

METR 2603.900 – Severe and Unusual Weather

Fall 2009

Lectures: MW 4:30-5:45 pm
Sarkeys Energy Center N0202

Instructor: Owen Shieh (owen@ou.edu) – National Weather Center 5409
Office Hours: Sarkeys Energy Center 562 – MW 4:00-4:30 pm or by appointment.

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. (Irreg.) [II-NL].” Emphasis will be placed on the study of severe convective storms (e.g., thunderstorms, squall lines, supercells, tornadoes), hurricanes, and certain phenomena of winter weather such as ice and snowstorms. In addition, we will learn how to apply these concepts to everyday forecasting.

Course Materials

Required textbook – Rauber, Robert M., John E. Walsh, and Donna J. Charlevoix. *Severe and Hazardous Weather: An Introduction to High Impact Meteorology, 3rd edition*, Kendall/Hunt.

In addition to the assigned readings from the above textbook, you will be responsible for any handouts and original lecture notes given in class. Homework, solutions, lecture notes, grades, and any extra assigned readings will be posted on D2L (<http://learn.ou.edu>).

Assignments and Grades

There will be a homework assignment due roughly every 2 weeks, which will reinforce the concepts covered in class. Given the large size of this class, student attendance will be enforced through several unannounced quizzes throughout the semester. These will consist of simple, short questions that will be easy if the student has been attending class regularly. All assignments need to be turned in at the start of class on the day it is due. **No late assignments will be accepted.** A score of 0% will be given for all missed homework, quizzes, or exams if a student does not notify the instructor at least 24 hours in advance. Only extenuating circumstances will be considered (e.g., death in the family, serious illness, etc.) There will be two midterm exams and a comprehensive final exam. Extra credit opportunities may be available as the semester progresses.

Your grade will be calculated as follows:

Midterm Exam 1:	20%	~90% or higher average guarantees a final grade of A
Midterm Exam 2:	20%	~80% or higher average guarantees a final grade of B
Homework:	30%	~70% or higher average guarantees a final grade of C
Final Exam:	20%	~60% or higher average guarantees a final grade of D
Quizzes:	10%	

Academic Integrity

Academic misconduct **will not be tolerated**. All students are expected to be familiar with and abide by the OU Academic Misconduct Code. Information on this code and other student policies is located at <http://judicial.ou.edu/content/view/27/32/> While it is good practice to study in groups and assist each other with assignments, all students are expected to finish their work independently and arrive at their own answers. Any significant similarities between the solutions to assignments, quizzes, or exams (in cases where there should not be significant similarities) will be investigated. All instances of alleged academic misconduct will be acted upon following official university policies.

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 fax only 405/325-4173.