



**Course** ISNS 2368.001.22S  
**Course Title** Weather and Climate  
**Professor** Steve McCauley  
BS Atmospheric Science, *Purdue University*  
MS Atmospheric Science, *Texas Tech University*  
MS Geosciences, *Mississippi State University*  
**Term** January 18, 2022 - May 5, 2022  
**Meetings** Mon / Wed / Fri 2:00 PM – 2:50 PM in GR 3.302

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### Professor's Contact Information

**Office Phone** 972-883-2883 (Physics Department Main Line)  
**Other Phone** NA  
**Office Location** ONLINE  
**Email Address** Steven.McCauley@utdallas.edu  
**Office Hours** ONLINE By Appointment on MS Teams  
**Other Information** I usually respond to email within 24 hours, even on weekends.

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### General Course Information

<b>Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, &amp; other restrictions</b>	NONE
<b>Course Description</b>	<b>ISNS 2368 Weather and Climate</b> is a survey course of weather and climate for non-meteorology/non-science majors. The scientific method will be explained and utilized but <u>without</u> the rigorous mathematical treatment typically found in an introductory course in atmospheric science for science majors. This class is intended to give you an understanding of how the Earth works and to gain an appreciation of the Earth's atmosphere and how the physical and chemical processes within it make life possible on this planet and at the same time organize to produce a variety of weather phenomena such as clouds, rain, snow, sleet, freezing rain, hail and including extreme weather events such as severe thunderstorms, hurricanes, and tornadoes.
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Describe and explain the earth's atmospheric structure</li><li>2. Read and interpret weather maps</li><li>3. Differentiate between weather and climate and how and why each change</li><li>4. Understand the concepts of humidity, saturation, and atmospheric stability which give rise to the formation of various cloud types and their associated weather.</li><li>5. Describe the properties of the electromagnetic radiation spectrum and use this information to understand the energy balance between solar and terrestrial radiation</li><li>6. Describe the physical and chemical processes that occur in the atmosphere and how those processes interact to create wind, clouds, and the various forms of precipitation.</li></ol>

	<p>7. Discuss the global, regional, and local atmospheric circulation patterns that give rise to smaller scale phenomena such as thunderstorms, tornadoes, and hurricanes.</p> <p>8. Evaluate the evidence of global warming and global climate change and discuss its implications.</p> <p>9. Understand how the Earth-Sun Geometry creates the seasons</p> <p>10. Understand how the Surface Energy Budget determines heating and cooling rates</p> <p>11. Learn how atmospheric moisture fuels the world's weather patterns</p> <p>12. Learn how Cloud Droplets form and evolve into Snowflake/Raindrops</p> <p>13. Learn the forces that drive Atmospheric Motion (i.e., the wind)</p> <p>14. Understand the life cycle of Mid-Latitude Cyclones</p> <p>15. Learn the fundamentals of Weather Forecasting</p> <p>16. Investigate the forces that create Thunderstorms and Tornadoes</p> <p>17. Investigate the forces that create Hurricanes</p> <p>18. Learn how light travels through the atmosphere creating various optical phenomena such as rainbows and mirages.</p> <p>19. Understand Climate Controls and how they determine global climates</p> <p>20. Understand what determines Climatic Variability and Global Climate Change both in terms of natural and anthropogenic (human) causes.</p>
<b>Required Texts &amp; Materials</b>	<p>1-<b>Textbook:</b> <i>The Atmosphere</i>, 14<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2018 by Frederick K. Lutgens  ISBN-10: 0134758587 • ISBN-13: 978-0134758589</p>

Textbooks and some other bookstore materials can be ordered online or purchased at the [UT Dallas Bookstore](#).

## Technical Requirements

In addition to a confident level of computer and Internet literacy, certain minimum technical requirements must be met to enable a successful learning experience. Please review the important technical requirements on the [Getting Started with eLearning](#) webpage.

## Course Access and Navigation

This course can be accessed using your UT Dallas NetID account on the [eLearning](#) website.

Please see the course access and navigation section of the [Getting Started with eLearning](#) webpage for more information.

To become familiar with the eLearning tool, please see the [Student eLearning Tutorials](#) webpage.

UT Dallas provides eLearning technical support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The [eLearning Support Center](#) includes a toll-free telephone number for immediate assistance (1-866-588-3192), email request service, and an online chat service.

## Assignments & Academic Calendar (Does NOT include Most EC Opportunities)

Class Week	Assignments for the Class Week (Times are for Dallas Time)
Jan 17	No Class Monday: Martin Luther King Day Read Chapter 1 Take <b>Chapter 1 Quiz</b> Online Due Sunday night 11:59 PM Take <b>Syllabus Quiz</b> Online Due Sunday night 11:59 PM Extra Credit Discussion Board Post due Sunday night 11:59 PM
Jan 24	Read Chapter 2 Take <b>Chapter 2 Quiz</b> Online Due Sunday night 11:59 PM <b>Homework #1 Due Sunday night 11:59 PM</b>
Jan 31	Read Chapter 3 Take <b>Chapter 3 Quiz</b> Online Due Sunday night 11:59 PM <b>Homework #2 Due Sunday night 11:59 PM</b>
Feb 7	<b>EXAM I – Chapters 1, 2, and 3 Monday</b> Read Chapter 4 Take <b>Chapter 4 Quiz</b> Online Due Sunday night 11:59 PM <b>Homework #3 Due Sunday night 11:59 PM</b>
Feb 14	Read Chapter 5 Take <b>Chapter 5 Quiz</b> Online Due Sunday night 11:59 PM <b>Homework #4 Due Sunday night 11:59 PM</b>
Feb 21	Read Chapter 6 Take <b>Chapter 6 Quiz</b> Online Due Sunday night 11:59 PM <b>Homework #5 Due Sunday night 11:59 PM</b>
Feb 28	<b>EXAM II – Chapters 4, 5, and 6 Monday</b> Read Chapters 8,9 Take <b>Chapters 8,9 Quiz</b> Online Due Sunday night 11:59 PM <b>Homework #6 Due Sunday night 11:59 PM</b>
Mar 7	Read Chapter 10 Take <b>Chapter 10 Quiz</b> Online Due Sunday night 11:59 PM
Mar 14	<b>SPRING BREAK !</b>
Mar 21	Read Chapter 11 Take <b>Chapter 11 Quiz</b> Online Due Sunday night 11:59 PM <b>Homework #7 Due Sunday night 11:59 PM</b>
Mar 28	<b>EXAM III – Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 Monday</b> Read Chapter 12 Take <b>Chapter 12 Quiz</b> Online Due Sunday night 11:59 PM <b>Homework #8 Due Sunday night 11:59 PM</b>
Apr 4	Read Chapter 16 Take <b>Chapter 16 Quiz</b> Online Due Sunday night 11:59 PM <b>Homework #9 Due Sunday night 11:59 PM</b>
Apr 11	Read Chapter 13 Take <b>Chapter 13 Quiz</b> Online Due Sunday night 11:59 PM
Apr 18	Read Chapter 15 Take <b>Chapter 15 Quiz</b> Online Due Sunday night 11:59 PM <b>Homework #10 Due Sunday night 11:59 PM</b>
Apr 25	Read Chapter 14 Take <b>Chapter 14 Quiz</b> Online Due Tuesday, Dec 3, at 11:59 PM <b>Homework #11 Due Sunday night at 11:59 PM</b>
May 2	Last Day of Class: Monday Review for Final Exam – Mostly Chapters 12, 13, 14, 15, & 16

	Exam I (Monday Feb 7) Exam II (Monday Feb 28) Exam III (Monday Mar 28) Final Exam (Friday 13 May 2:00 – 4:00 PM)
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### Course Policies

<b>Grading Criteria</b>	<table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>Method of Evaluation</b></th> <th style="text-align: right;"><u>Point Value</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Syllabus Quiz</td> <td style="text-align: right;">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Class Attendance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 Exams @ 100 points each</td> <td style="text-align: right;">300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Final Exam @ 170 points</td> <td style="text-align: right;">170</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14 Chapter Quizzes @ 20 points each</td> <td style="text-align: right;">280</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11 Homeworks @ 20 points each</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>220</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;"><b>Course Total Points: 1000</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>Grade Scale</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>Percent</u></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>Total Points</u></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>Grade</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>97-100</td> <td>970-1000</td> <td>A+</td> </tr> <tr> <td>93-96.9</td> <td>930-969</td> <td>A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>90-92.9</td> <td>900-929</td> <td>A-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>87-89.9</td> <td>870-899</td> <td>B+</td> </tr> <tr> <td>83 -86.9</td> <td>830-869</td> <td>B</td> </tr> <tr> <td>80-82.9</td> <td>800-829</td> <td>B-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>77-79.9</td> <td>770-799</td> <td>C+</td> </tr> <tr> <td>73-76.9</td> <td>730-769</td> <td>C</td> </tr> <tr> <td>70-72.9</td> <td>700-729</td> <td>C-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>67-69.9</td> <td>670-699</td> <td>D+</td> </tr> <tr> <td>63-66.9</td> <td>630-669</td> <td>D</td> </tr> <tr> <td>60-62.9</td> <td>600-629</td> <td>D-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>&lt;59.9</td> <td>599 or less</td> <td>F</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p><b>Special Notice Concerning TOTAL POINTS and GRADES:</b> The grade scale above is FIRM and FINAL. 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	<p>please feel free to ask your questions during class, or you can speak with me during <b>VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS</b> by appointment on MS Teams.</p>
<b>Homework</b>	<p>There will be 11 homework assignments worth 20 points each for a total of 220 points.</p> <p>All homework assignments will be due at 11:59 PM on Sunday night. The assignments will be made available on eLearning for 7 days. You may upload your completed homework assignment on eLearning using your computer, tablet, or phone.</p> <p><b>NO EXTENSIONS</b> can be made for missed homework assignments except under extreme circumstances since they are available for 7 full days.</p>
<b>Chapter Quizzes</b>	<p>There is a chapter quiz for each chapter in your assigned textbook reading for a total of 14 quizzes worth 20 points each for a total of 280 points. The questions will come from your textbook as well as the material presented during lecture.</p> <p>The quizzes are open book / open notes, and they are <b>ALWAYS</b> taken online. There is <b>NO TIME LIMIT</b> on the quizzes other than the due date. This means you can open and close the quizzes on eLearning as many times as you wish, but they must be submitted by Sunday night at 11:59 PM. <b>NO EXTENSIONS</b> can be made for missed quizzes except under extreme circumstances since they are available for 7 full days.</p> <p>All quizzes will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions.</p> <p>If you accidentally submit your quiz before answering all of the questions, contact the instructor by email <b>IMMEDIATELY</b>. Let me repeat: <b>DO NOT WAIT</b> a single minute to email the instructor. This will ensure that you will get the fastest response possible since the instructor may not get to read your email immediately. But at least you will leave a digital confirmation that you were having problems with the quiz. The instructor <b>MAY</b> be able to reset the quiz for you before the due date but be aware it may be a different quiz.</p> <p><b>DO NOT</b> wait until the last minute to complete a quiz. If something goes wrong at the last minute, there may not be enough time to find a solution to the problem before the quiz is due! <b>Remember, you can use your phone to complete a quiz if you lose your Internet connection.</b></p>
<b>Exams</b>	<p>There will be 4 exams – 3 regular exams (100 points each) and a final exam (170 points). You will have 50 minutes to complete each of the regular exams and 120 minutes to complete the final exam.</p> <p>The <b>FINAL EXAM</b> is not “technically” comprehensive since it will concentrate mainly on the the material delivered during the last 4 weeks of the semester. But major topics from previous weeks will be incorporated into the final. <b>You may use your written or printed class notes for the final, so good note taking throughout the semester would be to your advantage!</b> You will have two hours to take the final exam.</p> <p>All exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, and short-answer questions.</p>
<b>Late Work Grace Period for 50% Credit</b>	<p>Students may turn in assignments - including quizzes, homeworks, and exams - after the posted due date for any reason whatsoever for 50% credit. Students will have 24 hours after the due date to turn in their missed assignment to receive this partial credit.</p>

	<p>Assignments submitted more than 24 hours after the due date will receive a 0 unless the student has an APPROVED reason for missing the 24-hour deadline. Students with an APPROVED reason may make up the work for 100% credit. To see what qualifies for MAKE-UP WORK, read the panel below.</p>
<p><b>Make-up Work for 100% Credit</b></p>	<p>If you miss the due date for an assignment or an exam, you may make up the work for 100% credit <b><u>IF AND ONLY IF</u></b> it was due to one of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) illness,</li> <li>2) family emergency,</li> <li>3) pre-approved appointment, or</li> <li>4) university-approved activity.</li> </ol> <p><b>You MUST provide documentation or similar evidence to verify the excused absence, and you MUST notify the instructor within 24 hours of the missed assignment.</b> Do NOT request to make up any missed assignment unless you have one of the above university-approved reasons for missing it.</p> <p>If you have any one of the four excused absences listed above, AND you have documentation to verify the absence, you will have <b>2 DAYS</b> to make up the missed assignment. In the case of an exam, be advised you may not get the same exam as the rest of the class but it will be equally challenging.</p> <p><b>IMPORTANT:</b> If you do NOT have an excused absence when you miss an assignment or an exam, you can still receive 50% credit if it is submitted within 24 hours of the due date. In other words, a student with an UNEXCUSED absence is NOT eligible for make-up work at 100% credit. This policy makes it fair to the other students who made the effort to turn in assignments when they are due.</p> <p>Note: Students who wait until the last minute to submit an assignment online but then suddenly discover they have Internet problems and thus cannot submit a quiz or homework assignment by the due date using their home computers or tablets, should use their smartphones to complete the task. Extensions WILL NOT be granted due to internet connectivity issues with their laptops, tablets, or desktop computers.</p>
<p><b>Forgery / Cheating</b></p>	<p>Students who are eligible for make-up work must provide a contact phone number that can be used to verify the student's reason for missing the exam or assignment. Any student who falsifies documentation (such as a doctor's note) in order to be considered for make-up work will receive a zero for the assignment or exam, will be dropped one letter grade in the class, and will be reported to university officials for proper disciplinary measures.</p>
<p><b>Class Attendance</b></p>	<p>Attendance is very important. You are required to attend class as much as possible. It is unlikely you will succeed in this class without regular attendance. If you must miss lecture, please try to obtain the notes from a student who did attend class on the day you missed. Students who obtain class notes when they miss lecture perform MUCH BETTER on exams than students who do not.</p> <p>By attending class regularly, you can earn up to <b>20 POINTS</b> towards your final grade!</p> <p>For each day you attend class and stay for the entire lecture, 1 point will be ADDED to your total points for the class, up to 20 points!</p> <p>Clearly, these 20 points are not only for attending class. They are points <b>you legitimately earn</b> because you are taking full responsibility as an adult to be in your assigned class and are being held accountable for your presence or absence during lecture.</p>

	<p><b>Attendance can make the difference between an A and an A- or an A- and a B+ (and so on down the grading scale).</b></p>
<p><b>Extra Credit</b></p>	<p>There will be several extra credit opportunities given throughout the semester. This is why no quiz, no exam, or no homework score is dropped in this class. Extra Credit will consist of bonus questions on exams.</p> <p>There will also be "Pop Extra Credit" (PEC) opportunities given during class. These special opportunities will be <b>UNANNOUNCED</b> and will often be given at the end of lecture, and thus you must be in attendance in order to be eligible to earn the PEC points.</p> <p>Students who have an excused absence - such as an illness, family emergency, pre-approved appointment, or taking part in a university-approved sporting event - on a PEC day may still earn the extra credit given in class by performing a special assignment outside of class. (Students without an excused absence are NOT eligible to make up PEC points.) The special assignment usually consists of writing a paper on a specific meteorological topic. The assignment is due within 7 days of the PEC day.</p> <p><b>IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT TO DETERMINE IF HE OR SHE HAS MISSED A POP EXTRA CREDIT (PEC) OPPORTUNITY.</b> This means the INSTRUCTOR will NOT track down a student who missed class to let them know that they missed an extra credit opportunity. A qualified student who wishes to take advantage of any missed PEC opportunity will make arrangements with the instructor within 24 hours (i.e., by email) of the PEC opportunity to see what he or she must do to obtain the extra credit points.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> A student who leaves the lecture room before class has officially ended may not only miss out on a riveting lecture and class discussion, but the student will also miss out on any possible unannounced extra credit opportunity at the end of lecture!</p>
<p><b>Classroom Citizenship</b></p>	<p>In order to not interrupt the class session, students are asked to turn off or set to vibrate all phones at the beginning of class. There should be no texting, instant messaging, or any other forms of outside communications during lecture.</p> <p>Students are welcome to take notes during lecture on their tablets or laptop computers. However, students are asked NOT to access Internet content that is unrelated to the material being discussed. This is not only interfering with your understanding of course content, but it has been shown to be disruptive to the learning styles of other students. <b>It is one thing to sabotage your own learning experience, but it is unacceptable to interfere with another student's education and bring them down with you.</b></p> <p>If the instructor sees or hears a student or a group of students engaged in inappropriate use of electronic devices during lecture or engaging in disruptive conversations, the instructor will request that the students stop their inappropriate behavior.</p> <p>Students who do not correct their behavior in a timely manner may INSTANTLY lose ALL attendance points plus 10 more (up to a maximum of 20 points), will be identified in front of the class (how embarrassing), and may be asked to leave the room.</p>

	<p><b>CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS</b></p> <p>All students in this class will be treated like adults, and as such, they are expected to practice courteous, respectful, and cooperative behavior for the time they are in class. This would be the norm in any higher education or work environment.</p> <p>To avoid distractions in the classroom, students are expected to:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Arrive on time and stay until class is dismissed if at all possible. Be prepared for class discussions. Listen courteously to one speaker at a time, with no interruptions. Never disrupt the class by engaging in unrelated conversations that can be heard by the instructor but especially by other students.</p>
<b>Comet Creed</b>	<p><i>This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same: "As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do."</i></p>
<b>Academic Support Resources</b>	<p>The information contained in the following link lists the University's academic support resources for all students.</p> <p>Please go to <a href="#">Academic Support Resources</a> webpage for these policies.</p>
<b>UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures</b>	<p><i>The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please go to <a href="http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies">http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies</a> for these policies.</i></p>

***The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.***