

**ATM678, Mesoscale Dynamics
Spring 2012**

Class time: TR 11:30am to 1pm

Classroom: IARC 407

Lin, Y.-L., 2007. Mesoscale Dynamics, Cambridge University Press, pp. 630.

I recommend that you have a look at other books frequently. You should also read other printed material, as assigned.

Other course resources: I will put some relevant material on **Blackboard**. I expect you to download and read the material. It is your responsibility to apply for an UAF gmail account because Blackboard access is only available with that account. You will be hooked up automatically for access to Blackboard when you register for this class. However, if problems occur with this automatic procedure and you cannot log in, send me an email so that I can verify the email address, enroll you into Blackboard manually, and set up your Blackboard account for this class.

Attendance: You should attend class regularly and use the recommended book and a book of your choice related to mesoscale dynamics. Class attendance and participation in the in-class exercises/discussions are required and will be a part of your grade. Missing 50% of the classes will result in an F of the class. Unexcused absence leads to deduction of the attendance points and lessens your chances to accumulate points for presentation of your homework that would have been discussed the day of your absence. Excused absences are approved in advance or absences due to a documented emergency. Such documentation must be made immediately upon the student's return to class. Please understand that this is a college course - you are expected to be on time for class and have all the required material unpacked.

Homework: is typically a reading assignment and due at the start of class except for the reviews that are in writing and due in the third week after spring break. Each student is expected to be able to present the homework

It is your responsibility to prepare homework on time. I strongly suggest that you plan and schedule your work. I recommend having

Examinations: There are no mid-term or final examinations.

Final presentations: take place in finals week during the time allocated for this class' final exam and during the last class of this semester. It is your responsibility to find out when and where the final presentations will take place and to be there in time. You have to attend all final presentations. Only in case of emergency (e.g. field trip, conference attendance), I will allow you to give your presentation at an earlier time. Such emergencies have to be brought to my atten

Other important information:

In assigning the peer-review, I will consider your ranking of interest in the subjects if possible. I will grade the peer-reviews (15% of the grade). I also will grade your write-up on the responses and reactions to the reviewers (10% of the grade) and your revised final project paper (30% of the grade). Furthermore, the grade will be 10% attendance (unexcused attendance leads to an F on attendance for that day), 10% quizzes, and 10% homework presentations and in-class participation. I will use available software to check your paper for plagiarism. If I unexpectedly find plagiarism I will follow UAF policies and your paper will get an F.

In class-participation refers to answering questions that I ask, summarizing last weeks class, contributing to discussions let by me, and volunteering to present homework reading assignments. There will be frequent quizzes to test your homework reading assignments. The reading assignments are the chapter of the book related to the week's theme. The project paper must be in correct English, follow AGU citation and preparation guidelines, and be scientifically correct. It must have a reasonable title that reflects the main idea of your paper, an abstract summarizing the main findings, ideas, 5 keywords, an introduction, motivation, methodology description, experimental design, results and conclusion section as well as acknowledgements and all cited text must be in the reference list. It also must include a figure caption section. Figures are to attach and are not to be incorporated into the text. The reviews must include a clear separation between major review points related to for instance, clarification, scientific reasoning, argumentation, train of thought, asking for more evidence, missing aspects of a manuscript, and minor points like grammar errors, spelling, restructuring, citations missing in the reference list, non-compliance with the AGU format. The responses to the reviewers must address all items brought up, even if the reviewer's comment is wrong. In this case, you have to defend your point of view without embarrassing the reviewer. The presentation must be 10 minutes plus 5 minutes discussion. In the discussion, the class and I will ask questions related to your presentation that you are to answer. The presentation must be in powerpoint. It has to have at least a title slide with your name and title of the presentation, and acknowledgements, a motivation slide, a slide presenting your methodology/experimental design, slides discussing the major points and a slide providing the conclusions. The conclusions must be supported by i.e. base upon the material presented in the main section of your presentation.

The grade distribution is as follows: A percentage of 90% or better will guarantee the student an A grade in that category; a percentage of 70% or better will guarantee the student a B grade; a percentage of 50% or better will guarantee the student a C grade; a percentage of 30% will guarantee the student a D grade; any percentage less than 30% will lead to an F grade. Grades of "incomplete" will be given only in cases where an extraordinary, exceptional reason, submitted in writing by the student and judged valid by me. See UAF policies for details. I will use +/- grade with the following UAF rules A 4.0, A- 3.7, B+ 3.3, B 3.0, B- 2.7, C+ 2.3, C 2.0, C- 1.7, D+ 1.3, D 1.0, D- 0.7, and F 0.0, respectively. Thus, 85-89% is A-, 77-84% is B+, 70-76% is B, 64-69% is B-, 57-63% is C+, 50-56% is C, 44-49% is C-, 40-43% is D+, 35-39% is D, 30-34% is D-, and <30 is F. Note that this is a graduate class. This means that if you want to take this class as a choice in your comps you will have to pass it at least with a B. Lower grades may jeopardize

your graduate standing. The final (overall) will be determined by the weighting the grades you earned in the respective categories with the weights given in the above table and summing this up