

**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.
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Teaching assistant: Mr. Will Sexton, wsexton@met.fsu.edu
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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.

Text: *Meteorology Today*, eight edition, CORE CHAPTERS
VERSION, by C. Donald Ahrens, ISBN 0-495-01721-3. (Not
an earlier edition or *Essentials of Meteorology*.)

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.

Point total = 100% x (sum of best 4 exams+final exam)/180

Best 4 of 5 exams	66.67 %
Final exam (Wednesday, 13 December)	33.33 %
Total	100.00 %

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.