Exercises must be in my possession by the due date/time. Late assignments will be accepted up to 24 hours after the due date/time with a 50% penalty. Assignments will not be accepted for credit more than 24 hours after the due date/time. If you know you will not be there on the due date, turn it in early.

Quizzes: Online quizzes are available for you to take for at least two days. You will not be allowed to make up quizzes. Please remember when quizzes are available so that you can take them on time.

Exams: Barring extraordinary circumstances, make up exams will not be allowed. If you miss an exam for what you believe to be a valid reason, you must provide written documentation in order for me to consider allowing you to make up the exam.

Academic Dishonesty

Please review the procedures outlined in section 8.3 of the UNCA Faculty Handbook that relate to academic dishonesty. Possible outcomes include receiving a zero for the exam or assignment, dismissal from the course, and/or suspension/dismissal from the university.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

University of North Carolina at Asheville is committed to making courses, programs and activities accessible to students with documented disabilities. Students requiring reasonable accommodations must register with the Disability Services Office by providing current diagnostic documentation. All information provided will remain confidential. For more information please contact Joshua Kaufman, Disabilities Coordinator, at [\(828\) 232-5050](tel:8282325050) in the OneStop Student Services center or at <http://www2.unca.edu/disabilityservices/index.asp>

Course Schedule

Please see the Moodle site for a detailed week by week schedule. The course schedule is subject to change. For your reference, the exam dates are tentatively scheduled as:

Exam I : Monday, September 30
Exam II : Monday, November 4
Final Exam : Friday, December 6 (8:00 – 10:30 am)