GEO 2242: Extreme Weather

Section 4297  
MWF Period 7 (1:55 – 2:45 p.m.)  
Williamson 0100  
Fall 2013

Instructor: Ian Comstock (icomstock@ufl.edu)  
Office: Turlington 3205  
Office Hours:  Mon and Wed, 12:50 – 1:50. Other times by appointment (office hours are the preferred way to contact me).

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 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.

Textbook  
Extreme Weather & Climate (Ahrens and Samson) – recommended  
Course pack from Target Copy includes instructor’s lecture notes (these are not posted online)

Grades and Grading Scale  
4 exams (90% of total grade)  
Quizes (10% of total grade)

A: 92.0% and above  
B+: 88.0 – 89.9%  
C+: 78.0 – 79.9%  
D+: 68.0 – 69.9%

A-: 90.0 – 91.9%  
B: 82.0 – 87.9%  
C: 72.0 – 77.9%  
D: 62.0 – 67.9%

B-: 80.0 – 81.9%  
C-: 70.0 – 71.9%  
D-: 58.0 – 61.9%

Exams  
This is a large class and exams will make up the majority of your final grade. Four exams will be given and each one will cover lecture material since the previous exam.

All exams are closed book and will take place in our normal classroom during our normal class time. No programmable calculators, cell phones, iPads, iPods, etc. will be permitted. If you arrive more than 15 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.
No make-up exams will be given. Exceptions will be made in only those cases where the student can provide proper documentation (doctor’s note, police report, etc.) of the absence.

Once exam grades are posted, you will have 3 weeks to discuss your test grade with me.

No extra credit will be given in this course.

Quizzes
Several quizzes will be posted on Sakai throughout the semester. Once posted, you will have one week to complete each quiz. You will be notified through Sakai when quizzes are posted and when they are due. Quizzes will be administered approximately once every other week.

Sakai
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. Check this site often! 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. This email IS 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. I may start a discussion for students to interact, study, and ask questions. I will monitor the boards and post answers to questions as quickly as I can.

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.”

Attendance
I have no policy regarding lecture attendance. You are adults and the decision of whether or not to come to class is your own. You are responsible for your own grade. If you do decide to come to class you do so at your own will and are agreeing to show respect for your fellow students and me, the instructor. This means that once class starts, you don't interfere with other students’ ability to hear the lectures by talking, using cell phones, and/or otherwise being distracting. If you have a question, raise your hand or ask me at the end of class.
Tentative Lecture Schedule

Intro to the atmosphere
Atmospheric energy
Temperature
Moisture
Atmospheric stability
Precipitation
Atmospheric pressure
Circulation
Small scale winds
Air masses and fronts
Mid-latitude cyclones
Thunderstorms
Supercell thunderstorms and tornadoes
The tropics and hurricanes
Climate

Exam Dates

Exam 1  Wed Sep 18
Exam 2  Wed Oct 16
Exam 3  Wed Nov 13
Final Exam (non-cumulative)  Wed Dec 4

No Class

Sep 2  Labor Day
Nov 8  Homecoming
Nov 11  Veteran’s Day
Nov 27, 29  Thanksgiving