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April 10, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Graduating Senior in Atmospheric Sciences
FROM: Atmospheric Sciences Faculty
SUBJECT: **Senior Comprehensive Examination – Update**

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced changes to the dates and format of the senior comprehensive exam. This memo describes when and how you will be evaluated.

Major Competency (Written Exam)

The written exam portion will be administered through a closed book Moodle quiz and an open book written examination.

a) Moodle Quiz (40% of total written grade)

All students will take the Moodle quiz at the same time. The quiz will open at **1:00 p.m. on Friday, April 17**. You will begin the quiz by clicking on the “2020 Senior Exam Quiz” link on the ATMS Senior Exam Moodle page. Once you begin the quiz, you will have 60 minutes to answer 50 multiple choice questions. As before, the quiz questions will test your general meteorology comprehension and were taken from required major courses, regardless of concentration. The quiz is designed to be completed without use of notes or other sources. *You are prohibited from using any outside sources to answer questions.* One attempt is allowed.

b) Take home exam (60% of total written grade)

The second section (weighted 60%) will comprise longer, “work ‘em out” type questions that will include two “core” questions taken from common courses and two additional “specialized” questions specific to your concentration. Broadcast and Weather Forecasting students will answer the “Forecasting” questions and Climatology students will answer the “Climatology” questions.

The take home exam will be emailed to you after the completion of the quiz on **Friday, April 17**. Your completed exam must be uploaded to the “2020 Senior Exam Part 2” link by 11:59 p.m. on **Wednesday, April 22**. It is strongly suggested that you answer the questions digitally into the word document and then upload it. Scanned or imaged responses will also be accepted. **Collaboration with others is prohibited and will result in an automatic failure.** A score of 70% or higher is considered passing.

Map Discussions

Map discussions will be conducted through Google Hangouts the morning of **Friday, April 24**. Dr. Miller will assign your Google Hangouts time the week of April 13. Once your time is assigned, you will receive a Google calendar invitation, which will include a link to the session.

Two hours prior to the beginning of the live session, your map viewing time will open. A case study of the maps will be available at <http://blizzard.atms.unca.edu/~cgodfrey/atms/mapdis/mystudentID>, where 'mystudentID' is your Banner ID number. This URL will allow you to view the relevant weather maps for two hours. Prepare your PowerPoint presentation.

At the map discussion time, click on the invitation link to join the session with the ATMS faculty. As before, your presentation is limited to fifteen (15) minutes plus necessary time for questions. A score of 70% or higher is considered passing.

If there are any technical challenges to preparing your presentation or having a reliable Internet connection to join a Google Hangouts session, please notify Dr. Miller as soon as possible. An alternative plan for presenting your map discussion will be offered.

Examination Retakes

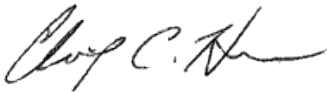
If a grade of less than 70% is received for the written exam, you will have one opportunity to retake the exam. Arrangements will be made with ATMS faculty for the date, time, and nature of the retake exam.

If a grade of less than 70% is received for the map discussion, you will have one more opportunity to achieve a passing score. The make-up map discussion will be scheduled with a new case study.

A second failure in the written or oral portions of the senior exam will prevent you from graduating in spring 2020. You will be required to register (with associated registration fees) for the summer 2020 term so that you may attempt to satisfy the senior competency.

Please do not hesitate to ask questions or seek clarification. And thank you for persisting in your hard work in this difficult time!

Regards,



Dr. Chris Hennon
Professor and Chair, ATMS

Dr. Alex Huang
Professor, ATMS

Dr. Doug Miller
Professor, ATMS

Dr. Chris Godfrey
Professor, ATMS