

**ATMS 350**  
**Weather Forecasting**  
Spring 2014

**Professor** : Dr. Chris Hennon  
**Office** : RRO 236C  
**Phone** : 232-5159  
**Email** : [chennon@unca.edu](mailto:chennon@unca.edu)  
**Office Hours** : Tues. 10-11, Wed. 10-11, Thurs. 2-3, or by appointment

### Course Description

The atmosphere is chaotic, yet increasingly more predictable. Our better understanding of atmospheric physics and the ability to include this understanding into modern numerical weather prediction models has allowed for more accurate forecasts, and for longer forecast lead times.

This course will provide you with a basic understanding of modern atmospheric prediction. Topics include forecasting agencies, forecast tools, numerical weather prediction models, model output statistics, ensemble forecasting, and several hands-on case studies for you to put into practice what is learned. Forecasts will be made that focus on wintertime precipitation, tropical cyclones, severe weather, and daily weather.

### Class Information

Call Number : 10009  
Days and Time : M W F 9:00 – 9:50 am  
Building / Room : RRO 238 (Robinson Hall)

Textbook : Weather Forecasting Handbook (Vazquez)

Website : Moodle  
Prerequisites : ATMS 205

### Grading Information

Your grade for the course will be determined by a combination of three categories:

- 1. Forecast Competition (10%):** Your scores in the 'WxChallenge' forecast competition will be tracked and incorporated into your class grade. Trends in forecast performance and participation (missing forecasts) will be considered.
- 2. Lab Exercises (40%):** Eight lab exercises will be completed throughout the semester. They will generally be due a week after they are passed out.
- 3. Exams (2 Mid-terms (2 x 15%) and Final Exam (20%):** The mid-terms are not cumulative. The final exam is cumulative (covering material from the entire course).

## Grading Scale

Your final grade will be based on the following scale:

92.5 – 100%	A
90 – 92.49%	A-
87.5 – 89.9%	B+
82.5 – 87.49%	B
80 – 82.49%	B-
77.5 – 79.9%	C+
72.5 – 77.49%	C
70 – 72.49%	C-
67.5 – 69.9%	D+
60 – 67.49%	D
< 60%	F

## Learning Outcomes

UNC Asheville and the Department of Atmospheric Sciences have developed a number of “learning outcomes”, or ideas and abilities that we believe you should have when you leave here. This course addresses several of these outcomes, which can be accessed on our department website at <http://www.atms.unca.edu/slos.shtml>.

## Make Up Policy

**Lab Assignments:** Lab assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Assignments may be turned in up to 24 hours late for a 50% penalty. *Homework more than 24 hours late will not be accepted under any circumstances.* If you put homework in my mailbox, please find another faculty member to date/time stamp it. My mailbox is outside of my office in room 236 RRO.

**Exams:** Make up exams will be given only in cases of extraordinary circumstances. You must provide written documentation. I will evaluate each reason on a case by case basis. Make up exams may include an oral section.

## 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 in the OneStop Student Services center or at <http://www2.unca.edu/disabilityservices/index.asp>

## Academic Dishonesty

If you use any form of cheating on an exam or assignment, you will be subject to procedures outlined in section 8.3 of the UNCA Faculty Handbook. Possible outcomes include receiving a zero for the exam or assignment, dismissal from the course, and/or suspension/dismissal from the university.