

General Circulation of the Atmosphere ATM 240 - 2010

Instructor: R. Grotjahn

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Class meets: 10:30 am - 12:20 pm T,Th in Room 124 Hoagland

Office hours: TBA in Rm 231 Hoagland, make an (informal) appointment (strongly recommended) or drop in

Not available:

the hour before this class, AND also:

11:00 am - 1:30 pm M, W (ATM 10)

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm W (ATM 10)

and some Tuesday afternoons...

Class webpage: <http://atm.ucdavis.edu/~grotjahn/course/atm240/index.html>

COURSE GOALS: To develop a broad understanding of the large scale properties of the Earth's atmosphere. A comprehensive presentation of atmospheric observations is made. This is followed by some simple theories to explain various observed features.

COURSE FORMAT: The text for the course is Global Atmospheric Circulations, Observations and Theories, by R. Grotjahn. The book was derived directly from lectures given in this course years ago. The course has evolved since then, so lectures diverge from the material and the order used in the book. In addition, the instructor is under contract to write a new book on the topic, so there will be material related to that. Students are strongly encouraged to read the assigned material *before* coming to the class meeting (except for the first meeting). An errata document can be accessed from the ATM240 course homepage for the general circulation book.

The lecture will begin with a brief summary of the previous lecture period. This is often a good time to ask questions you may have regarding the previous lecture material. The next 70-90 minutes of the class period will be a semi-formal lecture on the most important points in the reading assigned for that meeting. (A list of subjects and reading for each meeting can be found at the course website.) The remaining time is left for homework discussion or other questions. Class may often finish 'early'.

Each lecture will be organized around a study list of concepts. A study guide for each lecture is posted on the course website. Please consult these prior to each class meeting. To add some variety, we may solicit student comments on some items in the study list. In a departure from the order in the text, some lectures "toggle" between chapter sections showing observations and sections showing theories in an effort to show strongly how the simple theories explain various observed properties.

GRADING: Grading will be based upon the final and the homework. Approximately one homework assignment per week will be handed out. No midterm exam is anticipated. Grading is based upon homework (65%) and final (35%).

Note: Due to the reduced number of Thursday and Tuesday lecture days this quarter, we will not have a midterm.