GEO3250 : CLIMATOLOGY

Dr. Corene Matyas

Office Hours
Monday Period 7, Wednesday Period 3, and by appointment (not available Tuesdays)
3119 Turlington Hall     email: please contact me through Sakai     phone: 352-294-7508 (I cannot
return long distance phone calls).
Note: If you are having trouble, come and see me so that I can help! Do not wait until mid-semester.

PREREQUISITE: one of MET1010, GEO2200, GEO2242, or permission (if willing to do the work to
catch up)

Course Information
Climatology can be defined as the study of long-term trends in the weather, but this course emphasizes a
more in depth examination of the discipline. It is assumed that you have a basic understanding of
meteorological concepts such as the difference between high and low pressure systems and the type of
weather associated with each. Building upon this foundation, you will develop your communication
skills along with your knowledge of climatology through various in-class discussions, small group
activities, and individual assignments. 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.”

Required Textbook
Climatology: An Atmospheric Science   Third edition   by Oliver, Hidore, Snow, Snow

Grades and Grading Scale
Exams: 3@ 15% each     Homework exercises: 15 %   Prerequisite Quiz 5%   Textbook Reading
Quizzes: 15%     Video reaction papers: 10%    Debate: 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%

Grades will be posted to Sakai. It is your responsibility to know your current grade in the class.

Exams and Quizzes
Three exams will be given during the semester, all weighted equally. The first two exams cover material
since the start of class or previous exam. The final exam is cumulative – anything we’ve covered can be
included. It will be taken in class on the last day of class April 23. Unless official documentation of an
absence is presented (Doctor’s note, police report), NO MAKE-UP EXAMS will be permitted! No
eating during exams. Quizzes corresponding to the text book will be available for you to take on Sakai –
check Sakai for due dates. Quizzes will remain open for approximately one week each. I will have Sakai
send a notification of quiz open and due dates – save this email and add the dates to your calendar. The
chapter quizzes are open book/open note, but you are NOT to receive help from any other sources
(including other students in the class or their notes!). There is also a quiz to assess your preparation for
the course that includes questions from prerequisite courses. This is the ONLY quiz that you may retake:
please do so until you score a 100%. These quizzes are mandatory, and no make-ups will be permitted.
Once closed, quizzes cannot be reopened, so plan accordingly.
Homework Exercises, Reaction Papers, and Debates
Three homework exercises will be assigned to help you work through key concepts. Due dates are listed below. If you are unsure of how to complete them, come to office hours. I encourage you to discuss the material with other students, but the work you turn in must be your own. We will also view two videos in class: you will write a summation for each. The format and information to be included in these summation papers will be detailed on a separate handout. You will submit your papers to Sakai. We will also hold debates towards the end of the semester. You will be divided into teams and assigned a topic to research and orally present. You must attend all classes where debates are held. Also, you will be required to post your slides to Sakai and comment on the topics of other students as well as respond to comments on your topic as part of your grade. Specific details will be covered in a separate handout.

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 when requesting accommodation. Please provide this documentation to me by January 17.

Sakai Information
This syllabus, PowerPoint files, quizzes, grades, etc. will be posted to Sakai. Discussion boards are also available where you can get help from other students when studying for exams. Check Sakai at least once per week to verify announcements, due dates, etc.. Monitor the email address at which you receive messages from Sakai! Please email me through Sakai – check the box that also sends the message to my regular email. I am not responsible for regular emails sent to me that end up in the junk mail folder.

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.”
All cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Student’s Office and appropriate penalty assigned thereafter.

Attendance and Proper Conduct
Attendance will not be regularly taken; however, your performance in this course will suffer if you do not attend class regularly and/or fail to complete the homework. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to learn the material covered during your absence. You may turn in homework early – it will always be due at the beginning of a class period – not at the end of the period or at the end of the day. Ask questions early! Please come to class on time and ready to learn. Turn off cell phones, put away outside materials, and refrain from casual conversation once class begins.

Lecture Topics: (roughly correspond to textbook – we will omit several chapters towards the end)
Introduction
Solar Radiation and Global Energy Budget
Atmospheric Temperature
Atmospheric Moisture, Stability, and Precipitation
Atmospheric Circulation and the Physical Laws of Climatology
Climates of the Tropics and Middle Latitudes
Climate Modification, Climate Change, Urban Climatology
Important Dates:

January 17 - Prerequisite Quiz due by 11:59 pm (Sakai)
January 20 – No Class Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 24 – Homework 1 due at beginning of class
February 3, 5 – Watch Great Lakes Video (in class is the only opportunity to view it)
February 10 - Write-up for Great Lakes Video due (Sakai)
February 12 – Exam 1 in class, closed book (in-class review Feb. 10)
February 24 – Homework 2 due at beginning of class
March 3-7 - No Class – Spring Break
March 12 - Debate groups assigned
March 19 - Homework 3 due at beginning of class
March 28 – Exam 2 in class, closed book (in-class review March 26)
March 31, April 2, 4, 7 – In-class debates (you must attend all sessions; you must post your slides to Discussion Board on Sakai within 48 hours of it being given)
April 9-11 – Watch video on Little Ice Age
April 18 – Write-up due for Little Ice Age due (Sakai)
April 16 – Last day to post debate discussions to Sakai (everyone must post)
April 23 – Final exam (during normal class time) closed book