

ATMS 373
Tropical Meteorology
Fall 2006

Professor : Dr. Chris Hennon
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Office Hours: MW 2:45 – 4:00, T 10:00 – 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 : 10213
Days and Time : M W F 12:45 – 1:35 pm
Building / Room : RBH 238 (Robinson Hall)

Textbook : *Tropical Meteorology: A First Course*
by C.C. Hennon (Available at UNCA Bookstore)

Website : <http://facstaff.unca.edu/chennon/classes/atms373.html>

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

Laboratory : None

Grading Information

Your grade in this class is based on four (4) components: exams, homework exercises, weather briefings, and project. Following is a brief description of each and the weight each carries towards your final grade.

EXAMS (10% each x 3)

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, and homework exercises. The final exam is not cumulative. Exams will be graded on a standard scale.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS (30%)

There will be approximately 8 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.

CLASS PROJECT (30%)

You are required to read, critique, and present a professional journal article. You will choose from a list of papers. This list and other details will be discussed more as the course progresses.

TROPICAL WEATHER BRIEFINGS (10%)

You will prepare and present two (2) daily tropical weather briefings for the class. I will do the briefings for the first two weeks. Your briefing should focus on Atlantic tropical activity, although you should feel free to look at other areas or topics of interest (e.g. ENSO). More information will be handed out during class.

Grading Scale

Your final grade will be based on the following scale:

87 – 89%	B+	92 – 100%	A	90 – 92%	A-
77 – 79%	C+	82 – 86%	B	80 – 82%	B-
67 – 69%	D+	72 – 76%	C	70 – 72%	C-
		60 – 66%	D		
		< 60%	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.

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.

Course Schedule

Please see the website 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: September 29
Exam II: November 6
Final Exam: TBD