Geography 333C - Severe and Unusual Weather
(Unique # 37558)
Spring 2011

LOCATION AND TIME: GRG312, TTh 12:30 pm - 1:45 pm

INSTRUCTOR: Troy Kimmel, Senior Lecturer CV BIO (Email: tkimmel@mail.utexas.edu)
TEACHING ASSISTANT: Chris Ulack (Email: culack@mail.utexas.edu)
OFFICE: Geography Building (Northeast corner of 24th Street and Whitis Avenue), Room 340
OFFICE HOURS: TuTh 10:15 to 11:00am; We 10:30am to 12:15 noon / other times by appointment
PHONES: Home Office 335-6472 (At times other than office hours)
UT Office 232-1590 (Office hours only), UT Geography Switchboard 471-5116

GRADING PROCEDURE:
You will have the opportunity to earn 400 points during the semester.

At the end of the semester, when utilizing the UT "Plus" / "Minus" Final Grade Grading System and applying it to our 400 point grading system...
360-373 = A- (GPA earned 3.67), 374-400 = A (GPA earned 4.0)
320-331 = B- (GPA earned 2.67), 332-345 = B (GPA earned 3.0), 346-359 = B+ (GPA earned 3.33)
280-291 = C- (GPA earned 1.67), 292-305 = C (GPA earned 2.0), 306-319 = C+ (GPA earned 2.33)
240-251 = D- (GPA earned 0.67), 252-265 = D (GPA earned 1.0), 266-279 = D+ (GPA earned 1.33)
0-239 = F (GPA earned = 0.00)

There will be three exams during the semester (multiple choice, true false, matching, short answer and essay). Each of the exams will be cumulative in nature since topics covered early in the semester are used when looking at the individual types of severe and unusual weather during the remaibder of the semester. Each of these exams will count 100 points (for a total of 300 points). Makeup examinations will be essay style and will only be given at the discretion of the instructor with an official university excuse. Class participation/attendance, homework and class exercises will count for an additional 100 points. There will be no final examination.

If you have a question regarding your exams, it is your responsibility to visit during office hours when we will access your copy of the exam. Any questions regarding exams will be brought forth within one week of the exam return date otherwise the grade is considered final.

DAILY WEATHER BRIEFINGS
Depending on ongoing weather, there will be weather briefings, led by the instructor, which will be held at the beginning of class. Students are expected to be aware of the overall weather pattern before class so that meaningful class discussions can be held.

TEXTBOOK/INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:
We will be utilizing a textbook as well as a number of instructional materials, including on line web modules.
Severe and Hazardous Weather (3rd Edition) - Rauber, Walsh and Charlevoix
(Packaged with Homework/Exercise Manual) Kendall-Hunt Publishing Company

The textbook is available at the University Coop and other university area bookstores as well as on the web. Shop around for the best price.

Here are some additional on line links that will be useful in class:

METARS / Surface Weather Observations Tutorial (METAR Decoding Exercise)
NCAR / World Wide Location Identifier List (NWS Location ID Query System)
Kimmel's Cloud /Precipitation Types Tutorial (On Line Learning Module)
Kimmel's Severe and Unusual Weather Tutorial (On Line Learning Module)
Koppen Climate Classification Flow Chart

NCDC / Local Annual LCD Documents in PDF Texas Climate Normals 1971-2000

Austin Bergstrom Intl Airport (ID: KAUS):
1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012
Austin City (Camp Mabry) (ID: KATT):
1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA):
The University of Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259, 471-6441 TTY, 866-329-3986 video phone.
If you have documentation regarding accommodations from the Dean of Students office, you must meet with me, in person and during office hours, as early as possible in the semester to discuss exact accommodations. When you come to this meeting, you will be required to provide written documentation from the Services for Students with Disabilities.

CLASSROOM / CAMPUS EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS:
The status of University of Texas campus activities in times of emergency (i.e., severe/inclement weather) along with some important procedures in case of emergencies on our campus as well as in our classrooms can always be found on the University of Texas Emergency Web Page.
The University of Texas maintains Emergency Action Plans that addresses emergencies that could potentially affect the our community. You can reference the various plans here.
Our UT Siren System is used in times of emergencies when it is necessary for you to "shelter in place" in campus buildings (remain in or go to the nearest building on campus when the siren is activated and remain there until the "all clear" is given). The UT Siren System, as part of policy, is tested monthly on the first Wednesday of every month between 11:50 am and 12:00 noon. Please don't take the siren system tests for granted; be ready to take action if the siren system is activated!
We will discuss, during the first class day of the session, our emergency plan for our specific classroom in case of fire, severe/inclement weather and other different situations. Please take this discussion seriously and ask any questions that you may have!!

UT POLICY ON EMAIL NOTIFICATION
Instructor to student email is a recognized and accepted form of official communication here at the University of Texas. For the University policy, read this. It is critically important that (1) you make sure to have your current and most frequently checked email address on file in UT Direct and (2) you check it on a daily basis. I will send class email frequently during the semester and you'll be given updates and change notices in references to lectures as well as exams.

GEOGRAPHY 333C (SPRING SESSION 2011) TENTATIVE CLASS MATERIAL OUTLINE

Please note that all dates on the syllabus are very tentative and can and will change during the semester. The first two test dates are not specifically listed on the syllabus; exact dates will be announced in class a week (or more) ahead of time.

DATE	SUBJECT MATTER	TEXT CHAPTERS
18 Jan	Properties of the Atmosphere	Ch 1
20 - 25 Jan	Meteorological Measurements	Ch 2
27 Jan - 01 Feb	Weather Maps	Ch 3
3 - 8 Feb	Forecasting and Simulating Severe Weather	Ch 4
10 - 15 Feb	Atmospheric Stability / Forces and Force Balances	Ch 5,6
17 - 22 Feb	The Development of High/Low Pressure Areas/Air Masses and Fronts	Ch 7,8
24 Feb - 01 Mar	Extratropical Cyclones	Ch 9.10
– EXAM #1 –		
08 - 10 Mar	Thunderstorms - Hazards Associated with Thunderstorms	Ch 17
22 - 24 - 29 Mar	Tornadoes	Ch 18
31 Mar	Hail Storms	Ch 19
– EXAM #2 –		
07 Apr	Floods	Ch 24
12 Apr	Downbursts	Ch 21
14 Apr	Lightning	Ch 20
19 - 21 Apr	Tropical Cyclones	Ch 23
26 Apr	Drought	Ch 25
28 Apr	Cold /Heat Waves, Ice Storms	Ch 13,11
03 May	Southern Oscillation	Ch 22

– EXAM #3 – Thursday / 5 May 2011 1230pm-145pm

Last updated 01/15/2011 - tmk