Dr. Corene Matyas       Fall 2013

Office Hours
Monday Per 7, Wednesday Per 2, Thursday Per 7  other times BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
Office: 3119 Turlington Hall    email: matyas@ufl.edu but please ONLY use SAKAI    phone: 294-7508
Notes: do not expect an immediate response to your message. I CANNOT return long distance calls – use Sakai.
When composing your message in Sakai, check the box (Send CC) that will send a copy to my regular email so
that I am notified that a new message is waiting for me on Sakai.

Course Information
Atmospheric teleconnections are recurring and persistent, large-scale patterns of pressure and circulation
anomalies. They can oscillate over periods of several weeks to decades and can influence temperature, rainfall,
storm tracks, and jet stream location/ intensity over vast areas. Often, they are responsible for abnormal weather
occurring at the same time but in different locations across the globe. Our goal is to examine teleconnections in
northern and southern hemispheres to learn how each pattern was discovered, how the index that characterizes
the phase of each teleconnection is calculated, where the centers of action occur, and the types of weather
associated with the different phases. This course will increase your understanding of global weather patterns.

No Required Textbook: Weekly readings will be posted to Sakai.
Tools: Bring a flash drive or similar portable storage device to EVERY class to save your work

Grades and Grading Scale
Weekly Topics Quizzes: 40%   2 In-class presentations 15% each   Final Project: 20%
Sakai discussion postings/ in-class discussions 10%

A:  92.5 % +      A-: 89.5 - 92.4 %      B+: 86.5 - 89.4%      B: 82.5 - 86.4%      B-: 79.5 – 82.4%
C+: 76.5 - 79.4%      C: 72.5 - 76.4%      C- : 69.5 – 72.4%      D+: 66.5 - 69.4%      D: 62.5 - 66.4%
D- : 59.5 – 62.4%      E: < 59.5%

It is your responsibility to know your current grade. Grades will be posted to Sakai. Information pertaining
to UF grading policies can be found here: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Lectures, Readings, and Class Discussions
After reviewing basic atmospheric circulation and associated data, we will spend one week on each
teleconnection. During Monday’s class, I will give an overview presentation of the important details you should
know about each teleconnection and we will discuss readings that I have posted to Sakai. Nine days later during
Wednesday’s class, students will present readings that they have selected, conduct a data analysis exercise, and
submit to me quiz questions based on the material they have presented. Students must work together to present
their teleconnection as a whole and each student must present one article on their own. Groups will meet with
me on the Wednesday prior to their presentation to discuss the material they have collected so far and ask
questions so that their presentation runs smoothly. Readings must be uploaded to Sakai at this time. You will
receive time on Wednesdays to work with your group in class but do expect to spend time out of class on
preparation as well. You will participate both in class and online through Sakai discussion boards each week.
You will participate in the delivery of 2 teleconnections. An outline of the questions the group will ask and
points each student will emphasize during the presentation must be uploaded prior to the start of class on the
day of the presentation.
Quizzes
Weekly topics quizzes will be available on Sakai following the discussion of each teleconnection. Quizzes will draw several questions from a pool in randomized order and can only be taken once. An email notification of quiz availability and due dates will be sent to all students through Sakai. Please retain this email as a reminder for when quizzes will be active. Open for at least 1 week, once quizzes close, they will not be re-opened. Ten quizzes will factor into your grade. It is NOT permissible to take the quiz along with other students or to work together to answer quiz questions.

Research Project
Graduate students will complete an individual research project utilizing data from at least one teleconnection that we discussed in class. You must meet with me prior to the deadline for turning in your outline so that we can agree on your research topic and methods. You will deliver your results via a research paper and an in-class presentation during the last week of class. There is no final exam for this course. More information will be distributed on a separate handout.

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 help each other with projects, but you must turn in your own work. All suspected cases of honor code violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office and actions such as receiving a zero for the assignment, lowering of the course grade by one letter, and/or other penalties will be assigned.

Sakai
This syllabus, announcements, copies of handouts, grades, and other course information will be posted on Sakai. 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 Sakai frequently to verify that week’s activities and any announcements about upcoming quizzes, projects, etc. I may also post announcements to Sakai, and many of your assignments will be submitted through this website.

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 1 week before a quiz or exam.

Attendance and Proper Conduct
Although attendance will be note regularly taken, your performance in this course will suffer if you do not attend class regularly. We will be utilizing the computers in TUR 3018 – please keep all foods and beverages away from areas where computers are being used. DO NOT save anything to the hard drive of the computer! It may be erased as soon as you log off. Remember to turn off cell phones, and please refrain from casual conversation once class begins. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx.

Online Course Evaluations
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
- Review of basic atmospheric circulation and associated data
- Introduction to teleconnections
- El Nino Southern Oscillation
- Pacific Decadal Oscillation
- Pacific/North American
- North Atlantic Oscillation
- Arctic Oscillation/Northern Annular Mode
- Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation
- Madden-Julian Oscillation
- Indian Ocean Dipole/ Indian Ocean Subtropical Dipole (also called Subtropical Indian Ocean Dipole)
- Southern Annular Mode/ Antarctic Oscillation

Important Dates
Quiz availability dates will be sent out via Sakai
- September 2 – No Class Labor Day
- October 9 – Research Project outline must be uploaded to Sakai
- November 11 – No Class Veteran’s Day
- November 27 – No Class Thanksgiving
- December 2 and 4 – Student in-class presentations of final projects (no final exam)

Important Web Pages
- http://www.jisao.washington.edu/aao/
- http://apps.webofknowledge.com
- http://weather.gov/
- http://www.wmo.int/pages/index_en.html