

**COURSE DATA****Data Subject**

<b>Code</b>	34262
<b>Name</b>	Atmospheric physics
<b>Cycle</b>	Grade
<b>ECTS Credits</b>	4.5
<b>Academic year</b>	2020 - 2021

**Study (s)**

<b>Degree</b>	<b>Center</b>	<b>Acad. Period</b>
1105 - Degree in Physics	Faculty of Physics	2 Second term

**Subject-matter**

<b>Degree</b>	<b>Subject-matter</b>	<b>Character</b>
1105 - Degree in Physics	14 - Physics of the earth and the cosmos	Obligatory

**Coordination**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Department</b>
CASELLES MIRALLES, VICENTE	345 - Earth Physics and Thermodynamics
GILABERT NAVARRO, MARIA DESAMPARADOS	345 - Earth Physics and Thermodynamics

**SUMMARY**

The academic guide of the course in "Atmospheric Physics" (compulsory course, 4.5 ECTS, fourth semester, Bachelor's Degree in Physics) aims to explain the student those basic aspects that are considered most relevant to enhance the knowledge acquisition by the students.

The main objective of the course is the study of the physical processes occurring in the atmosphere, defined as a physical system. It is mainly based on the contents of the core subjects, Physics, Mathematics, Mechanics and Thermodynamics, already introduced during the previous three semesters. The contents of this course are also necessary for later courses such as "Renewable energies and solar radiation" and "Remote Sensing".



## PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

### Relationship to other subjects of the same degree

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

### Other requirements

Being a second-year course (second semester), the student already has the essential basic knowledge:

1. Fundamental Concepts of Thermodynamics: ideal gas, equation of state and principles of thermodynamics, etc. acquired during the first semester of the second year of the degree.
2. Mechanics: the fundamental concepts for applying Newton's second law in non-inertial reference frames required for Atmospheric Dynamics are also acquired in the first semester of the second year of the degree.
3. The to

## COMPETENCES (RD 1393/2007) // LEARNING OUTCOMES (RD 822/2021)

### 1105 - Degree in Physics

- Knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of physics in theoretical and experimental aspects, and the mathematical background needed for its formulation.
- To know how to apply the knowledge acquired to professional activity, to know how to solve problems and develop and defend arguments, relying on this knowledge.
- Developing learning skills so as to undertake further studies with a high degree of autonomy.
- Problem solving: be able to evaluate clearly the orders of magnitude in situations which are physically different, but show analogies, thus allowing the use of known solutions in new problems .
- Be able to understand and master the use of the most commonly used mathematical and numerical methods.
- Basic & applied Research: acquire an understanding of the nature and ways of physics research and of how physics research is applicable to many fields other than physics, e.g. engineering; be able to design experimental and/or theoretical procedures for: (i) solving current problems in academic or industrial research; (ii) improving the existing results.
- Communication Skills (written and oral): Being able to communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions through argumentation and reasoning which are characteristic of the scientific activity, using basic concepts and tools of physics.
- Comprensión teórica de los fenómenos físicos: Conocer y comprender los fundamentos de la Física, así como del bagaje matemático para su formulación, de los fenómenos físicos involucrados y de las aplicaciones más relevantes.



- Destrezas Generales y Específicas de Lenguas extranjeras: Mejorar el dominio del inglés científico-técnico mediante la lectura y acceso a la bibliografía fundamental de la materia.
- Modelización y resolución de problemas: Saber resolver problemas, siendo capaz de identificar los elementos esenciales de una situación y de realizar las aproximaciones requeridas con objeto de reducir los problemas a un nivel manejable.
- Ser capaz de proseguir con el estudio de otras materias de la física gracias al bagaje adquirido en el contexto de esta materia.
- Cultura General en Física: Haberse familiarizado con los aspectos más importantes de la materia, y con enfoques que abarcan y relacionan diferentes áreas de la física.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES (RD 1393/2007) // NO CONTENT (RD 822/2021)**

The general procedures and methods that the student should be able to employ after completing the course are:

1. Given a real problem, the student must identify the atmospheric system and find the quantities describing its spatio-temporal variation as well as its constraints.
2. Propose a physical model to diagnose the atmospheric system, validate and assess its sensitivity to the parameters.
3. Make simple hypothesis to predict the system evolution under realistic conditions that alter the values of its parameters.
4. Other transferable skills to other subjects of the Degree are: dealing with different systems of physical units, approximation skills, ability to interpret graphical information and, in general, the critical analysis all kinds of situations.

## **DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS**

### **1. Atmospheric Thermodynamics**

Origin and composition of the atmosphere. Magnitudes and observables: its measurement. Thermal structure of the atmosphere. The atmosphere as a thermodynamic system. Equation of state and first law of thermodynamics. Phase transitions and second law of thermodynamics. Adiabatic processes in the atmosphere. Atmospheric stability. Convective motion of air masses. Microphysics of clouds.

### **2. Atmospheric Dynamics**



Equation of motion and approximations. General circulation of the atmosphere.

### 3. Atmosphere and radiation

Fundamental concepts in radiation. Atmospheric absorption. Photochemical processes. Atmospheric dispersion processes. Radiative transfer. Solar and terrestrial radiation. Synoptic radiation balance. Climate change.

## WORKLOAD

ACTIVITY	Hours	% To be attended
Theory classes	38,00	100
Tutorials	7,00	100
Study and independent work	67,50	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>112,50</b>	

## TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The syllabus will be developed in weekly lectures and exercise-solving sessions, with one of the latter sessions about every two weeks. The student can download from Aula Virtual web server pdf files corresponding to:

1. Academic guide: explains the syllabus and temporal development, objectives, bibliography, methodology and criteria of evaluation.
2. Different exercises to be solved during lecturing sessions and for the student's homework.
3. Slides of the lectures.

Lectures makes use of both video projector and blackboard. In the lectures, the topics are presented in a logical and structured sequence, explaining in detail the key concepts, showing illustrative examples. Student participation is continuously encouraged by asking short questions that clarify the more difficult concepts, by classroom demonstrations, etc.

The exercise-solving sessions are centered around the resolution of some exercises by the lecturer and by the students.

On the other hand, the individual tutoring at the lecturer's office allow the lecturer to continuously help, guide and monitor the progress of the students who participate.



## EVALUATION

Assessment systems are:

(1) Written examinations: one part (with a weight between 60 and 70%) will assess the understanding of the conceptual and theoretical formalism of the subject, both through theoretical or conceptual questions and through numerical exercises. Another part (with a weight between 40 and 30%) will assess the problem-solving skills and the ability to critically analyze the results. In both parts, clarity of presentation and correct logical reasoning will be assessed.

(2) Continuous assessment: assessment of solved exercises presented by students, issues proposed and discussed in class, oral presentations of exercises solutions or any other method involving interaction between lecturers and students.

For those students participating in the activities proposed in (2), the weight of the continuous assessment in the final mark will be equal to 30%.

## REFERENCES

### Basic

- J.W. Wallace, P.V. Hobbs, Atmospheric Science, Academic Press, Second Edition, 2006.
- M.L. Salby, "Fundamental of Atmospheric Physics". Cambridge University Press, 2012.

## ADDENDUM COVID-19

**This addendum will only be activated if the health situation requires so and with the prior agreement of the Governing Council**

## English version is not available

### METODOLOGÍA DOCENTE

Durante el mes de febrero 2021, la docencia de teorías y seminarios-trabajos tutelados, pasan a modalidad de videoconferencia síncrona impartida en el horario fijado por la asignatura y el grupo.

A partir del 1 de marzo, se seguirá la modalidad docente indicada en la Guía Docente y en las modalidades docentes aprobadas en las Comisiones Académicas de Título de los meses de julio 2020 y noviembre de 2020, respectivamente, a menos que las autoridades sanitarias y Rectorado indiquen una nueva reducción de presencialidad, en este caso se volvería a la modalidad de videoconferencia síncrona.