Instructor: Prof. Kristen Corbosiero, ES 321, 442-5852, kcorbosiero@albany.edu

Class hours: Monday and Wednesday 2:45–4:05 PM in ES 232

Office hours: Monday 9:30–10:30 AM, Wednesday 1:00–2:30 PM, and by appointment

T.A.: Michael Fischer, ES 218, msfischer@albany.edu, Tuesday and Thursday 10:00–11:00 AM

Class web site: http://www.atmos.albany.edu/daes/atmclasses/atm421


Grading: Final exam (25%); Midterm exam (20%); Quizzes (20%); Homework assignments (20%); Map discussion (10%); Class participation (5%)

Class objectives: The goal of this course is to describe the behavior, dynamics, and thermodynamics of the tropical atmosphere. A wide range of time and space scales will be examined, from the large-scale energy balance down to cumulus convection and tropical cyclones. Special attention and emphasis will be placed on the interactions between dynamics and convection.

Topics:
• Observational overview of the tropics
• Tropical convection
• Large-scale tropical circulations and monsoons
• Equatorial waves
• The Madden-Julian Oscillation
• Tropical cyclogenesis
• Tropical cyclone thermodynamics, fluxes, and convection
• Tropical cyclone structure and intensity change

Attendance: Unexcused absences are not acceptable and class attendance/participation is expected. Make-up exams and quizzes will not be given except for an illness documented by a physician, official college-sponsored activities with appropriate documentation, or a death in the immediate family with a note from the Dean’s office. Homework assignments that are turned in late will be subject to a 10% deduction in grade per day late.

Academic integrity: Cheating and plagiarism are unacceptable, will result in a zero for this class, and can potentially result in suspension from the University. It is every student’s responsibility to become familiar with the university’s standards of academic integrity. The following website provides additional information: http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html.