

PHYS 721 Atmospheric Radiative Transfer

Spring 2025

Dates and Location:

TuTh 1:00PM-2:15PM

Janet & Walter Sondheim 107

Instructor: Prof. Zhibo Zhang
Phone: 410-455-6315
Email: Zhibo.Zhang@umbc.edu

Office Hours: PHYS418: Thursday 2:30PM~3:00PM or Email Appointment

Texts:

No required textbook

Recommended Books

- “[An Introduction to Atmospheric Radiation \(2nd edition\)](#)” By K-N Liou et al.
- “[A First Course in Atmospheric Radiation](#)” by Grant William Petty
- “**Radiative Transfer in the Atmosphere and Ocean**” By Gary E. Thomas, Knut Stamnes
- “**Transfer of Polarized Light in Planetary Atmospheres Basic Concepts and Practical Methods**” by Hovenier et al.

Grading:

Homework (40%), Midterm Project (30%), Final Project and Presentation (30%)

Course management: I will use Blackboard to post course announcements, reading assignments and homework assignments, and post grades. In addition, I will use Google Colab (<https://research.google.com/colaboratory/>) and/or Github (<https://github.com/>) to post the codes, scripts and data for the course

COURSE OUTLINE:

Overview of atmospheric radiation and radiative transfer

Part I: Fundamental definition and principles

Maxwell’s equation

Electromagnetic wave

Properties of light and definition of Stokes Vector

Irradiance, radiance and flux

Part II: Single Scattering properties of Atmospheric Particles

Single Scattering concepts

Scattering models

Scattering properties of Aerosols and Clouds

Part III: From Multiple scattering to Radiative Transfer

Definition of radiative transfer equations

Polarized radiative transfer

Numerical Radiative Transfer models

Single Scattering Approximation

Part IV: Absorption of Atmospheric Gases

Absorption lines and broadening effects

Line-by-line model and band models

K-distribution model

Part I: Applications of Radiative Transfer

Radiative effects of aerosol and clouds

Remote sensing

Climate modeling

Accessibility and Disability Accommodations, Guidance and Resources (required)

Accommodations for students with disabilities are provided for all students with a qualified disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA & ADAAA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who request and are eligible for accommodations. The Office of Student Disability Services (SDS) is the UMBC department designated to coordinate accommodations that creates equal access for students when barriers to participation exist in University courses, programs, or activities.

If you have a documented disability and need to request academic accommodations in your courses, please refer to the SDS website at sds.umbc.edu for registration information and office procedures.

SDS email: disAbility@umbc.edu

SDS phone: (410) 455-2459

If you will be using SDS approved accommodations in this class, please contact the instructor to discuss implementation of the accommodations. During remote instruction requirements due to COVID, communication and flexibility will be essential for success.

Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, and Gender Based Violence and Discrimination (required)

UMBC Policy and Federal law (Title IX) prohibit discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in University programs and activities. Any student who is impacted by sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, gender discrimination, pregnancy discrimination, gender-based harassment or retaliation should contact the University's Title IX Coordinator to make a report and/or access support and resources:

Mikhel A. Kushner, Title IX Coordinator (she/they)

410-455-1250 (direct line), kushner@umbc.edu

You can access support and resources even if you do not want to take any further action. You will not be forced to file a formal complaint or police report. Please be aware that the University may take action on its own if essential to protect the safety of the community.

If you are interested in or thinking about making a report, please use the Online Reporting/Referral Form. Please note that, if you report anonymously, the University's ability to respond will be limited.

Religious Observances & Accommodations

UMBC Policy provides that students should not be penalized because of observances of their religious beliefs, and that students shall be given an opportunity, whenever feasible, to make up within a reasonable time any academic assignment that is missed due to individual participation in religious observances. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor of any intended absences or requested modifications for religious observances in advance, and as early as possible. For questions or guidance regarding religious observance accommodations please contact the Office of Equity and Inclusion at oei@umbc.edu.

Hate, Bias, Discrimination and Harassment

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Students (and faculty and staff) who experience discrimination, harassment, hate or bias or who have such matters reported to them should use the [online reporting/referral form](#) to report discrimination, hate or bias incidents. You may report incidents that happen to you anonymously. Please note that, if you report anonymously, the University's ability to respond will be limited.