

Scripps Institution of Oceanography  
SIO 20: The Atmosphere  
Course Syllabus – Winter 2012

Day	Date	Topic	Reading
Mon	Jan 9	Course Introduction	
Wed	Jan 11	Atmosphere Composition and Structure	Chap 1, pg 2-17
Fri	Jan 13	Atmospheric Energy	Chap 2, pg 26-46
Mon	Jan 16	HOLIDAY - KING DAY	
Wed	Jan 18	Seasonal and Daily Cycles	Chap 2, pg 46-54
Fri	Jan 20	Seasonal and Daily Cycles, <i>continued</i>	Chap 3, pg 56-71
Mon	Jan 23	Atmospheric Moisture	Chap 4, pg 82-91
Wed	Jan 25	Atmospheric Moisture, <i>continued</i>	Chap 4, pg 96-97
Fri	Jan 27	Condensation, Fog and Cloud Types	Chap 4, pg 97-113
Mon	Jan 30	Stability and Cloud Development	Chap 5, pg 116-123
Wed	Feb 1	Stability, <i>continued</i>	Chap 5, pg 124-127
Fri	Feb 3	Precipitation	Chap 5, pg 128-143
Mon	Feb 6	Atmospheric Optics	Chap 15, pg 432-442; 447-449
Wed	Feb 8	MIDTERM #1	
Fri	Feb 10	Pressure, Forces and Wind	Chap 6, pg 148-158
Mon	Feb 13	Pressure, Forces and Wind, <i>continued</i>	Chap 6, pg 158-169
Wed	Feb 15	Small-scale Wind Systems	Chap 7, pg 176-192
Fri	Feb 17	Small-scale Wind Systems, <i>continued</i>	
Mon	Feb 20	HOLIDAY - PRESIDENT'S DAY	
Wed	Feb 22	Global Wind Systems	Chap 7, pg 193-204
Fri	Feb 24	Global Wind Systems, <i>continued</i>	
Mon	Feb 27	El Nino/La Nina	Chap 7, pg 204-207
Wed	Feb 29	El Nino/La Nina, <i>continued</i>	
Fri	Mar 2	MIDTERM #2	
Mon	Mar 5	Thunderstorms/Tornadoes	Chap 10, pg 272-306
Wed	Mar 7	Hurricanes	Chap 11, pg 312-330
Fri	Mar 9	Climate Change	Chap 13, pg 372-388
Mon	Mar 12	Climate Change, <i>continued</i>	Chap 13, pg 388-401
Wed	Mar 14	Air Pollution	Chap 14, pg 404-423
Fri	Mar 16	Other Topics and/or Review	

Problem Set 1 Due: Wednesday, January 25  
 Problem Set 2 Due: Friday, February 3  
 Problem Set 3 Due: Friday, February 24  
 Problem Set 4 Due: Friday, March 9  
 FINAL EXAM Monday, March 19 2012, 3:00 - 6:00pm

TEXT: Essentials of Meteorology, 6th Edition, by C. Donald Ahrens

Web site: <http://meteora.ucsd.edu/~iacob/sio20/>