Summer 2006 Syllabus for
MET1010 Introduction to the Atmosphere
Sections 3 & 6, Mon, Wed, Fri, 10:10 – 11:00, 101 Carraway

Instructor: Dr. Jon Ahlquist, ahlquist@met.fsu.edu.
Teaching assistant: Mr. Will Sexton, wsexton@met.fsu.edu

Office hours: Ahlquist (421 or 308 Love): MWF 12:30 - 1:30, Tuesday 11:00-12:15, or by appointment
Teaching Asst Will Sexton (501B Love): Tues 11:00-12:00, Wed 1:30-2:30.


Objectives: In this section of MET1010, students should learn about:
1. the process of doing science; and
2. the fundamentals of meteorology.

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should:
1. register with and provide documentation to FSU's Student Disability Resource Center ("SDRC," 8 am - 5 pm, 97 Woodward Ave S, Telephone: 644-9566 (voice), 644-8504 (TDD), sdrc@admin.fsu.edu, http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/); and
2. bring a letter to the instructor from the SDRC indicating you need academic accommodations. This should be done during the first week of class.

Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Policy published in The Florida State University Bulletin, in the Student Handbook (beginning on page 90, downloadable from http://registrar.fsu.edu/student_handbook/handbook_tal.pdf), and on the Web (http://www.fsu.edu/~dof/forms/honorpolicy.pdf). Read this document! It has evolved in recent years, but as you would expect, it is based on the notion that everyone at FSU has an individual and collective responsibility to be honest and socially responsible. If you have any doubts whether any activity is ethical, read the Academic Honor Policy and ask the professor involved. You can be brought to honor court if there is a perceived violation of the Honor Code. For this class, cheating on exams is the main issue, and that is discussed in more detail below.

Cheating: I don't even need to see you cheat on an exam to catch you. For every exam, I will have several different exam forms, so your exam form will be different from your neighbor's. After every exam, I run a computer program that compares every student's answers with every other student's answers. If you are caught cheating on any exam, my proposed solution is an F for the course. Several times, I have prosecuted MET1010 cheaters in honor court, and each time they were convicted. An F was awarded for the course in each case. Don't try for a repeat performance!

Attendance and studying: As in any course, your success will be maximized if you attend every class and maintain a steady study schedule. A common rule of thumb is to study at least 2 hours for each 50-minute class session. Concentrated effort a day before each exam cannot make up for what you will learn through daily studying. To encourage daily studying, the instructor will call on students randomly during class to answer questions. Also, each test will contain a couple questions covering the most important concepts in the reading that were NOT emphasized in class.

Exams: Roughly every other Wednesday, there will be a multiple-choice exam with 30 questions per exam. The final exam will have 60 questions. All exams are comprehensive. Specifically, there will be a few questions on each of the 2nd through 5th exams that will cover earlier material, and about 1/2 of the final exam will cover earlier material. If you cannot take an exam due to illness or special circumstance, contact the instructor BEFORE the test to arrange for a make-up test. The final exam with 60 multiple-choice questions will be Wednesday, 13 December, 12:30-2:30 pm.

Grading: Florida State University’s policy is that grading procedures are at the discretion of the instructor and that they are to be explained in the course syllabus. For this course, grades will be based on total points earned, and no extra credit will be allowed. We will start with the common percentages of 90, 80, 70, and 60 to determine the A, B, C, D, and F dividing lines. As the semester progresses, I am willing to lower the cut-offs if necessary so that roughly 15% of the class will receive an A or A–, and an average score will be near the dividing line between a B– and C+. If the grading cutoffs are lowered, all will be lowered by the same amount so that the B, C, and D categories are 10 points wide. No precise fraction of the class will receive a D or an F. The instructor does not want to give a D or F (you will have to earn that yourself), but he has no hesitation in giving a D or F to students who perform poorly. After each exam, you will be notified of the grades at that point in the course. In addition, I will drop the lowest of the first 5 exams.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best 4 of 5 exams</td>
<td>66.67 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>33.33 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100.00 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Honors Section: Students in the honors section 6 take the same tests as the students in the regular section 3 plus they have to complete an extra project at a satisfactory level. The project adds no points to the semester total but allows you to receive honors credit for this course. If completing the honors project turns out to be too much, I can switch you to the regular section without problem at the end of the term. For more information, see the handout for the honors section.