

**GEOGRAPHY 1900**  
**Extreme Weather and Climate**  
**Spring Semester 2020**

***Instructor:***

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**Course Details**

*Lecture:* Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 11:30 AM to 12:25 PM in Stillman Hall 100

*Labs:* Monday, 9:35-10:55 AM in Derby Hall (DB) 0070 – Zhiying  
Monday, 12:45– 2:05 PM in Derby Hall (DB) 0070 – Zhiying  
Wednesday, 9:35-10:55 AM in Derby Hall (DB) 0070 – Jami  
Wednesday 12:45– 2:05 PM in Derby Hall (DB) 0070 - Jami  
Friday 9:35-10:55 AM in Derby Hall (DB) 0070 – Gabriel  
Friday 12:45– 2:05 PM in Derby Hall (DB) 0070 – Gabriel

## **Course Materials**

*Text:* Aguado, E. and J. E. Burt, 2012. *Understanding Weather and Climate*, 7th edition.

Pearson Education, Inc. Upper Saddle River, NJ. (ISBN: 9780321769633) (***Suggested***)

*Lab Manual:* Course packet distributed by UniPrint at <http://uniprint.osu.edu>, available at Barnes & Noble – The OSU Bookstore at Gateway/15<sup>th</sup> & High (***Required***)

*Website:* The Carmen course management system <http://carmen.osu.edu>

## **Course Description**

This course will serve as an introduction to the study of the atmosphere. The primary objective is to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the atmosphere and the processes that govern its behavior. In this course students will be exposed to various aspects of meteorology, including the structure and behavior of the atmosphere, global energy balance and transfer, atmospheric circulation, precipitation processes, weather systems and severe weather. This course will emphasize the inter-relationship existing between the atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere and lithosphere and will illustrate how the movement of matter and energy between these spheres is responsible for the weather, climate and environments we experience on Earth.

## **Science GEC Course**

Natural Science coursework fosters students' understanding of the principles, theories, and methods of modern science, the relationship between science and technology, the implications of scientific discoveries and the potential of science and technology to address problems of the contemporary world. Below are the four general Natural Science GE outcomes and how each will be addressed by the course.

1. Students understand the basic facts, principles, theories and methods of modern science.
  - a. Lectures, textbook and exams for basic facts, principles and theories
  - b. Labs will demonstrate and give hands on experience with basic methods, and reinforce understanding of principles with experiments.
2. Students learn key events in the history of science.
  - a. Progressive understanding of atmospheric dynamics will be explained using key examples like mid-latitude cyclones.

- b. Basic history of meteorology and history of our understanding of anthropogenic climate change is explicitly covered by lectures.
3. Students provide examples of the inter-dependence of scientific and technological developments.
  - a. Lab exercises will reinforce how technology infuses understanding, and how instrumentation to measure atmospheric phenomena has changed over time.
  - b. Measurements of the atmosphere, its qualities and motions are key to atmospheric science, and lectures and readings will highlight specific examples of how technology has enhanced theoretical understanding, and vice versa.
4. Students discuss social and philosophical implications of scientific discoveries and understand the potential of science and technology to address problems of the contemporary world.
  - a. In lectures and readings about climate change, ozone destruction, and atmospheric pollution students will engage with the social implications of science discoveries and how these both mold and are molded by worldviews and political perspectives.

## **Student Evaluation**

### ***Participation:***

Attendance. 2 of the total 15 participation grade points will be passed on lecture attendance. Each student is entitled to one unjustified absence during the semester. Participation will be recorded using TopHat. It is the student's responsibility to make sure their device is communicating correctly with TopHat.

TopHat Multiple Choice Questions. 3 of the total 15 participation grade points will be based on student response to multiple choice questions presented to the class via TopHat. Just answering the question, even if incorrectly, is all that is required for full participation points. It is the student's responsibility to make sure their device is communicating correctly with TopHat.

Packback. 10 of the total 15 participation points will be based your activity in Packback. You will have to purchase a subscription to this service for U\$ 25.00. This can be done online or at the University Bookstore. Participation will be measured weekly. For full grade on this aspect of participation you will be required to formulate one question and answer two questions per week on the platform. Submitted questions and answer will be gauged and those deemed of sufficient quality will count for full grade. This will be determined by the sum of the "curiosity points" generated by your submission. Each question/answer can generate a maximum of 100 points. For full credit a minimum of 150 "curiosity points" is required per week. This represents 50% (150/300) of potential points. Activity starts on the second full week of class. This means there

should be a submission on or before Sunday, Jan 19 (second Sunday after classes start), but no submissions are due on Jan 12. No submission is needed for Mar 15, the Sunday after spring break week. The last submission will cover the last full week of classes and is due on Sunday, Apr 19. Submissions are accepted until Sunday 11:59 PM. This schedule results in a total of 13 submissions.

My goal with Packback is to have students think about and interact with the course content in other ways than preparation for exams. I hope the effort to elaborate questions and respond to classmates' doubts lead students to think critically about what is being discussed in class. I also hope the activity results in opportunities for students to link class material to other information pertinent to their personal interests and/or other courses.

To start posting on Packback Questions:

1. Navigate to <https://Packback.co/questions> and click "Register as a new student".  
Note: If you already have an account on Packback you can login with your credentials.
2. **Make sure to register with your OSU email address and real first name and last name.**

Enter our class community's access code into the "Join a new Community" module on your dashboard.

Our community access code: da59a834-70e6-4184-b65e-a6a8649b7e13

Follow the instructions on your screen to finish your registration.

More details on the Packback participation activity, including examples of suitable questions/answers check Community Guideline page:

<https://blog.packback.co/2013/03/05/packback-questions-community-guidelines/>

For a brief introduction to Packback Questions and why we are using it in class, watch this video: [vimeo.com/packback/Welcome-to-Packback-Questions](https://vimeo.com/packback/Welcome-to-Packback-Questions)

Any questions regarding the platform can be directed to [holla@packback.co](mailto:holla@packback.co).

### **A note on tracking participation grades:**

Grades related to TopHat (Attendance, TopHat multiple choice) and PackBack will not be updated in Carmen during the semester. These grades will only be added to Carmen at the end of the semester, but before the final exam. The best way to track your progress in these activities is to get information directly from the TopHat and PackBack platforms. To help you calculate your total course grade during the semester, including the participation grades, you can use the GradCalc.xlsx spreadsheet available in the Grade Spreadsheet module in Carmen.

**Labs:** Laboratory exercises will be conducted during recitations. Attendance is required.

Students should read through each lab and be prepared **PRIOR** to the lab session. It is the responsibility of each student to turn in the required laboratory exercise at the beginning of the

lab class on the due date. All lab exercises must be completed **INDIVIDUALLY**, although working in groups is encouraged. Teaching Assistants are the ones responsible for the Labs. While the instructor will be happy to help with particular lab questions, different TA's might grade things differently and it is always safer to settle lab doubts with TAs. Students should also approach the TA's when it comes to arrangements on late or missed labs.

**Exams:** There will be three exams. All exams, including the final, are mostly non-cumulative, but questions about some important themes/concepts will be present in more than one exam. These themes/concepts will be clearly communicated to the class by a study guide prior to exams. Make-up exams are only allowed in the case of university sanctioned absences, a documented emergency or through **PRIOR** consent of the instructor. All exams will take place at the regular lecture room. Midterm exams occur during regular lecture hours and the final exam will take place in the regular lecture room on Apr 24 from 12:00 to 1:45 PM. All exams, including the final, will consist exclusively of multiple-choice questions.

### **Final Grade Break Up**

Participation - Attendance	2%	
Participation - TopHat MC	3%	
Participation - Packback	10%	
Labs	30%	
Midterm Exam 1	15%	02/03
Midterm Exam 2	20%	03/04
Final Exam	20%	4/24-12:00

### **Extra Credit**

Four distinct activities will provide students with the opportunity of earning up to 7 extra points on their final course grade. No late submissions will be accepted for any of these extra credit activities.

**Syllabus quiz:** There is the potential for 0.5 extra credit point on the final course grade for those who turn in a perfect syllabus quiz. The quiz is available on Carmen and should be submitted online via Carmen by the end of the day (11:59 PM) on Friday, Jan 17. There will be no partial grades. To get the 1 extra credit point all responses must be correct. One error = no extra credit. Even those that hand in a perfect syllabus quiz can lose the 1 point at any time during the

semester if they ask one of the instructors a question that could be answered with information present on the syllabus.

***The 1900 Weather Creative:*** Create and submit a piece of art in some way related to weather and climate or other content discussed in class for up to 3 extra credit points on the final course grade. The effort can be individual or shared by up to two students. A variety of forms will be accepted, including but not limited to: poetry, music, short text, photography, painting/drawing, sculpture, animation, film, dance, short theatrical sketch and video games.

Important limitations:

- All submissions should be original efforts.
- Submissions should be made before the end of the day on Apr 8.
- A representation of the piece must be uploaded to Carmen. This is simple for text or static images, but those who opt for performance (dance, theater), film, animation, song, etc... will have to record their work in some electronic format that can be uploaded.
- All submissions should have a maximum duration of two and a half minutes, or 150 seconds. This includes poetry and text (the average person talks at about 125-150 words per minute).

While connections might be somewhat indirect, submissions must be related to the subject of the course. You are required to attach a short (max 100 words) legend explaining the connection. The instructor will reject submissions with no legend or deemed not sufficiently related to the themes discussed in class. Submissions are due on Apr 8.

Submissions will be curated and, if there is sufficient participation (< 60% of class) and quality, we will hold a show with the best entries during our last lecture on Monday, April 20. At this time the class will vote on their favorite submissions. There will be prizes for the top submissions!

***Citizen science cloud observations:*** In this individual effort, up to 2 extra credit points on the final course grade will be awarded to students who act as observers for the “Student Cloud Observations Online (S’COOL)” project. This is a NASA led citizen science initiative aimed at collecting cloud cover data in order to improve satellite-based observations. The amount of extra credit received will be determined by the total number of reports handed in. Each report is worth

0.08 points. These are accumulated until 2 extra credit points are obtained (25 reports). Students are encouraged to perform more than 25 observations, but those who do will still receive the maximum 2 extra credit points. To be valid, reports must be based on observations performed between Jan 7 and Apr 12. Reports must be submitted to Carmen by Apr 13. More details on how to perform observations and complete reports are found on the Extra Credit section in Carmen.

***TopHat extra credit:*** Students who answer 90% or more of all TopHat multiple choice questions presented during lectures - AND who get at least 50% of these right - will receive 1.5 extra credit points on their final course grade. These are hard limits. Those who only answer 89.99% of presented questions or those who only get 49.99% of them right will not receive any of these extra credit points. No compensation will take place for questions missed during excused absences.

#### **A note on tracking extra credit grades:**

Many extra credit grades relate to activities that will only be finished closer to the end of the semester. This means that many of these grades will not be added to Carmen before lectures are done or almost done. In addition to this, extra credit points will not be present on the “Total” grade column seen in Carmen, not even at the end of the semester. To help you calculate your total course grade during the semester, including the impact of extra credit points, you can use the GradCalc.xlsx spreadsheet available in the Grade Spreadsheet module in Carmen.

#### **Special Statement Regarding Absences**

Based on the Office of the Provost recommendations on the current flu situation, students that feel ill are encouraged to stay home and isolate themselves from others. In addition, the “Explanatory Statement for Absence from Class” self-reporting form available online (<https://shs.osu.edu/posts/documents/absence-excuse-form2.pdf>) from the Wilce Student Health Center will be accepted as documentation of medical absence and reasonable efforts will be made to provide for make-up work opportunities. All make-ups from documented absences must be **completed within one week** of the original scheduled date.

## **Academic Misconduct**

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct webpage ([http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource\\_csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp)).

## **Disability Services**

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. You are also welcome to register with Student Life Disability Services to establish reasonable accommodations. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. **SLDS contact information:** [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu); 614-292-3307; [slds.osu.edu](http://slds.osu.edu); 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue.



## Lecture Schedule\*

Lecture**	Chapter	Theme
1	1	Atmosphere Composition
2	1/2	Comp. of the Atm./Radiation
3	2	Radiation in the Atmosphere
4	2/3	Seasons/Energy Balance
5	3	Temperature
<b>Feb 3<sup>+</sup></b>		<b>First Exam</b>
6	4	Pressure and Wind
7	4/5	Pressure and Wind /Moisture
8	5/6	Moisture / Cloud Formation
9	7	Precipitation Processes
10	8	Atmospheric Circulation
11	8/9	Air Masses and Fronts
<b>Mar 4<sup>+</sup></b>		<b>Second Exam</b>
12	10	Mid Latitude Cyclones
13	11	Tornadoes
14	12	Tropical Cyclones
15	15/16	Climate and Climate Change
16	15/16	Climate and Climate Change
17	14	Atmospheric Pollution
<b>Apr 24<sup>++</sup></b>		<b>Final - 12:00 - 1:45 PM</b>

\*This is a tentative schedule. While exam dates will not change, the actual material presented in lectures at the time of any exam might not mirror the schedule precisely. The material covered in each exam will be clearly defined on a study guide that will be published on Carmen.

\*\*Lecture means a cohesive presentation covering a whole theme, not a 55-minute class.

<sup>+</sup> Midterms take place during regular class times in the regular lecture room

<sup>++</sup> Final exam takes place in the regular lecture room

## **Important course dates:**

### Exams

Exam 1: Feb 3

Exam 2: Mar 4

Exam 3 (Final): Apr 24

### Syllabus quiz

Due date: Jan 17

### PackBack

First submission due date: Jan 19

Last submission due date: Apr 19

No submission required on: Mar 15 (Sunday after spring break)

### Cloud Observations

Valid period for observations: Jan 7 to Apr 12

Reports due date: Apr 13

### Art project

Due date: Apr 8

Art show (if participation threshold met): Apr 20

Unless otherwise stated, all submissions are due on 11:59 PM of the due day.

Remember, no late submissions are accepted for extra credit activities.