

ATMS 373
Tropical Meteorology
Fall 2008

Professor : Dr. Chris Hennon
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Office Hours: W 2:45 – 4:00, TR 1:45 – 3:00 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 : 10613
Days and Time : M W F 1:45 – 2:35 pm
Building / Room : RBH 238 (Robinson Hall)

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

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 five (5) components: exams, homework exercises, weather briefings, online quizzes on the reading, and a project. Following is a brief description of each and the weight each carries towards your final grade.

EXAMS (60 points for each midterm, 100 point for final exam)

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 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 (20 points each x 6 assignments)

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.

TROPICAL WEATHER BRIEFINGS (20 points for first briefing, 30 points for second)

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 (e.g. EPAC, Indian Ocean) or topics of interest (e.g. ENSO). More information will be handed out during class.

ONLINE QUIZZES (5 points each x 10 quizzes)

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.

CLASS PROJECT (60 points)

You are required to read and critique a professional journal article that deals with a topic in tropical meteorology. You will choose from a list of papers. This list and other details will be discussed more as the course progresses.

Grading Scale

The total points available in the course are 500. Your final grade will be based on the following scale:

460 – 500 points	A
450 – 459 points	A-
435 – 449 points	B+
410 – 434 points	B
400 – 409 points	B-
385 – 399 points	C+
360 – 384 points	C
350 – 359 points	C-
335 – 349 points	D+
300 – 334 points	D
< 300 points	F

There will not be extra credit opportunities available during the semester.

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.

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: Wednesday, September 24

Exam II: Wednesday, October 29

Final Exam: **Monday, December 15 (11:30 am – 2:00 pm)**