GEO3250 : CLIMATOLOGY

Dr. Corene Matyas       Spring 2015

Office Hours
Monday Period 7, Wednesday Period 3, and by appointment (not available Tuesdays)
3119 Turlington Hall   email: matyas@ufl.edu (please use Canvas)   phone: 352-294-7508
Note: If you are having trouble, come and see me so that I can help! Do not wait until mid-semester.

PREREQUISITE: either MET1010, GEO2200, GEO2242, or permission (on your own to catch up)

Course Objectives
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
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 oral and written
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 %   Preparatory Quiz 5%   Textbook Reading
Quizzes: 10%   Video reaction papers: 10%   Debate: 10%   Canvas Question Posts: 5%

A: 93 % +   A-: <93% to 90 %   B+: <90% to 87%   B: <87% to 83 %   B-: <83% to 80%
C+: <80% to 77%   C: <77% to 73%   C- : <73% to 70%   D+: <70% to 67%   D: <67% to 63%
D- : <63% to 60%   E: < 60%
Grades will be posted to Canvas. 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. 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 Canvas – check for due dates. Quizzes will remain open for
approximately one week each. I will have Canvas 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. I will drop your lowest readings quiz score.
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 Canvas. 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.

Canvas Posts
Each week, you will have a chance to post a question to Canvas about the material covered during the past week. The graduate students and I will moderate these discussions. You must post by 11:59 pm Wednesday to give us time to read and respond to your questions and possibly address them in class on Friday. Question 1 is due January 21, skip the week of spring break, and Question 9 is due March 25. You must post substantive questions in 5 of the 9 weeks to earn full credit.

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 16.

Canvas Information
This syllabus, PowerPoint files, quizzes, grades, etc. will be posted to Canvas. You are required to post questions to the discussion board. Check Canvas at least once per week to verify announcements, due dates, etc. Please be sure that your settings in Canvas allow you to receive messages from our class! Please email me through Canvas with any questions about our class.

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.

Online 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/.
Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center
http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Lecture Topics: (I reserve the right to shift dates and topics if necessary as the semester progresses)
1) Introductions/ Pre-requisite Information
2) The Climate System and Observations, Solar Radiation
3) Solar Radiation and Global Energy Budget, Temperature
4) Temperature, Moisture
5) Moisture, Stability, and Precipitation

Exam
6) Atmospheric Circulation
7) Circulation and Global Climates

Spring Break
8) Climates of the Tropics (Monsoon and ENSO)
9) Climates of the Middle Latitudes and Synoptic Climatology
10) Past Climates and Climate Change
11) Climate Modification

Exam
Debates
12) Physical Laws of Climatology

Important Dates (I reserve the right to shift dates and topics if necessary as the semester progresses)
January 7-9 – Dr. Matyas at AMS conference – no class – log onto Canvas for quiz
January 12 - Preparatory Quiz due by 11:59 pm (Canvas)
January 19 – No Class Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 4 – Homework 1 due at beginning of class
February 6, 9 – Watch Great Lakes Video (in class is the only opportunity to view it)
February 13 – Exam 1 in class, closed book (in-class review Feb. 11)
February 18 - Write-up for Great Lakes Video due (Canvas)
February 23 – Homework 2 due at beginning of class
March 2-6 - No Class – Spring Break
March 9 - Debate groups assigned
March 18 - Homework 3 due at beginning of class
April 1 – Exam 2 in class, closed book (in-class review March 30)
April 3, 6, 8, 10 – In-class debates (you must attend all sessions; you must post your slides to Discussion Board on Canvas within 48 hours of their presentation)
April 15 – Last day to post debate discussions to Canvas (everyone must post)
April 20 – 22 No in-class activities – watch video and prepare write-up due April 22 (Canvas)
April 30 – Final exam time assigned to us by the University (12:30 pm)