Syllabus

A ATM 100
The Atmosphere
(3 credits)

Spring 2016

Class #: 6019
Room: Lecture Center 18
Days/Time: Mon, Wed, Fri, 1:40 pm – 2:35 pm

FINAL EXAM DATE: Wednesday, May 9th, 10:30 – 12:30 in LC 18

Instructor: ***Vincent P. Idone***, Associate Professor and Associate Chair
Office: Earth Science and Mathematics Building, ES 215
Hours: Wed, 10:30-12:30; Tues, Thurs, 1:00-3:00, or by appointment.
Phone: 442-4577
E-mail: *vidone@albany.edu*

Text: ***Essentials of Meteorology – An Invitation to the Atmosphere (6th or 7th Edition)****;*
Author: ***C. Donald Ahrens***; Publisher: ***Cengage***.

To keep textbook expense down, you can use just the hard-copy version of either the sixth or seventh edition of this text and do well in this course. Getting a **used copy** of these texts could be an excellent value. The bookstore will have some used texts, as well as multiple additional sources on the web. You should also be able to rent this text for the semester from many of these same sources.

Should you prefer to spend more money and get electronic versions of this text with additional on-line content to help with studying and test preparation, you can elect to purchase such optional versions at the UA bookstore **or** through this "microsite:" http://www.cengagebrain.com/course/1-231YNO9

You should not attempt this course without any text, nor should you try to get by with the fifth or earlier editions.

Content: Chapters 1 through 8, 10, 11, and possibly 14 or 15 of the above text.

Grading: Letter grade (A-E) format. There will be two (2) **in-class exams** and a **final exam**; the two in-class exams contribute 25% each, with the final exam contributing 30% toward your grade. There will be several **homework assignments** that in total will contribute 20% toward your final grade. Homework will be assigned through **Blackboard**. I assume that you know how to use Blackboard, and that you have the means to access it. Please note that only certain web browsers work well with Blackboard, and you should use one that is recommended. Consult ITS or Blackboard Help to find out which web browsers (and versions) work best.

Exams: All exams will be in multiple-choice question format. In-class exams are 55 minutes in duration. **NOTE: you must have a student (picture) ID to show when you turn in your exam.** The **final exam** will be cumulative, the standard two-hour length, and as scheduled in the University's Final Exam Schedule:

Monday, May 9th, 10:30 – 12:30 in LC 18

Make-up exams will be given only if supported with written documentation provided by you, the Office of Undergraduate Education (http://www.albany.edu/undergraduateeducation/) or Student-Athlete Support Services. Make-up exams may be given in a format other than multiple choice. If you miss an exam, you have 72 hours from the time of the exam to contact me by e-mail as to potentially providing me with documentation that qualifies as a valid excuse. If you do not contact me within that time window, you will get a zero for the exam.

Assigned course grades will **not** be changed for any reason other than a mistake on our part; **there is no extra-credit option to improve an assigned final grade for the course**. The grade scale to be used this semester appears in the last section here. Those opting for S/U grading must attain the grade of "C" or higher to receive an assigned grade of "S." (By the way, it is my experience that S/U grading backfires on the student better than 80% of the time.)

Anyone caught cheating will be penalized, the degree of which will be determined by me, and could entail anything from reducing a grade on an exam or assignment, up to prosecution through the Office of Undergraduate Education with potential academic dismissal.

If you are **learning disabled**, please show me your documentation in this regard so that we can arrange your accommodation in the course from the beginning of the semester.

Teaching Assistants:

Mr. Chris Colose;
Office: ES 309
e-mail: *ccolose@albany.edu*
Hours: Mon, Wed, 2:45 - 4:15

Mr. Zachary Murphy
Office: ES 234
e-mail: *zbmurphy@albany.edu*
Hours: Mon, Fri, 11:30 - 1:00, or by appointment

Course Overview and Objectives

This course is designed to provide an introduction to the essential processes acting in the Earth's atmosphere. As AATM 100 is an approved Natural Science course in the U-Albany General Education Program, it will reflect the required aspects of any such General Education course, and specifically those of the Natural Science category. (See http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/general_education.html for specifics.) In general, very basic mathematics and physical concepts will be used to explain and expound many key aspects of the atmosphere. The discipline of atmospheric science/meteorology also will be examined, including the typical procedures and methods of study employed to achieve practical, everyday goals, such as forecasting the weather. Various environmental concerns will be addressed, such as air pollution and climate change.

The atmosphere is a constantly changing and critical influence on each of us individually, and collectively up to the scale of global population. It can be incredibly beautiful, powerful, and even deadly in its myriad manifestations. You should complete this course having attained a greater appreciation for the awesome entity that is our atmosphere. I genuinely hope that you will have some fun along the way too!

Attendance and Class Conduct

Class attendance is highly recommended. We will also set up multiple **review sessions** conducted by the TAs and myself **before each exam** to allow you to hone your knowledge of the material and do well in this course. The times and locations will be announced a week or more before each exam on Blackboard. Other announcements and content will be posted to Blackboard during the semester, including when the two **in-class exams** will be. Again, these will be announced at least a week before to allow you time to prepare. You may also utilize our office hours (mine and the TAs) to go over any questions you may have.

It is expected that those attending lecture will be respectful of both the instructor and those desiring to get maximal benefit from the session. In other words, you will be appropriately quiet. If not, as the phrase goes, "There will be consequences."

You are also responsible for checking your University e-mail address for messages sent by me regarding this course, particularly through Blackboard. Remember, e-mail is an

official form of communication according to the University. Similarly, you are responsible for checking Blackboard frequently for announcements. These are also e-mailed to you through Blackboard. **However, if you fail to get an e-mail because your account is full or otherwise, that is not an acceptable excuse.**

Lecture and Exam Schedule

The in-class exam dates are <u>not</u> prescheduled. It is generally impossible to adhere to a strict lecture schedule, especially during the winter months of the semester. Also, I may vary the pace of presentation of the material. Hence, the dates of the two in-class exams are not predetermined. I will give the first exam after covering the material of Chapters 1- 4. You will receive notification **at least a week beforehand** of any in-class exam date, and this will be by e-mail, in-class announcement, and Blackboard. The second exam will cover the material of Chapters 5 - 7, with similar notification. The final will be cumulative, but have an emphasis on the additional chapters that are covered from the second exam.

The Registrar, as per University policy, has already scheduled your <u>final</u> <u>exam</u> for Monday, May 9th, 10:30 – 12:30 in LC 18.

Grade Distribution

$\mathbf{A} > 88.0$; $83.8 < \mathbf{A}^- \leq 88.0$; $79.6 < \mathbf{B}^+ \leq 83.8$; $75.4 < \mathbf{B} \leq 79.6$; $71.2 < \mathbf{B}^- \leq 75.4$; $67.0 < \mathbf{C}^+ \leq 71.2$; $62.8 < \mathbf{C} \leq 67.0$; $58.6 < \mathbf{C}^- \leq 62.8$; $54.4 < \mathbf{D}^+ \leq 58.6$; $50.2 < \mathbf{D} \leq 54.4$; $46.0 < \mathbf{D}^- \leq 50.2$; $\mathbf{E} \leq 46.0$.

NOTE: grades are calculated to one decimal place, and are rounded to this; we do not round to an integer value. For example, if we calculate your grade as 73.8, it goes into the record as exactly that. It does <u>not</u> go into the record as 74.