Term Paper Guidelines for ATMO/OCN 665

The term paper will count for 50% of each student's grade in this course. It is expected to be a substantial piece of work. A rough guideline for length is ~10 pages of single-spaced text. The paper will be due 2 weeks before the end of the semester. We will ask each student to make a short (15-20 minutes) presentation on their report to share the substance of it with the entire class. The presentation portion will be assessed under the "class participation" portion of the grade (25%).

It is expected that the paper will focus on an aspect of small-scale air-sea interaction that is not discussed in detail in class, thus bringing in an additional topic of interest to the student. It is expected that the "tools" of air-sea interaction discussed in the first half of the course will be used in a critical analysis of the topic, based upon existing literature. The literature base could be one paper, or several. The key aspect of the analysis is to go beyond what is written in the paper(s) by bringing in your own thoughts about the veracity of the existing conclusions, for example, or considering different approaches to solving a problem. It is not sufficient to paraphrase the writing in some papers and simply summarize. Original, analytical thinking is encouraged.

We will work with each student to identify an appropriate topic for his or her term paper, and to agree upon the scope of the analysis. We encourage students to develop an outline of the project, and to pass that outline by us for discussion. These steps are important to ensure that the project is feasible, and doable in the time frame of the course. They also help to ensure that sufficient depth of study is undertaken such that something of value will be learned. A list of example term paper titles is available to give you an idea of the range of possible topics.

Timeline Fall 2022

14 October	Submit outline
2 December	Submit term paper
6 December	Presentations