

Course Instructor	Dr. Ian Strachan	Email: ian.strachan@queensu.ca
Office		
Contact Time	Two 1.5 hour lectures per week	
Format	Lectures and assignments	
Class Assessment	Assignments – 50% Exams – 50%	

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course discusses the fundamental processes related to the study of the earth's weather systems. It is intended both for students who have an interest in the favourite topic of conversation of most Canadians but also for those who will pursue careers in environmental fields. Emphasis will be placed on atmospheric moisture, temperature and wind relationships resulting in cloud formation and precipitation. Students are assumed to be able to handle basic concepts in physics but the course material is taught with a focus on understanding the concepts rather than through equations.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students completing this course should: have gained an understanding of the processes behind the creation of weather patterns and phenomena; be able to discuss the weather with an understanding of consequences for day to day life; and be well placed to apply this understanding in their degree programs and future career choices.

COURSE TOPICS

Topics will include atmospheric properties (structure and motion) and thermodynamics (stability, heat and moisture); clouds and precipitation; air masses and fronts; mid-latitude weather systems and severe weather.

COURSE READINGS

TBD