

MLG 100 – Development - Syllabus

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor

Professor: Bruce Smith

Address: P.O. Box 458, Baileys Harbor, WI 54202

Phone: 920-256-0333

Email: bruce.smith@uwc.edu

Homework Submissions

Submit the answers to the chapter Investigations online using the **Quizzes and Homework Submission** section of the course website. This can be found in the pull-down menu under Activities in the Menu Bar.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Course Description

A study of atmospheric processes, weather elements (temperature, pressure, moisture, wind, clouds, precipitation) and weather systems (storm systems and fronts, thunderstorms, tornadoes, and hurricanes), forecasting and weather map analysis. There are no prerequisites for this class.

Successful completion of this course will earn 4 Natural Science (NS) and Lab Science (LS) credits toward the UW Colleges Associate of Arts and Science Degree.

Learning Objectives

After completing this course, the student should be able to

- describe the various methods for monitoring the atmosphere and weather.
- explain the origin and evolution of the atmosphere and how the atmosphere supports life.
- trace the flow of energy into and out of the Earth-atmosphere system along with energy transformations.
- present the relationship between unequal rates of radiational heating and cooling and the circulation of the atmosphere.
- describe the role of water and its phase changes in weather systems.
- list the various forces involved in atmospheric circulation.
- identify the major components of the planetary-scale circulation and explain their role in the global climates.

- describe the various features of the synoptic-scale circulation and their life cycles and interrelationships.
- present the life cycles and hazards associated with thunderstorms, tornadoes, and hurricanes.
- describe the human impact of weather extremes and climate change and what can be done to mitigate those impacts.

TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS

The textbook for this course should be purchased online through Follett. For detailed information and resources regarding textbook purchases, please visit the [Academic Resources Textbooks Page](#). Unfortunately, our textbook support staff cannot provide assistance with textbook orders placed through other vendors. If you ordered your textbook through a different provider you will need to contact that provider directly. **Please Note:** UW Colleges campus bookstores do not stock UW Colleges Online textbooks.

Weather Studies Textbook

Title: *Weather Studies: Introduction to Atmospheric Science* (5th edition)

Author: Joseph M. Moran

ISBN: 978-1-935704-95-9 (printed)

ISBN: 978-1-935704-78-2 (eBook)

Publisher: American Meteorological Society

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To order the Weather Studies Investigations Manual (for licensed users)

Title: *Weather Studies eInvestigations Manual*

Edition: 2015 -2016

ISBN: 978-1-940033-42-6

Publisher: American Meteorological Society

Copyright 2015 American Meteorological Society

eBook Edition Only

COURSE NAVIGATION

There are two web pages that must be accessed for this course. A separate userid and password is required to access each page. You have already gained access to Desire2Learn/BrightSpace from UW Colleges. From this site you will access the MLG 100 home page. You must also access the AMS Weather Studies home page. You can access the course in the **Links section of D2L**. This can be found in the pull-down menu under Communications tab in the Menu Bar. You will be sent the required userid and password for the Online Weather Studies site when you complete your Preview Week assignment.

Here is a quick overview of the parts of D2L that you will need to use to successfully complete this

course.

News

The UW Colleges Introduction to Meteorology will always open with the News page. You will see the most recent announcements about the course and course assignments. Check frequently. All new and urgent information about the course will be posted right up front so you will see it when you access the course. In addition, the weekly assignment submission forms and the answers to the weekly assignments will be posted in this section.

Content

This is the section in D2L that you will access most often. This section contains the following modules:

- **Getting Started** - This contains the syllabus, course calendar and other important information relating to the course. Read through this section carefully. Refer to it throughout the course.
- **Assignments** - Here is where your chapter assignment will be posted. One chapter is covered in each week of the course except for the first week and the finals week. The first week will be a "Preview Week" where the first chapter's assignments will be available. In other words, you will have two weeks to complete the first week's assignments. This, hopefully, will allow you to work out any logistics problems you may encounter in taking the online course. Assignments must be completed and turned in on time. Full instructions on how to complete assignments will be given later in this section.

Discussions

This section will be used to post questions about course content and logistics. I will monitor this daily and respond to questions in a timely fashion. This section will also be used when posting answers to discussion questions posed in the chapter assignments. The Discussions can be found under the Communication link in the Menu Bar.

Dropbox

This is where you will place any required graphics for the assignments each chapter along with the answers to the Current Weather Studies exercise. You will use the posted answer form to submit these. I will evaluate these and include them in your chapter homework grade. Instructions are included to guide you in uploading files to the Dropbox. The Discussions can be found under the Activities link in the Menu Bar.

Grades

The scores on chapter assignments and exams will be accessed here. A cumulative score to date will be posted. The Discussions can be found in the pull-down menu under the My Tools link in the Menu Bar.

Chapter Quizzes and Homework Submission

This is where you will access the chapter online quizzes. They are multiple-choice questions on the chapter content. You will be allowed two attempts for each chapter quiz. This is also where you will submit the answers to the questions posed in the *Investigations Manual*. You will submit the answers to Investigation A and Investigation B as two separate "quizzes." The Quizzes/Submit Homework section can be found in the pull-down menu under the Activities link in the Menu Bar. You only will have one opportunity to submit the answers to the investigations.

Links

This is where you will access the AMS Online Weather Studies Homepage. Here you will access the Weekly Weather/Climate News and Daily Weather Summaries, the weekly Current Weather Studies investigations (2 per week) as well as various maps and diagrams. There are also links to the National Weather Service local offices, a back-up OLWS site in case the main site is down, and a site from the University of Wisconsin which contains valuable tutorials.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Preview Assignment

Complete the Preview assignment posted in the **Content** section of D2L by the due date indicated in the Course Schedule.

Access Course Regularly

Check into the course site on a daily basis, checking for News postings, new discussion board postings and messages.

Read Lesson Chapters

Read the chapter in the *Weather Studies* textbook assigned for each week. (See Course Schedule.)

Chapter Tests

Take online chapter quizzes. These will be comprised of 20 multiple-choice questions related to the chapter reading.

Daily Weather Summary

Read the Daily Weather Summary (Monday - Friday) and the Weekly Weather/Climate News available on the AMS Online Weather Studies Homepage. You are to post a substantive comment on any topic discussed in any of the Daily Weather Summaries or the Weather/Climate News for that chapter in the **Discussions** area. In addition, you are to post substantive responses to comments by two different students from the class. You may make additional comments and replies, but you are only required to make one comment and two responses for **each discussion**. These postings must be completed by Noon Central Time on the date indicated in the Course Schedule. A rubric for the discussion postings is

available in the Syllabus section of the course materials.

Investigations

Complete the Introduction and Applications portions for two investigations (A & B) assigned for each chapter found in the printed *Investigations Manual*.

Graphics

Submit any required graphics in the correct format in MS Word. Maps, charts and graphs are to be scanned and inserted into the Word document. (Use the insert picture function.) This needs to be submitted by the date indicated in the Course Schedule. This is a firm deadline. I must have the work in order to evaluate it and post the grades. Keep a copy for yourself with proof of submission (i.e., a dated email). The work submitted to the **Dropbox** will be graded but not returned to you. Comments on the homework will be made by the instructor as needed. Zipped files, non-MS Word documents, or work submitted via email attachments will not be accepted. All work must be submitted via the **Dropbox**. No credit is given for nonstandard format or late assignments unless I agree to accept it late by special arrangement, in advance. If you are having problems with submitting graphics, post a message in the *Course Logistics* discussion board that describes the problem, and I will assist you.

Proctor

Exams for this course will be proctored using Examity online proctoring service. Please visit the [Course Proctoring Information - Examity](#) page for more information.

DISCUSSIONS

You will be graded on each discussion. Each original comment will be worth 4 points and each response will be worth 3 points, for a total of 10 possible points for each discussion (4+3+3).

You will be evaluated on these three postings for each discussion. One posting will be your original comments (4 possible points) and the other two will be responses to comments by two other students (3 points each). In other words, two responses to the same student counts as a single response. You must interact with at least two different students for each discussion. Comments and replies must relate to this topic. Additional comments and responses are welcome, but not required. In evaluating the comments, I will usually use the first comment you post and the first two responses. However, I will continue to monitor any further discussion and make comments as appropriate.

Comment and Response Grading Criteria

Your comments and responses will be graded with the following **Rubric**.

| Comments | Response | Criteria |
|----------|----------|---|
| 4 Points | 3 Points | Original posting related to this discussion's material. It should show evidence of thoughtful reflection on the material not simply a restating of the material posted in the |

| | | |
|---------------|----------|---|
| | | Daily Weather Summary, Weekly Weather/Climate News, or previous student comment. The comment or response should show evidence of your personal experience, research and/or insight. |
| 2 or 3 Points | 2 Points | Original posting or response that does not meet all of the requirements listed above. |
| 1 Point | 1 Point | Minimal participation or comments that only minimally address the subject matter. |
| 0 Points | 0 Points | Failure to participate, flaming, or off-topic participation or off-task participation. |

PREPARING YOUR ASSIGNMENTS

Instructions for Preparing Your Assignments and Inserting Pictures into Microsoft Word Documents

One:

You are required to complete and submit the answers to the questions posed in the Introduction and Applications portions in the printed *Investigations Manual*(Investigations A & B). You will submit the answers to these questions online. To submit the answers, click on the **Quizzes and Homework Submission** link in the Course Navigation bar. There you will see a list of available quizzes. These should include the online quizzes as well as Investigations A & B for the chapter. Click on the Investigation you wish to submit and follow the instructions. Although these are named "quizzes," this is just what they are called in D2L. This is actually part of your homework assignment. You will get one attempt to submit the answers. You will not have a time limit. The time listed is just a suggested time, not a deadline. However, once you have submitted your answers, you will not be able to go back and change them. **It is suggested that you complete the investigation in the printed manual prior to accessing the response form online.** Then all you will have to do is submit the answers.

Two:

In addition to the answers to the investigations submitted online, most investigations require submission of one or more graphics (map, chart, drawing, and so on).

Three:

There is an description of the required graphics in the Weekly Assignment. These can be found in the Content Section in the Menu Bar of D2L.

Four:

For any required graphics, do what you are instructed to do in the Investigation directly on the image. Use

a dark pen or marker to ensure high contrast. Avoid using colors and light markers, as they sometimes don't show up when scanned.

Five:

Scan the image with your scanner and save it as a .jpg or .gif image to a location on your hard-drive where you can find it. Use a relatively low resolution setting on your scanner. Files set at high resolution often are not transferred completely or may download very slowly.

Six:

You can submit the image to the Dropbox as an image file (.jpg, .gif, .pdf) or inbedded in a MW Word file. To imbedd the file, open a blank MS Word document and paste the saved image into the document. Do this by clicking on Insert, then Picture or the equivalent in your word processor. In MS Word this is at the very top of the screen in the toolbar. Name the path for the file you just saved, or use **Browse** to find it. Click it, open and insert. You can resize the image to fit the page, if necessary. You may also do a similar procedure and submit your graphic using Adobe Acrobat PDF files.

Seven:

If you don't have a scanner you may be able to accomplish the same thing by pasting the image as above and using the MS Word drawing tools to do what you need to do with the image. This might take a bit of practice, and sometimes the drawing tools won't work well for the work assigned. Some students have also used digital cameras to capture the image. This is acceptable as long as the image is legible. If it is not, you will need to resubmit it.

Eight:

Make sure your name is on all sections of the Word document you have just completed, and save the Word document in a place you can find it when you submit it. When you are done and have double-checked your work, save the Word file you have been working on with the first four letters of your last name and wkX (where X indicates the current week). For example, Jim Jackson's first assignment would be saved as jackwk1.doc. Save to a location where you can find it. I would suggest that you open up a folder for your homework submissions and save them in there. Print a hard copy as well, just in case your computer crashes. You then have something to study from for the exams.

Nine:

Submit the graphics via the **Dropbox**. Refer to the page in the syllabus titled *How to Submit Assignments to the Dropbox* for more information.

Ten:

Finally, although I will attempt to be as flexible as I can in accepting the required graphics in a variety of formats, it is ultimately your responsibility to submit your assignments in a timely fashion and in a consistent format that can be accessed efficiently.

DROPBOX SUBMISSIONS

You will need to use the Dropbox to submit any required graphics. To prepare your graphic for submission, follow the procedure described in the section *Preparing Assignments* in the Syllabus section

How to Submit to the Dropbox

Go to your **Dropbox** in D2L. This is in the pull-down menu under the Activities tab in the Menu Bar. You will see a list of folders, one for each week. Choose the appropriate folder and follow the instructions for uploading the assignment file to the folder. You will be notified when your file is successfully uploaded and you are done.

I will get the work from the Dropbox and evaluate it. I will leave any comments about your assignment in the Leave Feedback section. I will do this only if necessary. I may not comment on your assignment each week. I will then post the correct graphic in the News section in D2L. You should review this graphic and compare it to your submission to see what you did right or wrong. Answers to all assignments for the week will be posted shortly after the work is due. That is why **LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**. I will not make those who submit work on time wait to see the answers because someone submits a late assignment. **Obviously, I cannot accept work submitted after the answers have been posted.**

If, after checking your answers, you do not understand a particular answer, it is important that you follow up with a question posted to me in the Discussions area. It is your responsibility to seek clarification as you see the need. Deal with this right away so any misconceptions can be rectified before you move on in the course.

GRADING AND OTHER POLICIES

Your grade for the course will be determined using the following procedures:

Each weekly assignment will be worth 30 points. The weekly assignment includes both the Introduction and Applications portions of Investigations A & B from the printed Online Weather Studies Investigations, the graphic(s) submitted to the Dropbox (if any for that week), and the posted comment and replies to the weekly discussion. Due to there being a different number of questions each week, the following method of scoring the weekly homework assignments will be used. I determine the total number of responses required in a particular week. For example, in a typical week there might be 16 responses in Investigation A and 18 responses in Investigation B. I then assign a value to the graphics that you submit. Let's say the graphics for the week are worth 16 points. In addition, the posted comments and replies in the Discussion Board are worth 10 points giving a total weekly assignment of 60 points possible. After evaluating the assignment, I convert the score to the proportion out of 30. So, let's say you got 47 out of 60 on the assignment; I would multiply 30 times 47/60 to get 23.5. The score entered then would be 24 for that week's assignment.

There are 13 weekly assignments for a total of 390 points. The weekly online quizzes are worth 20 points for a total of 260. The midterm and final exams are each worth 300 points for a total of 1250 points possible for the course. Your scores and current percentage will be posted as they are determined in the Grades section of D2L.

Point Distribution

| | | |
|---|-------------|------------------|
| Weekly Investigations (13 weeks x 30 Points) | 31% | 390 pts. |
| Weekly Online Quizzes (13 x 20 Points) | 21% | 260 pts. |
| Midterm Exam | 24% | 300 pts. |
| Final Exam | 24% | 300 pts. |
| Total | 100% | 1250 pts. |

Grading Scale

Point totals for each week are added to the points earned on the major exams and divided by the total points possible for the course (1250) to yield a percentage. The percentage is applied into the standard letter grade distribution below. Your current percentage will be posted in a timely manner. For the midterm and final grade determination the percentages are rounded up if the number of decimal places to the right of the percentage number is greater than or equal to .50 or down to the nearest whole number if less (e.g. 50.50 would be turned into 51% and 50.49 would be turned into 50%).

| | | |
|----|---|---------|
| A | = | 100-94% |
| A- | = | 93-91% |
| B+ | = | 90-88% |
| B | = | 87-84% |
| B- | = | 83-81% |
| C+ | = | 80-78% |
| C | = | 77-74% |
| C- | = | 73-71% |
| D+ | = | 70-68% |
| D | = | 67-64% |
| D- | = | 63-61% |
| F | = | <61% |

Academic Integrity Policy

The University of Wisconsin Colleges has adopted an academic integrity policy. In summary, this policy demands that student work for grading is original and authentic and sources are properly cited where necessary. It is the responsibility of each student to be informed about the contents of this policy and to act in accordance with it. Students can review the entire policy by clicking on this link ([Student Rights and Responsibilities](#)). A student's submission of an essay, paper, or exam represents assurance that such work has been completed according to the guidelines of this policy.

Course Assessment

A UW Colleges-wide assessment program has been put into place to enhance the quality and effectiveness of the curriculum, programs and services of the institution. The following areas of proficiency will be assessed because they are of primary importance in the education of our students: Analytical Skills, Quantitative Skills, Communication Skills, and Aesthetic Engagement. The Geography & Geology Department has also determined a number of core proficiencies for students enrolled in geography and geology classes. The skill assessment may be part of a regular homework or exams but the assessment is not a "grade" and does not become part of your transcript. For this section of MLG 100, a course assessment question will be incorporated into the midterm exam. Assessment evaluations are compiled and used solely to evaluate teaching effectiveness. For more information, go to <https://collab.uwex.uwc.edu/uwc/InstitutionalResearch/default.aspx>.

UW COLLEGES ONLINE POLICIES AND SERVICES

UW Colleges Assessment Program

A UW Colleges-wide assessment program has been put into place to enhance the quality and effectiveness of the curriculum, programs and services of the institution. The following areas of proficiency will be assessed because they are of primary importance in the education of our students: Analytical Skills, Quantitative Skills, Communication Skills, and the Aesthetic Engagement. Your instructor will let you know if your particular course will be assessed as part of the UW Colleges formal assessment program.

Textbook Information

The textbook for this course should be purchased online through Follett for UW Colleges Online. For detailed information and resources regarding textbook purchases, please visit the [Academic Resources Textbooks Page](#). Unfortunately, our textbook support staff cannot provide assistance with textbook orders placed through other vendors. If you ordered your textbook through a different vendor, you will need to contact that vendor directly. Please Note: UW Colleges campus bookstores do not stock UW Colleges Online textbooks.

Accessibility Services

Student Accessibility Services coordinates services to ensure that students who have program access needs receive appropriate accommodations. UWC Online Student Accessibility Services Toll-free: (877) 449-1877 Email: uwconlinesupport@uwc.edu

Director of Student Accessibility Services Brian Schultz Student Accessibility Services Office Toll-free: (888) 463-6892 Email: brian.schultz@uwc.edu

Visit the [accessibility services page](#) on the UW Colleges administrative website to learn more about accessibility services and policies that apply to all UW Colleges campuses.

One Stop Center

If you require technical assistance with your courses, contact the One Stop Center.

One Stop Center
Monday-Thursday: 8am-8pm (CST)
Friday: 8am-5pm
Toll Free: 877-449-1877
uwconlinesupport@uwc.edu

Online Etiquette

Welcome to the world of online courses. This may be your first experience taking web-based courses, you may have some experience, or you may have taken a number of courses previously. Online learning is a form of social interaction, and as such, it has its own rules for interacting with others. For more information visit the [Online Etiquette website](#).

Academic Misconduct

Cheating (academic misconduct) may be a distasteful subject to consider. And yet, part of the value of the credits you earn at the University of Wisconsin Colleges lies in the standards of academic honesty and integrity maintained by the institution.

As a UW Colleges student, you have the right to expect that you and other students will be graded fairly, and you have rights of due process should you be accused of misconduct. You have an obligation to conduct your academic work according to University standards.

Read the [Academic Misconduct Guide](#) for more information or visit the [UW Colleges Academic Integrity and Misconduct website](#).