



**A ATM 100**  
**The Atmosphere**  
**(3 credits)**  
**Spring 2010**

**Class #:** 16662  
**Room:** Lecture Center 18  
**Days/Time:** M, W, F 10:25 – 11:20  
**Pre-reqs:** None

**Instructor:** *Vincent P. Idone*, Associate Professor  
**Office:** ES (Earth Science and Mathematics Building), Rm 215  
**Hours:** M, W, F 12:00-2:00; or by appointment.  
**Phone:** 442-4577  
**E-mail:** *vpi@atmos.albany.edu*

**Text:** *Essentials of Meteorology – An Invitation to the Atmosphere (5<sup>th</sup> Edition)*;  
Author: C. Donald Ahrens; ISBN: 978-0-495-11558-8; Publisher: *Thomson – Brooks/Cole*

**Content:** Chapters 1 – 15 of the above text.

**Grading:** Letter grade (A-E) format. There will be three (3) in-class exams and a final exam; the lowest of the three in-class exams will be dropped; the remaining two exams contribute 30% each, with the final exam contributing 40% toward your grade. All exams will be in multiple-choice question format. In-class exams are 55 minutes in duration. The final exam will be cumulative, the standard two-hour length, and as scheduled in the University's Final Exam Schedule. Make-up exams will be given only if supported with written documentation provided via

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. Assigned 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. The grade scale 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.” Anyone caught cheating will be penalized, the degree of which could entail prosecution through the Office of Undergraduate Education.

### **Teaching Assistants:**

*Mr. Scott Sukup*, ES, Rm 218; 442-4569; [ss7890@albany.edu](mailto:ss7890@albany.edu)

*Mr. Benjamin Moore*, ES, Rm 330; 442-4574; [bm453975@albany.edu](mailto:bm453975@albany.edu)

### ***Course Overview and Objectives***

This course is designed to provide an introduction to the essential characteristics of and processes acting in the Earth’s atmosphere. As Atm 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 in particular. (See [http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate\\_bulletin/general\\_education.html](http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/general_education.html) for specifics in this regard.) In general, very basic mathematics and physical notions 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 had some fun along the way!

### ***Attendance and Class Conduct***

Attendance is not mandatory, but there will be occasional material presented ancillary to that in the text. You will be responsible for this material as well. Frankly, if you believe that merely reading the text will allow you to achieve a passing (or even a good grade) without the benefit of my lectures on the material, well, good luck. Hence, attendance is highly recommended.

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.”

### *Lecture and Exam Schedule*

This schedule is tentative, as classes could be canceled due to weather or illness. Check the Atm 100 webpage for updates as the semester progresses:

Chapter 1: 1/20 and 1/22; Chapter 2: 1/25, 1/27 and 1/29; Chapter 3: 2/1; Chapter 4: 2/3, 2/5, and 2/8; **Exam #1 (Chaps. 1-4): 2/10**; Chapter 5: 2/12 and 2/17; Chapter 6: 2/19, 2/22, and 2/24; Chapter 7: 2/26 and 3/1; Chapter 8: 3/3, 3/5, and 3/8; **Exam #2 (Chaps. 5-8): 3/10**; Chapter 9: 3/12 and 3/15; Chapter 10: 3/17 and 3/19; Chapter 11: 3/22 and 3/24; Chapter 12: 3/26 and 4/7; **Exam #3 (Chaps. 9-12): 4/9**; Chapter 13: 4/12 and 4/14; Chapter 14: 4/16 and 4/19; Chapter 15: 4/21, 4/23 and 4/26; Possible make-up class dates: 4/28 and 4/30; Review for final exam: 5/3.

### *Grade Distribution*

$A > 86.0$ ;  $81.6 < A^- \leq 86.0$ ;  $77.2 < B^+ \leq 81.6$ ;  $72.8 < B \leq 77.2$ ;  $68.4 < B^- \leq 72.8$ ;  
 $64.0 < C^+ \leq 68.4$ ;  $59.6 < C \leq 64.0$ ;  $55.2 < C^- \leq 59.6$ ;  $50.8 < D^+ \leq 55.2$ ;  $46.4 < D \leq 50.8$ ;  
 $42.0 < D^- \leq 46.4$ ;  $E \leq 42.0$ .