GEO 2242: Extreme Weather  Section 1297

David Keellings  MWF Period 4 (10:40-11:30)  L011 Turlington  Fall 2013

Office Hours
M/W 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm, other times **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**
Office: 3205 Turlington Hall (3rd floor in Geography Dept.)
email: nessie@ufl.edu  phone: (352) 294-7514
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.

Course Information
This course covers introductory information about Earth’s atmosphere, weather development, and extreme weather events. To understand the destructive power of weather events, you must first have a basic understanding of why and how they form. 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. Students will be introduced to basic concepts of the science of weather and climate and current scientific developments in areas such as extreme weather forecasting and global climate change.

Recommended Books
Extreme Weather & Climate by Ahrens and Samson

Course pack from Target Copy, included within the course pack are lecture notes, vocabulary lists, and study questions.

Grades and Grading Scale
4 exams at 25% each

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It is your responsibility to know your current grade. Grades will be posted to the Sakai (E-learning) course website. For current UF grading policies please consult the undergraduate catalog: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx)

Exams
As this is a large class, exams will be used to evaluate your proficiency in the course material. Four exams will be given that cover the material since the previous exam. Unless official documentation of an absence is presented (Doctor’s note, police report), NO MAKE-UP EXAMS will be permitted.
All exams are closed book and take place in our normal classroom at normal class time. If you arrive more than 15 minutes late for an exam, or after the first person has exited the room (whichever comes first) you will not be permitted to take the exam.

Extra Credit
Extra credit may be made available. Further details will be available about the extra credit later in the semester.

Note Pertaining to University Closure
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!

Sakai Course Website Information
This syllabus, announcements concerning exams, some lecture content, grades, and other course information will be posted on Sakai course management system webpage on e-Learning Support Services. 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 any questions. I also encourage students to email each other through Sakai to help each other with difficult concepts. These emails ARE NOT sent to your gatorlink account – you must log onto Sakai to receive these messages.

Also if you have any questions regarding lecture content feel free to post in the Sakai discussion board. For every topic I will start a discussion board for students to interact, study, and ask questions. I will look over the discussion board several times a week and post answers to questions.

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 an 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 exam. A second offense will result in a report to the appropriate student body.

Attendance and Proper Conduct
I have no policy of mandatory attendance. You are all adults and can decide to come to class or not. But you are also the only person responsible for attaining the grade you want. When you enter the lecture room you are doing so of your own will, not because you are being forced to. When you make the choice you are also agreeing to show respect to your fellow students by allowing them to hear the lecture materials without having to compete with background chit-chat. Turn off cell phones, put away newspapers, and refrain from casual conversation once class begins. If you have a question – please raise your hand or ask at the end of class.
Course Evaluation
Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online 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.

Lecture Topics

Topic
1. Atmospheric Composition
2. Earth-Sun Relationship
3. Temperature
4. Moisture and Atmospheric Stability
5. Forms of Condensation and Precipitation
6. Air Pressure and Circulation
7. Air Masses
8. Weather Systems
9. Thunderstorms
10. Tornadoes
11. Hurricanes
12. Most Notable Hurricanes
13. Regional Tropical Circulations (Monsoon, ENSO)
14. Heat Waves
15. Climate Change

Important Dates

Exam 1: Wednesday, September 11th
Exam 2: Wednesday, October 9th
Exam 3: Wednesday, November 6th
Exam 4: Wednesday, December 4th

NO CLASS
Labor Day: September 2nd
Homecoming: November 8th
Veterans Day: November 11th
Professor at Conference: November 25th
Thanksgiving: November 27th - 30th

NOTE: DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. THIS IS A TENTATIVE OUTLINE OF EXAM DATES FOR THE SEMESTER.