

Course Syllabus

ATM 445/645 Atmospheric Dynamics I (3 Credits)

Atmospheric Science Program, CSEM

University of Alaska Fairbanks

Spring 2005 (January-May 2005)

Instructor: U. Bhatt (474-2662, bhatt@gi.alaska.edu), IARC 307

When: M-W-F 10:30-11:30AM, IARC Room 407

Office Hours: M, W--3:30-4:30PM and by appointment (send email)

Course Web page: <http://www.gi.alaska.edu/~bhatt/Teaching/ATM645/atm645.spring05.html>

Registration information: ATM445 CRN: 36409 or ATM645 CRN: 36412

Course Pre-requisites: ATM 401/601 or permission of the instructor.

Course Description:

This course covers the basics of atmospheric dynamics including conservation laws, development of the equations of motion, thermal wind, circulation and vorticity, geostrophy, quasi-geostrophic motions, waves, and instabilities. We will cover the topics from Chapters 1-8 of Holton (see below), plus some additional topics. A detailed schedule of topics is available on the course web page under 'Course Calendar' and will likely evolve during the course of the semester.

Materials Needed:

Required Text: An Introduction to Dynamic Meteorology (The International Geophysics Series, Vol 88) by James Holton, Academic Press; 4th edition (March 31, 2004), ISBN: 0123540151. List Price: \$59.95. Available at the UAF bookstore.

Other Tools:

- Access to Matlab to run scripts in Holton book
- Your favorite math books.
- Books on reference in Mather Library (see below)

Course Goals:

Students will gain a fundamental knowledge of Atmospheric Dynamics and be prepared to take additional more advanced Atmospheric Dynamics courses.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students who take this class, participate, do the homework, and attend regularly are expected to have the following skills:

- Understand and apply scale analysis to atmospheric motion equations
- Understand basic concepts in atmospheric dynamics such as:
 - consequences of non-inertial reference frames, thermal wind, circulation, vorticity, quasi-geostrophic motions, waves, and baroclinic instability.
- Follow the derivation and be able to provide a physical interpretation of

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- terms in the equations of motion
- Apply concepts from this class to their research
- Pass the Atmospheric Dynamics Comprehensive Exam (if applicable).

Instructional methods: This course is based on lectures, which will cover the major topics, emphasizing and discussing the important points. They are not sessions to regurgitate material already written in the text (though they sometimes may be!). Your personal participation is important, and it is will help you learn more efficiently to read the assigned material before lecture. Matlab scripts developed by Dr. Holton, and part of this new edition of his text book, will be a useful learning tool. Problems will be assigned from the Matlab exercises from each chapter.

Course Policies:

Homework: There will be approximately one homework assignment each 1-2 weeks. The problems will handed out in class. You are encouraged to work with others on the homework, but please make sure the work you turn in is not simply copied from someone else. These assignments help me assess your understanding of the material, and will count toward your final grade.

Late problem sets will have grade lowered by 10% per day late.

Exams: Exams will be in class exams, with the first part closed book and the second part open book. Exam 1 is on Friday February 25, 2005, Exam 2 is on Friday April 15, 2005, and the Final Exam is on Monday May 9th, 2005, 10:15 a.m.-12:15p.m. Missed exams will be given a 0 grade and make up exams will be given only under extenuating circumstances.

Complaints and Concerns: You are always welcome to talk to me to express complaints and concerns about the class. I will listen, though I do not guarantee that I will change the way I am doing things.

Plagiarism etc: Plagiarism and cheating are matters of serious concern for students and academic institutions. This is true in this class as well. The UAF Honor Code (or Student Code of Conduct) defines academic standards expected at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, which will be followed in this class. (Taken from the UAF plagiarism web site, which has many links with good information about this topic).

Evaluation: The course grade will consist of the following components. Final letter grades will be based on a standard scale: $A \geq 90\%$, $90\% < B \geq 80\%$, $80\% < C \geq 70\%$, $70\% < D \geq 60\%$ and $F \leq 50\%$. Note that tests will be graded on a curve.

	ATM645	ATM445
Attendance/Participation	5%	5%
Homework	25%	30%
Exam1	20%	20%
Exam 2	20%	20%
Final	30%	25%

Additional References: To see the same topics explained differently, try the following:

Basic Atmospheric Dynamics Texts (Overviews)

Cushman-Roisin, B., 1994: Introduction to Geophysical Fluid Dynamics, Prentice-Hall, 320 pp.
Haltiner, G. J., and F. L. Martin, 1957: Dynamic and Physical Meteorology, McGraw-Hill, 470 pp.
James, I. N., 1994: Introduction to Circulating Atmospheres, Cambridge University Press, 422 pp.
Riegel, C.A. and A.F.C., Bridger, 1992: Fundamentals of Atmospheric Dynamics and Thermodynamics, World Scientific, xx pp.
Zdunkowski, W. and A. Bott, 2003: Dynamics of the Atmosphere : A Course in Theoretical Meteorology, Cambridge, 738pp.

Advanced Dynamics Texts (& Special Topics)

Andrews, D. G., J. R. Holton, and C. B. Leovy, 1987: Middle Atmosphere Dynamics, Academic Press, 489 pp.
Dutton, J. A., 2002: The Ceaseless Wind, McGraw-Hill, 640 pp.
Green, J. & others, 2004: Atmospheric Dynamics, Cambridge University Press, 223 pp.
Lindzen, R. S., 1990: Dynamics in Atmospheric Physics, Cambridge University Press, 310 pp.
Pedlosky, J., 1998: Geophysical Fluid Dynamics, Second edition, Springer-Verlag, 710 pp.
Pedlosky, J., 2003: Waves in the Ocean and Atmosphere, Springer-Verlag, 260 pp.

Mathematics References

Boas, Mary L., 1983: Mathematical Methods in the Physical Sciences, 2nd Edition, Wiley, 816 pp.
Schey, H. M., 1996: Div, Grad, Curl, and All That: An Informal Text on Vector Calculus, Third Edition, W. W. Norton and Co, 176 pp.
Snieder, R. A., 2004: Guided Tour of Mathematical Methods : For the Physical Sciences, Second Edition, Cambridge, 522 pp.

Presentation References

Dr. Jim Callen's [Preparation of Effective Scientific Talks](#) (Univ. of Wisconsin)

General Advice: Atmospheric Dynamics is not something you read and memorize, rather it is something you learn how to do. Try the following study procedure:

1. Read the material prior to lecture, so that you will know what it's about.
2. Listen carefully to the lecture and take notes, ask questions and participate. This is 5% of your grade and could mean the difference between a letter grade in the end. Also, this is a good opportunity for you to practice how science is done.
3. There is a two step process in learning this material well. First you must solve the math and then second, think about the physical interpretation of the results. I will at times leave out steps in the derivations (but describe how to get from point a to b). I recommend that you work out the missing steps to help your understanding of the where the equations come from.

4. This is crucial: *Do not go back and read and re-read* the chapter until you "understand it." Rather, start working the problems and then go back through the chapter to clarify points as they come up. Sometimes it is helpful to read relevant sections in other texts to see alternate ways of presenting the material. Atmospheric science is a relatively young subject so there are not always standard explanations for phenomena, as in more mature scientific disciplines.

Disabilities Services:

The Office of Disability Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. We will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (203 WHIT, 474-7043) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities.