

SIO 172: Physics of the Atmosphere

Winter Quarter 2016

12:30-1:50, Tuesday and Thursday

Eckart Building – Sea Cave

Instructor:

Amato Evan

441 Nierenberg Hall

Tel. 822-6882

e-mail: aevan@ucsd.edu (use “SIO 172” in the subject line)

Office hours:

Tuesday & Thursday 2:00-3:00

Course description:

This course provides an understanding of the physical principles governing the behavior of the Earth's atmosphere, with emphasis on the atmospheric thermodynamics, radiation and clouds. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to identify and understand atmospheric processes that influence weather and climate.

Required textbook:

Atmospheric Science: An Introductory Survey (2nd edition), by J. Wallace & P. Hobbs, Academic Press.

<https://www.elsevier.com/books/atmospheric-science/wallace/978-0-12-732951-2>

e-Book (must access via UCSD IP): <http://uclibs.org/PID/240988>

Evaluation:

There will be one mid-term and one final examination, both given during a regular class period. The exams will primarily consist of essay-type questions and quantitative problem solving. The materials included in exams will be taken directly from lectures, class discussions, and textbook reading assignments. Therefore, attendance to all lectures is expected. Each student will be allowed to use class notes or the course textbook during the exam.

Three homework assignments will be due at various dates throughout the quarter.

Homework:	33%	See schedule
Mid-term Exam:	33%	Thursday, February 5
Final Exam:	34%	Thursday, March 10

If you have any conflicts (officially sanctioned University academic or athletic activities) with the examination dates, I need to have that information soon so alternative arrangements can be made. If you miss any of the exams without prior approval, you will receive a zero on the exam. *No make-up exams will be given.*

Your final grade will be determined according to the following scale:

A: 100-93	A-: 92-90	
B+: 89-87	B: 86-83	B-: 82-80
C+: 79-77	C: 76-73	C-: 72-70
D: 69-60		
F: Less than 60		

Course Schedule

Lecture	Topic	Date	Reading
1	Introduction: Thermodynamics: Basics	1/5 Tu	WH 1, 2
2	Thermodynamics: Gas Law, Hydro Balance	1/7 Th	WH 3.1, 3.2
3	Thermodynamics: 1 st Law, Adiabatic Processes	1/12 Tu	WH 3.3, 3.4
4	Thermodynamics: Water Vapor, Stability	1/14 Th	WH 3.5, 3.6
6	Thermodynamics: Stability contd. Second Law	1/19 Tu	WH 3.6, 3.7
7	Thermodynamics: Summary (Homework 1 due)	1/21 Th	
8	Radiation: Infrared & Shortwave	1/26 Tu	WH 4.1–4.3
9	Radiation: Optical Phenomenon	1/28 Th	WH 4.4
10	Radiation: Satellite Remote Sensing I	2/2 Tu	WH 4.5
11	Midterm Exam	2/4 Th	
12	Radiation: Satellite Remote Sensing II	2/9 Tu	WH 4.5
13	Radiation: Global Climate & TOA Balances	2/11 Th	WH 4.6
14	Radiation: Summary (Homework 2 due)	2/16 Tu	
15	Cloud Physics: Cloud Types & Remote Sensing	2/18 Th	
16	Cloud Physics: Nucleation & Structure	2/23 Tu	WH 6.1, 6.2
17	Cloud Physics: Droplet Growth	2/25 Th	WH 6.4
18	Cloud Physics: Ice Nuclei	3/1 Tu	WH 6.5
19	Cloud Physics: Aerosols & Cloud Modification	3/3 Th	WH 6.6
20	Cloud Physics: Review (Homework 3 due)	3/8 Tu	
21	Final Exam	3/10 Th	