

# Geography 333C - Severe and Unusual Weather (Uniques # 37735 / # 37740) Fall 2009

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**LOCATION AND TIME:** GRG312, TTh 9:30 am - 10:45 pm (Unique #37735)  
GRG312, TTh 12:30 pm - 1:45 pm (Unique #37740)

**INSTRUCTOR:** Troy Kimmel, Senior Lecturer [CV BIO](#) (Email: [tkimmel@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:tkimmel@mail.utexas.edu) )

**TEACHING ASSISTANT:** Shari Adams Wilcox (Email: [SEWilcox@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:SEWilcox@mail.utexas.edu) )

**OFFICE:** Geography Building (Northeast Corner of 24th Street and Whitis Avenue), Room 340

**OFFICE HOURS:** TuTh 9:00 - 9:30 am, MW 10:00 am - 12 noon / other times by appointment

**PHONES:** Home Office 335-6472 (At Times other Than Office Hours)

UT Office 232-1590 (During Office Hours), 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 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 daily 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.

## **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.

## **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

## **GEOGRAPHY 333C (FALL SESSION 2009) 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.

<b>DATE</b>	<b>SUBJECT MATTER</b>	<b>TEXT CHAPTERS</b>
27 Aug	Properties of the Atmosphere	Ch 1
1, 3 Sep	Meteorological Measurements	Ch 2
8 Sep	Weather Maps	Ch 3
10, 15 Sep	Forecasting and Simulating Severe Weather	Ch 4
17, 22 Sep	Atmospheric Stability / Forces and Force Balances	Ch 6, 7

### **EXAMINATION #1**

29 Sep	The Development of High/Low Pressure Areas/Air Masses and Fronts	Ch 8, 9
1, 6 Oct	Extratropical Cyclones	Ch 10, 11
8, 13 Oct	Thunderstorms	Ch 18
15 Oct	Hazards Associated with Thunderstorms	Ch 18
22 Oct	Tornadoes	Ch 19
27 Oct	Hail Storms	Ch 20

### **EXAMINATION #2**

29 Oct	Floods	Ch 25
3, 5 Nov	Downbursts	Ch 22
10, 12 Nov	Lightning	Ch 21
17, 19 Nov	Tropical Cyclones	Ch 24
24 Nov	Drought	Ch 26
1 Dec	El Nino, La Nina and the Southern Oscillation	Ch 23

Other Material Covered / Time and Weather Permitting (In Order):

Heat Waves	Ch 27
Cold Waves	Ch 14
Freezing Precipitation and Ice Storms	Ch 12
Mountain Windstorms	Ch 17
Great Plains Blizzards	Ch 15
Mountain Snowstorms	Ch 16
Lake Effect Snows	Ch 13
Climate, Climate Change and Global Warming/Cooling	Ch 5

**3 Dec EXAMINATION #3 ("Cumulative" Semester)**