

MET4532: HURRICANES

Dr. Corene Matyas

MWF Period 4 in 3006 Turlington

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 both meteorological and climatological concepts related to tropical cyclones (TCs). We will use current TC activity to develop an understanding of these weather systems. We will also focus on hazards associated with these storms and their socioeconomic effects, both locally and globally. It is assumed that you have a basic understanding of meteorological concepts such as the difference between high and low pressure systems and how clouds and thunderstorms develop. Please note that your enrollment in this course acknowledges your acceptance of the information contained within this syllabus.

Required Textbooks

Hurricanes of the North Atlantic: Climate and Society by Elsner and Kara (1999)

Suggested Textbook (for reference of terminology, etc) any meteorology textbook

Grades and Grading Scale

Midterm 20%, Forecasting 10%, Prolific TC Quiz/Presentation 10% Maps Discussion 10%,
Research Project 20%, Participation/Discussions 10%, Final Project 20%

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 in the class. Grades will be posted to the WebCT Vista course website.

Forecasting

The class will be divided into teams that will work together to forecast formation, tracks, and storm intensity when the Atlantic basin is active. You will submit your forecasts on WebCT using the Excel sheets that I provide. They are due by the end of class on the day when forecasting occurs. Due to the uncertain nature of tropical cyclones, it is not possible to determine how many forecasts we will submit during the semester.

Maps Discussion

The National Hurricane Center holds a daily maps discussion at 1:00 PM. The head forecaster presents a briefing on current TCs and regions of possible development. We will echo this format. Each student will give a briefing that includes satellite imagery, track locations, model predictions, and the NHC discussion. Specific information to include in your discussion will be presented on a separate handout.

Midterm Exam/ Prolific TC Quiz

The midterm exam will be held during normal class time on Friday October 29. Unless official documentation of an absence is presented (Doctor's note, police report), NO MAKE-UP EXAMS will be permitted! There will also be a quiz on information students have researched on prolific TCs to strike the U.S. This quiz will take place in the latter half of the semester, specific date to be announced.

Participation/Discussions

Throughout the semester, you will be asked to participate in such activities as quizzing your classmates to be sure they have read the lecture material or to review for the midterm, leading discussions, and participating in discussions. If you contribute to these activities, this will be an easy way to earn full credit for 10% of your grade. Those who choose not to participate, who do not regularly attending class, or who do not complete assignments will be penalized.

WebCT Vista Information

This syllabus, announcements, copies of handouts, 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. You are advised to check Vista at least once per week to verify that week's activities and any announcements about upcoming quizzes, projects, etc. I may also send out email reminders about important events through Vista – this email IS NOT sent to your gatorlink account. Many of your assignments will be submitted through WebCT.

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.

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."

You are encouraged to work together on projects, but all assignments must represent your work and be written in your words. 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

Your performance in this course, and participation grade, will likely suffer if you do not attend class regularly. We will be utilizing the computers in TUR 3006 – please keep all foods and beverages away from areas where computers are being used. Remember to turn off cell phones, and please refrain from conversation while the Instructor is talking.

Lecture Topics

Introduction of Terminology
Formation and Motion
Forecasting
Global Climatology
Seasonal Prediction
Hazards at Landfall
Prolific TCs

Important Dates

September 1 – No Class Labor Day
October 25 – No Class Homecoming
October 29 – Midterm Exam
November 26&28 - No Class Thanksgiving
December 10 – Last Day of Class – final projects
due by 4:00 PM