

GEO3250 CLIMATOLOGY

3 CREDIT HOURS

SPRING 2018

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Corene Matyas matyas@ufl.edu (Please email via Canvas)

3119 Turlington Hall (352) 294-7508 *ufgeog* – Skype

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday 9:30-10:30 am, Thursday 1:30-2:30 pm; by advance appointment (24 hours notice minimum) (business hours only - no evenings or weekends)

COURSE WEBSITE: <http://lss.at.ufl.edu>

Course Communications:

First, let me say that I was asked to design a rigorous course with lectures, textbook readings, and a variety of assignments that include group and solo work. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges provides this federal definition of a credit hour: A credit hour is the amount of work represented in “not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a **minimum** of two hours out of class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit ...” This is a 3-credit course, so expect to put in up to 9 hours of work each week. This course is NOT an “easy A”.

You WILL have questions! Each week’s module has a discussion board. First, read through other posts to see if your question has been answered. Second, if not, post your question. Third, read through and answer questions of other students. If your grade is within 1% of the next category at the end of the semester, send me an email and I will check to see how many times you answered questions of other students on the weekly discussion boards. Frequent participation via answering questions may earn you the extra 1% necessary to raise your grade. The instructor will not respond to every post, and will not respond on the weekends. Therefore, you MUST start early and not wait until the due date. Also, there are homework assignments that require you to participate in your GROUP discussion board. This is a separate post from any general questions that you may post to the whole class on the weekly discussion boards.

If no one has answered your question or you need to speak to me about your grade, please email me via Canvas with a time(s) when we can connect on Skype or via telephone and I will confirm. Please include a bulleted list of topics that you need to discuss. I cannot answer detailed questions via typing. I cannot return long distance phone calls as it costs our department too much money, and I am not available evenings or weekends. I reserve the right to limit the number of hours I spend responding to student inquiries each week.

I will send out invites to the Canvas Conference tool. These sessions will be recorded. However, if no one logs in, I will stop recording until someone does. There is no point in listening to me cough and sneeze for an hour! If you cannot attend live, please submit questions on the discussion board as I will review and answer these.

The KEYS to your success are 1) good time management skills, 2) familiarity with prerequisite concepts, 3) good attitude about pursuing and overcoming challenges, and 4) regular participation via discussion boards and video conferences. Download the homework and skim it over before watching the intro video each week. In the video, I spend several minutes going over the homework and provide tips to help you achieve success. Follow along with the homework in front of you and if something doesn't make sense, make a note of it and post your question to the discussion board right away. That gives me the maximum amount of time to help you. Here is what NOT to do: wait until 11:00 pm to start an assignment due at 11:59 pm. No one is available to help if you have questions! I recommend watching the videos before reading the textbook as the videos provide background material.

Also, I will review via audio most frequently missed questions each week. As this course builds upon previous weeks' information, it is important to understand the material. So please take the time to listen to the audio posts and also to read feedback on assignments that I've made using the crocodoc tool in Canvas.

REQUIRED TEXT: Climatology (3rd edition) by Rohli and Vega isbn: 978-1-284-03230-7

Printer/scanner for homework assignments and exam diagrams, zip images together into one file for upload, use Microsoft Office (word, excel, powerpoint), ability to record presentation for debates project

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: phone or microphone on computer to communicate with instructor, ability to use drawing tools in MS Word for diagrams on exams, making data tables and using formulas in MS Excel, making presentations in MS PowerPoint

COURSE DESCRIPTION: *Credits: 3; Prereq: introductory atmospheric science or physical geography course, or instructor permission.* Acceptable courses are MET1010, GEO2242, GEO2200

Genesis of regional climates and their global distribution. Emphasis on world regional climatology. Secondary topics include applied climatology and climate change. (P)

PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS: Material from prerequisite courses.

This is an upper-level course, not an introductory course. We will NOT cover basic fundamentals of atmospheric science such as the difference between high and low pressure systems, the type of weather associated with each, and how a cloud forms. Instead, we will focus on the components of the climate system, how energy moves through the climate system, and how the climate system changes over space and time. You must be willing to put in extra time on your own to research and understand terminology or processes that are the foundations upon which this course is built. Please do not expect me to tutor you in the prerequisite knowledge.

PURPOSE OF COURSE: Climate change is a “hot” topic today. This course will provide you with a scientific understanding of the climate system and the processes that operate through it. Your goal is to develop an awareness of your physical environment as it relates to climatology so that you can apply knowledge gained in the real world. Students enroll in this course from a variety of majors: Engineering, Environmental Science, Journalism, Business, Sociology, English, Geological Sciences, Chemistry, and of course Geography among others. Many students tell me they take the course because they “love the weather.” This course will challenge you to communicate scientific information to these students majoring across the physical and social sciences and humanities. It also qualifies for undergraduate and graduate certificates.

COURSE GOALS AND/OR OBJECTIVES: *By the end of this course, students will:*

- Define the field of climatology and components of the climate system
- Recount the limitations of observational data both currently and in the past
- Describe where energy comes from and trace its movement through the climate system
- Analyze the controls of the climate system and detail how they work
- Compare and contrast atmospheric conditions differ in the tropics and the extratropics
- Illustrate why and how the climate system changes over time
- Represent processes and energy flows through diagrams and symbology commonly used by atmospheric scientists

HOW THIS COURSE RELATES TO THE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THE CERTIFICATE IN METEOROLOGY AND CLIMATOLOGY (UNDERGRAD)

Content: Students will know the atmosphere from a geographic perspective from both meteorological and climatological time scales.

Critical Thinking: Students will analyze information relevant to climatology and meteorology and apply interpretation of data toward problem solving.

Communication: Students will interpret and effectively communicate information relevant to meteorology and climatology.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:

Weeks 1-7 feature textbook readings and video lectures that expand upon the readings, or emphasize material not covered in the book. This half of the course provides the foundation that you will need to be successful in

the second part of the course. Video lectures do NOT repeat content in the textbook – rather they provide recaps of prerequisite knowledge to help understand the book.

Weeks 8-13 have textbook readings but do not have accompanying lectures- the second part of the course focuses on applying what you learned in the first half. The book covers the material that you need to know, therefore no additional lectures are needed. In lieu of lectures and associated quizzes, you will undertake a research project on a topic that is voted upon by the class.

COURSE POLICIES:

ATTENDANCE POLICY: *You must log into Canvas regularly to participate in this course. Logging in once per week will NOT be sufficient. No specific points towards the grade are reserved solely for your virtual attendance. Students who withdraw from the course must do so according to the UF deadlines. No students will be automatically dropped from the course.*

QUIZ/EXAM POLICY: *Textbook and Lecture quizzes have with a mix of multiple choice, true/false, and fill in the blank questions. These are open book/open note but you should NOT work with anyone else. Midterm and final exams are closed book/notes and you should NOT work with anyone else. Exams will have sections for me to hand grade – you will need to either 1) use drawing tools in MS Word and type in answers where required, or 2) download the worksheets, fill them in, then scan and upload before the time expires. Please allow a minimum of 3 days after the due date for grades to become available. You have one week after grades are released to arrange a time discuss results with the instructor. If you request a regrade, your score may go up or down. Regrades must be requested within one week of the grades being available.*

MAKE-UP POLICY: *No late homework will be accepted as you have one week to work on each assignment. Please budget your time well. Unless official documentation of an absence is presented (police report, ticket number from IT), NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES or EXAMS will be permitted. Quizzes and exams open and close at scheduled times. Once closed, they will not be reopened so please plan your schedule accordingly. Do not wait until the last hour before it is due!*

ASSIGNMENT POLICY: *Due dates for assignments are listed on Canvas. Late assignments will NOT be accepted – please submit before the due date each week. Rubrics for applicable homework assignments are available on the assignment's page in Canvas. You will work in groups for some assignments, and work individually on others. You must ALWAYS turn in your own work, else you are guilty of an honor code violation. Some assignments are assessed through homework quizzes. You MUST have your completed homework assignment handy and use your answers to answer the quiz questions. Please allow a minimum of 3 days after the due date for grades to become available. You have one week after grades are released to arrange a time discuss results with the instructor. You have one week after grades are released to arrange a time discuss results with the instructor. If you request a regrade, your score may go up or down. Regrades must be requested within one week of the grades being available.*

COURSE TECHNOLOGY: *You will be watching lecture videos for the first half of the class. You will need to record yourself giving a PowerPoint presentation for the debates project. You will also need to download homework assignments and in some cases, hand-write information and scan or take a photo of your results and upload to Canvas for me to hand-grade. We will use the Conference tool in Canvas for review sessions prior to the midterm and final exams.*

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

UF POLICIES:

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. A minimum of one week is needed for the instructor to find ways to provide the accommodation. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php>. Each suspected honor code violation will be reported to the Dean of Students Office.

NETIQUETTE: COMMUNICATION COURTESY: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, discussion posts and chats. First instance of improper behavior will receive a warning. Subsequent instances may result in a lowering of the course grade. [See Sample Netiquette Document](#)

COURSE EVALUATIONS: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

GETTING HELP:

For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- Learning-support@ufl.edu

- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints> to submit a complaint.

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

GRADING POLICIES:

| Assignment | Percentage |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Homework Assignments | 35 |
| Textbook Chapter Quizzes | 20 |

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|-----------------|----|
| Lecture Quizzes | 15 |
| Midterm Exam | 10 |
| Final Exam | 10 |
| Debates Project | 10 |

GRADING SCALE:

A: 93% +
 A-: <93% to 90%
 B+: <90% to 87%
 B: <87% to 83 %
 B-: <83% to 80%
 C+: <80% to 77%
 C: <77% - 73%
 C- : <73% to 70%
 D+: <70% to 67%
 D: <67% to 63%
 D- : <63% to 60%
 E: < 60%

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Module 1: Introduction to the Climate System
 Module 2: Radiation and Atmospheric Structure
 Module 3: Energy
 Module 4: Controls on the Climate System
 Module 5: Diurnal Cycle, Moisture, and Stability
 Module 6: Precipitation and Water Balance
 Module 7: Primary and Secondary Circulations
Midterm Exam: Week 8
Spring Break: Week 9
 Module 8: Climate Classification
 Module 9: Climate Change and Variability

Module 10: Anthropogenic Climate Change

Module 11: Interactions with Other Spheres

Module 12: Extratropical Northern Hemisphere Climates

Module 13: Tropical and Southern Hemisphere Climates

April 6: Upload Debate Video to Canvas

Weeks 14-15: View, comment on, and take quizzes for debate assignment

Final Exam: Week 16

Specific assignment due dates are available under the syllabus link in Canvas

INFORMATION ON CERTIFICATES:

So long as you receive a grade of B- or higher, this course counts as 25% of the credits needed for the undergraduate certificate: Meteorology and Climatology, or 33% of the credits needed for the graduate certificate Applied Atmospheric Science. If you are interested in pursuing the certificate, you can apply by going to <http://admissions.ufl.edu/start.html> and scrolling down to the section for CERTIFICATE. There is no charge to apply if you are already a UF student. If you have applied but don't see that you are enrolled in the certificate, please email me as the Certificate Coordinator so I can check into the problem. I have uploaded fliers to Canvas that list all certificate courses.

Disclaimer: This syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.