COURSE OVERVIEW
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 every day 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.

INSTRUCTOR
Stephanie Zick (sezick@ufl.edu)
Geography PhD student
I am a 3rd year doctoral student at UF with an MS in meteorology. My PhD research focuses on how atmospheric processes influence precipitation patterns in landfalling hurricanes.

OFFICE HOURS
4351 Turlington Hall  Tue 5-6 (2:00-4:45pm), Thu 3 (11:00am-12:15pm)
My office is on the 4th floor among the English Department offices. Please e-mail me if you’re having trouble locating it!

CONTACT
❖ Please contact me via my ufl.edu email:sezick@ufl.edu.
❖ At the beginning of the semester, please add my email to your contacts list so that important emails are not directed to spam!!
❖ I will do my best to answer e-mail questions promptly. If you do not receive a response by the next business day, please follow up with me -- I may not have received the e-mail.
❖ I cannot respond to large quantities of e-mail in the 24 hours preceding an examination or deadline. Contact me early so that questions do not accumulate!

TEXTBOOK
Extreme Weather & Climate by Ahrens and Samson (recommended)
ISBN-10: 0495118575
Course packet from Target Copy: This is a spiral bound note packet, available in B&W ($14.87) or Color ($33.49).
EVALUATIONS and GRADING

E-LEARNING QUIZZES (5) – 10% each, lowest score dropped (40% total)

Five quizzes will be administered through e-Learning. Each quiz will consist of a series of questions to evaluate knowledge of the week’s lectures.

- Quizzes are available on the “Assessments” tab in the left sidebar
- Ten (10) multiple choice, true/false, completion questions → each worth 1 point.
- Open note/text, but class lectures will direct students to the most relevant information
- Please complete the quizzes INDEPENDENTLY. I will be monitoring activity on e-Learning for suspicious behavior that indicates shared responses
- Students have one full day during which these quizzes will be available, and while the quiz is open, there will be twenty (20) minutes to complete it. All quizzes will be open from 12:00am - 11:59pm Friday, except the first quiz which will be open 12:00am – 11:59pm Thursday (July 3) due to the 4th of July holiday
- Remember to “submit” your quiz when it is complete!

EXAMS (3) – 20% each (60% total)

Examinations are CLOSED-NOTE and will each consist of individual multiple choice questions as well as multiple choice questions directed to maps and diagrams from the course materials and lectures.

- 75 minutes during class is allocated for each exam.
- Approximately 50-60 questions each
- Exams are not cumulative. The three examinations will evaluate your knowledge of the three sections of course material separately. See the course calendar.
- No programmable calculators, cell phones, iPads, iPods, etc. will be permitted.
- If you arrive more than 20 minutes late for an exam OR after the first person has left the room (whichever comes first) you will not be permitted to take the exam. Be on time.
- If the University should close for any reason on a day an exam is scheduled, the exam will be held on the next class day.

GRADING SCHEME

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NOTE Under University regulations a “C-“ will not be a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, Gordon Rule or College Basic Distribution credit.

Note on Grades:
It is your responsibility to know how well you are doing in the class.
Please use the Sakai gradebook to keep track of your score, and contact me if there is a discrepancy with your records.
MISCELLANEOUS

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. Students should receive automated UF emails about the specific times when evaluations are open.

EXCUSED ABSENCES AND EXTRA CREDIT
- In the interest of fairness to all students in the class, and in light of the high enrollments, there will be no extra credit.
- However, I appreciate that unexpected events occur in all of our lives. If such events (illness, personal problems, etc.) befall you, I will give you the choice of either taking a make-up exam or skipping the exam AFTER you’ve provided official documentation of your case. If you choose to skip the exam, your grade will be based entirely upon your performance in the remaining (two) exams.

SAKAI COURSE WEBSITE
- This syllabus, announcements concerning exams, weekly quizzes, 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.
- 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.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS
Students requesting disability-related academic accommodations must first register with the Disability Resource Center. http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/
- Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. I do not automatically receive this information, so the student is responsible with providing the DSO request to the Instructor.
- I will honor all requests. Please e-mail (sezick@ufl.edu) to make an appointment so that we can go through these accommodations and sign the form.
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Accountability to Academic Integrity
You are all 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 by abiding by the Honor Code.

On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

Furthermore, students are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me. If a student is suspected of cheating and there is sufficient evidence in support of the allegation, the student will be reported to the appropriate student body, according to the University’s Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution system.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

- I appreciate that unexpected events occur in all of our lives. If such events (illness, personal problems, etc.) befall you, please contact me ASAP. Upon production of official documentation of your case, I will give you the choice of either taking a make-up exam or waiving the exam.
- In some special or extenuating circumstances (when documentation is not available, for instance), I may ask you to contact the Dean of Students Office:
  
  The Dean of Students Office
  202 Peabody Hall
  PO Box 114075
  Phone: (352) 392-1261
  
  The Dean of Students is a resource, available to all students, for when special circumstances arise that disrupt students’ abilities to maintain their academic standing. I encourage students to use this resource if necessary.

- Useful Links:
  Student Resources
  Student Right and Responsibilities
### Course Calendar

#### ~ July 2014 ~

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*First Day of Summer A*

**Quiz #1 due 11:59pm**

*Independence Day (no class)*

**Quiz #2 due 11:59pm**

**Quiz #3 due 11:59pm**

**Quiz #4 due 11:59pm**

*Exam #1 (Lectures 1-9)*

*Exam #2 (Lectures 10-18)*

#### ~ August 2014 ~

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*Quiz #5 due 11:59pm*

*Review*

*Exam #3 (Lecture 19-26)*
TENTATIVE TOPICS
Intro to the Atmosphere
Atmospheric Energy
Earth-Sun Relationship
Temperature & Moisture
Condensation & Clouds
Atmospheric Stability
Precipitation
Atmospheric Pressure & Winds
Atmospheric Circulations
Air Masses & Fronts
Mid-Latitude Cyclones
Thunderstorms & Lightning
Supercells & Tornadoes
The Tropics & Tropical Regional Circulations (ENSO, Monsoons)
Hurricanes
Climate Change

IMPORTANT DATES
Weekly e-Learning Quizzes (see calendar)
Exam 1: Tuesday, July 15th
Exam 2: Tuesday, July 29th
Exam 3: Friday, August 8th
NO CLASS: Independence Day: July 4th

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