

# GEOGRAPHY 2242: EXTREME WEATHER

Dr. Corene Matyas      MWF Period 7 101 LIT      Fall 2008

## Office Hours

Mon/Wed 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Fridays 9:30-10:30 AM, other times BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

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Note: do not expect an immediate response via email! For best results – utilize office hours. If you are having trouble with the course, come and see me sooner rather than later so that I can help you. Please don't wait!!!!

## Course Information

This course covers introductory information about Earth's atmosphere, weather development, and extreme weather events. To understand the destructive power of a hurricane, you must first have a basic understanding of why and how it forms. In other words, this is a "science" course, although a background in calculus, chemistry, or physics is not required. This course will help you understand the weather outside your window everyday, and can serve as a springboard towards more advanced coursework in weather and climate. Enrollment in this course acknowledges your acceptance of the information contained within this syllabus.

## Required Books

The Atmosphere by Lutgens and Tarbuck 10<sup>th</sup> Edition

(previous editions okay – seek the relevant concepts and their corresponding chapter numbers)

Freaks of the Storm by Randy Cerveny

Course notes are available on WebCT and a course pack of notes is available at Target Copy (optional)

## Grades and Grading Scale

4 exams at 22% each, 3 "Freaks" book quizzes totaling 12%

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%

It is your responsibility to know your current grade. Grades will be posted to the WebCT Vista course website.

## Exams

As this is a large class, exams will comprise the majority of your course grade. Four exams will be given that cover the material since the previous exam. The final exam, which will take place on the last day of class December 10, is cumulative and optional! You can use this exam to replace your lowest score on the previous 4 exams. All exams are closed book and take place in our normal classroom at normal class time. If you arrive more than **10 minutes late for an exam**, or after the first person has exited the exam room (whichever comes first, **you will not be permitted to take the exam**. Unless official documentation of an absence is presented (Doctor's note, police report), NO MAKE-UP EXAMS will be permitted!

## Note Pertaining to University Closures

Should the University close on a day when an in-class exam is scheduled, the exam will be taken on the next day that class is held. (Just in case extreme weather strikes Gainesville!)

## Quizzes/ Book Discussion

We will be covering the chapters in "Freaks" that correspond to lecture topics, not in the order that they are presented in the book. Quizzes will be available for you to take for each chapter to demonstrate that you have read the chapter. Your best 3 quizzes will count towards your grade. Note that you do not have to take all quizzes available, but **must take a minimum of 3** to receive an overall quiz grade.

## WebCT Vista Information

This syllabus, announcements concerning quizzes and exams, some lecture content, grades, and other course information 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. Come see me if you have questions. I also encourage students to email each other through Vista to help each other with difficult concepts. This email IS NOT sent to your gatorlink account – you must log onto Vista to receive these messages.

## 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. Please provide this documentation to me as soon as possible, and a minimum of one week before a quiz or exam.

## 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 is likely to suffer if you do not attend 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. You are responsible for any announcements that are made during class.

## Commercial Notes Warning

In the event that notes are sold for this course, be forewarned that I recognize only my own notes and information verified in a textbook as correct.

## Lecture Topics:

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| 1. Atmospheric Composition             | 8. Air Masses                          |
| 2. Earth-Sun Relationships and Heating | 9. Weather Systems                     |
| 3. Temperature                         | 10. Thunderstorms and Tornadoes        |
| 4. Moisture and Stability              | 11. Hurricanes                         |
| 5. Precipitation                       | 12. El Nino Southern Oscillation       |
| 6. Air Pressure and Wind               | 13. Focus on Florida (time permitting) |
| 7. Atmospheric Circulation             |  |

## Important Dates:

September 1 – No Class Labor Day

September 17 – Exam 1

October 8 – Exam 2

October 24 – No Class Homecoming

October 31 – Exam 3

November 21 – Exam 4

November 26&28 - No Class Thanksgiving

FINAL EXAM: Last Day of Classes December 10, normal class time