GEOL 1447.101IN
Meteorology
Spring 2021
100% Online

Instructor Information:
Patrick Blood, pblood@com.edu, (832) 779-5570

Office Hour:
One hour per week via a Microsoft Teams video conference. Dates and times will vary to accommodate all student's schedules. A weekly invite will be emailed to your COM account.

Required Textbook(s):
AMS Weather Studies Student Package 2020-21 (**ISBN: 978-1-944970-59-8**)
$144 rental is recommended: https://edubooks.ametsoc.org/WXPK-20 (Preferred Browser: Google Chrome)

Textbook Purchasing Statement:
A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase the textbook and lab manual from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook and lab manual will also be available from an independent online source.

Course Description:
Meteorology is the study of the Earth's atmosphere, weather and climate. The lecture and lab will provide an overview of meteorology and its related sciences and is intended for both the science and non-science major. This introductory atmospheric science course and complementing lab will place emphasis on physical atmospheric processes, dynamic boundary layer behavior, meteorological phenomena and the weather's impact upon society. The class will focus on the uniqueness of our ever-evolving atmosphere in relation to other planets' atmospheres, the basics of weather, atmospheric convective processes (i.e., thunderstorms, tropical cyclones), along with the impacts of air pollution and global climate change.

Course Requirements:
Pre-requisites: TSI Reading 351 or IRW 0320 <u>and</u> TSI Math 350 or Math 0320
Recommended Pre-requisites: Physics (any PHYS course), Math 1314

General Learning Outcomes and Objectives

General Learner Outcome	Core Objective
1. **Critical Thinking**	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 understand of the human experience.
2. **Communication**	Communicate ideas, express feelings and support conclusions effectively in written, oral and visual formats.
3. **Quantitative & Empirical**	Develop quantitative and empirical skills to understand, analyze and explain natural, physical and social realms.
4. **Teamwork**	Consider different points of view and work inter-dependently to achieve a shared purpose or goal.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:

"Total Points Earned / Total Available Points" System

Grading Scale:
90 – 100: **A**
80 – 89: **B**
70 – 79: **C**
60 – 69: **D**
 0 – 59: **F**

F_N Grading:
The F_N grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The F_N 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 F_N grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an F_N grade.

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: 2019-2020 Student Handbook. 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.

Make-Up 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 physician's office or hospital with physicians letter head AND a signature, a signed form from a presiding judge indicating official jury duty, and/or an 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.

Basic Course Outline:
Please refer to the Course Schedule for more details.

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	Instruments, Obs, and Forecasting		
14	Climate (Change)	Climate		
15	-	-	4	Due
16	Finals Week	-	Final	

Attendance Policy:
This is a 100% online course in both lecture and lab component. This course's attendance will be taken through the successful submittance of the weekly lab assignments. The student has a responsibility to log into the Blackboard 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 for each semester can be found under the Academic Calendar.

Student Responsibility/Class Participation Policy:
Students are expected to sign into Blackboard and fully peruse the course site during the first week of class. Please become comfortable with the Blackboard environment and this course's structure or lay out. This is a partial distance education course so there will be no classroom lecture meeting, but there will be weekly face-to-face lab interaction. I will be monitoring your progress through Blackboard, including your time logged into the course, the amount of time accessing assignments and the time spent reading any instructor posts. *All assignments must be submitted in Blackboard* with prior instructor-granted permission for e-mail submission. Note that instructor posts are *required* reading. **Technology failure** is **not** an excuse for late or missing work. You are responsible for meeting exam, quiz and project deadlines and for ensuring the instructor can open your submitted files.

Communication through student e-mail:
College of the Mainland provides a free, official e-mail account to all students to ensure efficient and secure communications between you and the college. Students will be required to use their college-issued e-mail address to communicate with their instructors and all other college personnel, so it is easy to distinguish a student's e-mail from spam. The college expects that students will utilize their college e-mail addresses to send and receive communications with college personnel and that they will read e-mail on a frequent basis. To activate your student e-mail, please visit: https://www.com.edu/its/email

Classroom Online *Netiquette*:
Since this is a hybrid online course, most correspondence will be within Blackboard or by e-mail. Please remember that the online lecture environment should be treated the same as an on-campus environment. Being an online student is inherently assuming the responsibility of following the Course Schedule and submitting any work by the deadlines specified within Blackboard. While I will usually post announcements associated with impending deadlines, the absence of an announcement does not constitute an excuse for not submitting an assignment by its deadline.

Withdrawal Policy:
A student wishing to drop the course must drop themselves as faculty cannot drop the student. Students who have not attended class or have not signed into the course by Census Day will automatically be dropped from the class. Students should speak with the instructor and/or consult with an advisor before dropping courses. Students attending college for the first time (in the fall semester of 2007 or after) may only receive six grades of a W; the Texas public college/university grade received for a dropped course after the census date. Grades of W in developmental courses or high school level courses will not count towards the six W grade limit. After six grades of W are received, students must receive letter grades of A, B, C, D or F in all subsequent courses. There are exemptions from the six-drop limit and students should consult with a Counselor/Educational Planner before they drop courses to determine if these exemptions are applicable to them. Students receiving financial aid must contact the Financial Aid Office before withdrawing from a course. The last day to withdraw from this course is: April 26th, 2021.

Minimum Technical Skills:
To succeed in this online course, you should be proficient in:
1. **Blackboard** to contact your instructor and for discussions, labs, assignments and tests. If this is your first online course, you are required to take the Online Learner Workshop (http://edtech.com.edu/olw/) in order to learn how to use Blackboard.
2. (**Outlook**) **E-mail** to create, send and download emails, with and without attachments. COM Blackboard and e-mail accounts are the official means of communication in this course.
3. **Word Processing, Spreadsheet and Presentation Software** to create, edit and submit word processing, spreadsheet and presentation files.
4. **Search engines** to locate, download and install software applications and plugins, as well as to locate and download information on the Internet.

Minimum Technology Requirements:
All students taking this course are expected to have:
1. **Access to a computer**. Know the on-campus computer lab locations (http://www.com.edu/computer-labs).
In the event of technical difficulties, you may want to utilize the campus computer lab to take exams, quizzes, work on assignments, etc...
2. **Access to a reliable Internet connection**. If you do not have a hard link (ethernet) Internet connection, ensure your wireless connection is stable and has a strong signal, especially in times of testing.
3. **Web Browser**: One of the most recent releases of either Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox (do **not** use Internet Explorer). Perform the Browser Check on the Blackboard log-in page https://de.com.edu/
4. **Word Processing software** such as Microsoft Office, Open Office, or Google Docs.
5. Up-to-date **browser plug-ins** such as Adobe Reader, Flash and Java.
6. Ensure you have up-to-date **anti-virus software** installed and that it is active.

Academic Success & Support Services:
College of the Mainland is committed to providing students 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 me or an advisor.

Counseling Statement:
Any student that is needing counseling services is requested to please contact Holly Bankston in the Student Success Center at 409-933-8520 or hbankston@com.edu. Counseling services are available in the student center for free. Appointments are strongly encouraged. However, some concerns may be addressed on a walk-in basis. http://www.com.edu/student-services/counseling

ADA Statement:
Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact Holly Bankston at 409-933-8520 or hbankston@com.edu. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is in the Student Success Center in the student center.

Early Alert Program:
The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very 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.

Classroom Conduct Policy:
College of the Mainland requires that students enrolled at COM be familiar with the Standards of Student Conduct, which can be found in the on-line Student Handbook. http://www.com.edu/student-services/student-handbook Students are expected to be familiar with and abide by the Student Code of Conduct. Any violations of the Code of Conduct will result in a referral to the Dean of Students and may result in dismissal from this class.

Academic Dishonesty / Plagiarism:
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) 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. Please visit https://www.com.edu/dean-of-students/student-conduct for more info.

Student Concerns and/or Questions:
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 continue to have questions, please contact Sheena Abernathy at 409-933-8330 or sabernathy@com.edu.

COVID-19 Statement (Spring 2021):
All students, faculty and staff are expected to familiarize themselves with materials and information contained on the College of the Mainland's Coronavirus Information site at www.com.edu/coronavirus. Students are required to watch a training video, complete the self-screening, and acknowledge the safety guidance at: www.com.edu/selfscreen. In addition, students, faculty, and staff must perform a self-screening prior to each campus visit. Finally, students, faculty, or staff which have had symptoms of COVID-19, received a positive test for COVID-19, or have had close contact with an individual infected with COVID-19 must complete the self-report tool.