



**GEOL 1447.001IN**  
**Meteorology**  
**Fall 2023**  
**100% Online**

**Instructor Information:** Patrick Blood, [email](#), (713) 859-2021

**Student hours and location:** One hour per week via a Microsoft Teams video and/or chat room conference. Dates and times will vary to accommodate all students' schedules. A weekly invite will be emailed to your COM e-mail account.

**Required Textbook/Materials:**

AMS Weather Studies Student Package 2023-24 (ISBN: 978-1-944970-85-7)

The \$144 rental bundle is required: [Weather Studies Student Package](#)

**Course Description:** **Meteorology** is the study of the Earth's atmosphere, weather and climate. The comprehensive lecture and lab will provide an overview of meteorology and its related earth sciences and is intended for both the science and non-science major. This introductory atmospheric science course with complementing lab will place emphasis on physical atmospheric processes, dynamic boundary layer behavior, meteorological phenomena and the weather's impact upon modern society.

**Course requirements:** Computer, reliable internet, AMS Weather Studies Student Package 2023-24.

**Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula: Point System**

*“Total Points Earned divided by the Total Available Points”*

**Grading Scale:**

90 – 100: **A**

80 – 89: **B**

70 – 79: **C**

60 – 69: **D**

0 – 59: **F**

**Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy:** Make up exams and extended deadlines will only be available to individuals that have a documented excuse for missing an assignment or exam deadline. Documented excuses include (but are not limited to): a note from a licensed physician’s office and/or hospital on physician’s letter head AND an official’s signature, a signed form from a presiding judge indicating official jury duty, and/or a law enforcement officer-signed report from an accident showing the date and time of occurrence that demonstrates an inaccessibility to submit the required work or meet a deadline.

**Attendance Policy:** This is a 100% online course in both lecture and lab component. This course’s attendance will betaken through the successful submittance of the weekly lab assignments. The student has a responsibility to log into the D2L Brightspace (from now on just referred to as “Brightspace”) course site at a *minimum of three times per week*. Communication with the instructor concerning scheduled absences is required. The college recognizes no excused absences other than those prescribed by law such as religious holy days and military service. Students who have not attended class or have not signed into the course by Census Day will automatically be dropped from the class. Census dates can be found under the [Academic Calendar](#).

**Communicating with your instructor:** ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means.

| Student Learner Outcome                | Maps to Core Objective  | Assessed via            |
|--|---|-------------------------|
| 1. <b>Critical Thinking</b>            | Develop habits of mind that allow for the appreciation of the process(es) by which scholars within various disciplines organize & evaluate data while utilizing each discipline’s methodologies to gain a better understanding of the human experience. | Lab Assignments         |
| 2. <b>Communication</b>                | Communicate ideas, express feelings and support conclusions effectively in written, oral and visual formats.  | Discussion Board Posts  |
| 3. <b>Quantitative &amp; Empirical</b> | Develop quantitative and empirical skills to understand, analyze and explain natural, physical and social realms.   | Textbook Chapter Review |
| 4. <b>Teamwork</b>                     | Consider different points of view and work inter-dependently to achieve a shared purpose or goal.   | Semester Project        |

**Academic Dishonesty:** College of the Mainland students should always exhibit the utmost integrity and maintain the highest standard within their academic work. Members of the college community benefit from an open and honest educational environment. Upholding academic integrity is everyone's responsibility. The penalty for cheating, plagiarism (defined as the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own), the use of A.I. or any other violation will be determined by the instructor. The minimum penalty will be a zero on that particular assignment or exam. The student may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action.

**Student Concerns:** If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you still have questions then please contact Sheena Abernathy at (409) 933-8330 or [sabernathy@com.edu](mailto:sabernathy@com.edu).

**General Course Outline:**

| Week | Lecture Topic                    | Lab Topic                      | Exam  | Project  |
|------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|----------|
| 1    | Monitoring the Weather           | Air Pressure, Wind             |       |          |
| 2    | The Atmosphere                   | Weather Maps, Atmosphere       |       |          |
| 3    | Solar and Terrestrial Radiation  | Satellites, Sunlight           | 1     |          |
| 4    | Heat, Temperature                | Temperature, Air Masses        |       |          |
| 5    | Air Pressure                     | Vertical Air Pressure          |       |          |
| 6    | Humidity, Stability              | Clouds, Rising and Sinking Air |       | Assigned |
| 7    | Clouds, Precipitation            | Precipitation, Doppler Radar   |       |          |
| 8    | Winds                            | Surface and Upper Air Maps     | 2     |          |
| 9    | Planetary Air Circulations       | Jet Stream, El Niño            |       |          |
| 10   | Mid-Latitude Systems             | Extratropical Cyclones         |       |          |
| 11   | Thunderstorms, Tornadoes         | Thunderstorms, Tornadoes       | 3     |          |
| 12   | Tropical Weather Systems         | Hurricanes                     |       |          |
| 13   | Weather Analysis and Forecasting | Forecasting                    |       |          |
| 14   | Climate (Change)                 | Climate                        | 4     |          |
| 15   | Team Project                     | Project                        |       | Due      |
| 16   | Finals Week                      |                                | Final |          |

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## Institutional Policies and Guidelines

**Grade Appeal Process:** Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook: [https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student\\_Handbook\\_2023-2024\\_v2.pdf](https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2023-2024_v2.pdf). *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*

**Academic Success & Support Services:** College of the Mainland is committed to providing students with the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

**ADA Statement:** Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact Kimberly Lachney at (409) 933-8919 or [klachney@com.edu](mailto:klachney@com.edu). The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

**Textbook Purchasing Statement:** A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase the required textbook, lab manual and Web Portal access from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook, lab manual and Web Portal access may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer (e.g., the AMS).

**Withdrawal Policy:** Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a “W” grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from this 16 week session is November 28<sup>th</sup>.

**FN Grading:** The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

**Early Alert Program:** The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are particularly important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

**Resources to Help with Stress:**

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at [deanofstudents@com.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@com.edu) or [communityresources@com.edu](mailto:communityresources@com.edu).