Ocean 423

Exercise #1: Atmospheric Circulation, Due Thursday April 2

View the following animations from the Department of Geography, University of Oregon:
http://geography.uoregon.edu/envchange/clim_animations/

Surface air temperature
Surface winds and pressure
Downward* motion ("omega") at a height where the pressure = 500 mb (~ 5000 m altitude)

* Negative values of omega mean upward motion of air

In class on Wednesday, we will review the main features of the global atmospheric circulation. In preparation, please jot down a list of at least 10 features of the large-scale patterns that you observe in these animations. Don't worry about the names of things, and don't look things up, just describe what you see. Bring this list with you to class to discuss and then hand in.

Here's one simple observation to get you started:

-- It is warmer at the equator and cooler at the poles.