

# GEO3250 : CLIMATOLOGY

Dr. Corene Matyas

Spring 2008

## Office Hours

Mondays 9:30-10:30 AM and 2:00-3:00 PM, Wednesdays 9:30-10:30 AM, and by appointment

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Note: For best results – utilize office hours. If you are having trouble with the course, come and see me so that I can help you! Do not wait until mid-semester.

PREREQUISITE: MET1010, GEO2200, GEO2242, or permission

## Course Information

Climatology can be defined as the study of long-term trends in the weather, but this course emphasizes a much more in depth examination of the discipline. **It is assumed that you have a basic understanding of meteorological concepts** such as the difference between high and low pressure systems and the type of weather associated with each. Building upon this foundation, you will develop your communication skills along with your knowledge of climatology through various in-class discussions, small group activities, and individual assignments. Your goal is to develop an awareness of your physical environment as it relates to climatology so that you can apply knowledge gained from this course in “the real world.”

## Required Textbook

Climatology: An Atmospheric Science second edition by Oliver and Hidore

## Grades and Grading Scale

3 Exams @ 20% each Homework exercises: 20% Video reaction papers: 10% Debate: 10%

A: 90.0 % and above    B+: 85.0 – 89.9%    B: 80.0-84.9%    C+: 75.0-79.9%    C: 70.0-74.9%  
D+: 65.0-69.9%    D: 60.0-64.9%    E: less than 60.0%

Grades will be posted to WebCT. It is your responsibility to know your current grade in the class.

## Exams

Three exams will be given during the semester. The first two exams are not cumulative; the final exam is cumulative and will be taken during the last day of classes (April 23). Unless official documentation of an absence is presented (Doctor’s note, police report), **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS** will be permitted! You have the option of writing a paper in lieu of taking the final exam. Specific details on the paper will follow, but an outline is due February 25, and the final paper is due on the last day of class April 23.

## Homework Exercises, Reaction Papers, and Debates

Several laboratory exercises will be assigned to help you work through the concepts presented in this class. Due dates will be announced in class. We will also view 2 videos: you will write a reaction paper for each video. The format and information to be included in these papers will be detailed on a separate handout. You will submit your reaction papers to WebCT. We will also hold debates towards the end of the semester. You will be divided into teams and assigned a topic to research. Verbal participation in the debate is mandatory to receive full credit for the project. Specific details will be covered in a separate handout.

## **Disability Statement**

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. This office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Please provide this documentation to me as soon as possible.

## **WebCT Vista Information**

This syllabus, powerpoint files of lectures, and grades will be posted on the WebCT Vista course management system webpage. Access this page at <http://lss.at.ufl.edu>

If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to learn the material covered during your absence. You are advised to check Vista at least once per week to verify that week's activities and any announcements. Remember that email sent through Vista IS NOT sent to your gatorlink account – you must log onto Vista to receive these messages. I also encourage students to email each other through Vista to discuss group projects, help each other with difficult concepts, etc. However, please email me using the address listed on the syllabus. I do not regularly monitor email received through Vista.

## **Academic Honesty**

You are bound by the student academic honor code.

“We, the members of the University of Florida Community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”

“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

The first case of academic dishonesty will receive a grade of zero for the assignment or exam. A second offense will result in a report to the appropriate student body.

## **Attendance and Proper Conduct**

Attendance will not be regularly taken, however, your performance in this course will suffer if you do not attend class regularly. Please come to class ready to learn – bring questions to each class. Turn off cell phones, put away newspapers, and refrain from casual conversation once class begins. If you have a question – please raise your hand and ask rather than disturb your neighbor.

## **Lecture Topics:**

Introduction

Solar Radiation and Global Energy Budget

Atmospheric Moisture, Stability, and Precipitation

Atmospheric Circulation and the Physical Laws of Climatology

Mesoscale and Synoptic Scale Weather Systems

Climate Classification

Atmospheric Teleconnections

Climate Modification and Climate Change

## **Important Dates:**

January 21 – No Class Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 23 - video reaction paper due on WebCT

February 20 – Exam 1

March 10-14 No Class – Spring Break

April 2 - Exam 2

April 7 and 9 – in-class debates (you must attend both sessions)

April 18 – video reaction paper due on WebCT

April 23 – Last day of class – Final Exam/ Paper due