

METR 2603-900 – Severe and Unusual Weather

Fall 2008 Syllabus

M-W 4:30 – 5:45 p.m. – SEC A235

Instructor: Mr. Jeffrey Snyder

Office: SEC *** (Regularly NWC 5355)

Grader:

Email: wxguy1@ou.edu

Office Hours: Wednesdays at 3:30-4:30 p.m.
or by appointment

Required Text: Rauber, Robert M., John E. Walsh, and Donna J. Charlevoix. *Severe and Hazardous Weather: An Introduction to High-Impact Meteorology* (2nd ed.), Kendall/Hunt.

Important Internet Addresses: Additional material may be accessed through the book's website at <http://severewx.atmos.uiuc.edu>. Course grades, homework assignments, exam answers, and other course-related documentation will be available via Desire2Learn (<http://learn.ou.edu>).

Course Description: From the OU Course Catalog: "Provide non-majors and majors a detailed descriptive account of the physical processes important in the formation of various severe and unusual weather phenomena including: thunderstorms, tornadoes, hail storms, lightning, hurricanes, midlatitude snowstorms, lake effect snows, atmospheric optical effects, and global climate change. This course does not count for major credit in the School of Meteorology." METR 2603 has been approved as a General Education Core II (Natural Science), NL (no lab) course.

Grading Scale: The grading scale below *guarantees* the respective letter grade for the given numerical grade. Downward adjustments may be made if it is determined that a curve is necessary.

A	>90%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	<60%

Graded Items:	COMPONENT	PERCENT	POINTS
	Homework (4)	20%	200
	Quizzes (5)	10%	100
	Mid-term exams (2)	40%	400
	Final exam	30%	300
	TOTAL	100%	1000

Explanation of graded items:

HOMWORK – All assigned homework material should be turned in at the start of class on the date it is due. A 50% penalty will be assigned to all homework assignments that are submitted late (i.e. a student that receives an initial score of 75% on a homework assignment will receive only 25% of the available points for that homework). No assignments will be accepted later than the next class following to the due date.

QUIZZES – Although there is no required attendance policy for this course, six (6) quizzes will be given on random dates throughout the semester (i.e. they are "pop" quizzes). The lowest quiz score will

be dropped; only the highest-graded five of the six quizzes will count towards the final grade. There will not be any make-up quizzes, and a student not in class for the quiz will receive a 0% score for that quiz.

EXAMS – All exams must be taken in class and on the scheduled date. If you know that you will not be able to attend class on the date of an exam due to an extenuating circumstance (i.e. death in the family, serious illness, etc.), you *must* notify the instructor as far ahead of time as possible (but no less than 24 hours before the exam). A score of 0% will be given for all missed exams for which the student has not contacted the instructor. The final exam will be cumulative; previously-testable material will constitute approximately 40% of the final exam.

EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES – A couple of extra credit opportunities will exist for students to earn additional points to be applied to the final grade. These opportunities will be outlined at a later time.

Important Dates: There will be NO CLASS on September 1st (Labor Day Holiday) and on November 26th and 28th (Thanksgiving Vacation). The FINAL EXAM will be given on Wednesday, December 17th from 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM.

Academic Integrity: Academic misconduct **will not be tolerated** in this course. All students are instructed to read the official University policy on academic integrity and misconduct at <http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity/>. All alleged instances of academic misconduct will be investigated and, if substantiated, appropriate admonitions will be imposed. Students have the right to appeal such admonitions; please read <http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity-rights/> for further information.

Please be aware that unless specifically stated otherwise, **all students are expected to complete their course work independently, without collaboration**. While you may assist each other in *working on* class exercises, you are expected to *arrive* at your solutions independently. Significant similarities between solutions may be taken as evidence of improper collaboration.

Disability Policy: The University of Oklahoma is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for all students with disabilities. Students with disabilities who require accommodations in this course are requested to speak with the professor as early in the semester as possible. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services prior to receiving accommodations in this course. The Office of Disability Services is located in Goddard Health Center, Suite 166, phone 405/325-3852 or TDD only 405/325-4173.