

# Syllabus

Weather and Climate Laboratory  
METR 1014-014  
Fall 2010  
Thursday, 3:00-4:50 pm, P207 SEC

**Laboratory Instructor:** Virginia Silvis

**Office:** NWC 5104

**Alternate Office:** SEC 562

**E-mail:** virginia.silvis@ou.edu

**Office hours:** Thursday 2-3pm in the Bedrock Café atrium or by appointment. If the atrium is unavailable office hours will be held in SEC 562.

My job as your Teaching Assistant is to help you understand the presented material. But I can't help if you don't ask me questions. So, please stop by my office if you need something clarified.

## **Course Description:**

This lab will cover a wide range of topics about weather and climate and serves as a complement to the material covered in the METR 1014 lectures.

**Course Goals:** 1) To gain an understanding of how material presented is used in real world applications and 2) to gain hands-on experience using some of the methods and techniques used in weather and climate studies.

## **Course Materials:**

**Text:** C. Donald Ahrens, *Essentials of Meteorology: An Invitation to the Atmosphere*, (We will not be directly using the textbook in class, but you will be required to bring it since it is a valuable reference text for your lab assignments)

**Laboratory Manual:** Oklahoma Climatological Survey, *Explorations in Meteorology*

**Other lab Supplies:** colored pencils, calculator

## **Laboratory Expectations:**

Each student is required to do their own lab and turn in a lab report. Discussion of the lab concepts amongst your classmates is encouraged, however I expect you to come up with your own answers to the questions asked. Late lab reports will not be accepted unless there are extenuating circumstances that have been brought to my attention and cleared. If extenuating circumstances arise, and have been cleared, the lab must be made up within a week.

## **Attendance**

Attendance in lab session is MANDATORY. I will not take attendance at the beginning of class, but I will know who is there by who turns in their lab. I will not accept a lab turned in by a friend. In order to turn in a lab you yourself must hand it in.

If you need to miss a lab due to athletic or religious reasons please inform me as soon as possible, but by no later than one week prior to the missed class. It may be possible for you to attend an alternate lab session, but this first must be cleared with the proper teaching assistant. I understand that sometimes you will need to miss a lab due to illness or unavoidable circumstances (ex. A death

in the family) and will not be able to provide the required one week notice. Please let me know as soon as possible and other arrangements can be made for you to receive credit for your lab.

### **Lab Structure**

We will start each lab promptly at the stated starting time. Please make your best effort to not come in late as it disrupts the class. Be sure to come prepared. This means bringing a pencil, eraser, calculator, and sometimes colored pencils to each class. I will give a brief introduction to each lab before you start on your assignment, and this is a good time to ask questions if you have any.

Labs are to be completed in class only. The two hours allotted to class should be sufficient to complete each lab, so please use your time effectively. Labs are due at the end of each lab period.

**DO NOT WORK ON THE LAB EXERCISE BEFORE CLASS!!** This will be considered a form of cheating, and will result in a score of zero on that particular lab.

### **Grading**

Lab exercises	60%
Lab quizzes	40%

Your final lab grade will account for 25% of your total grade in the course. The labs will be graded for the most part on accuracy. You may lose points for sloppy or illegible work, so please be as neat as possible. The lowest lab assignment percentage grade will be dropped. There will be 5 quizzes over lab material throughout the semester.

### **Correspondence:**

When sending me e-mails, please use your OU e-mail address and put METR 1014: last name in the subject line. I receive many e-mails and this will ensure that yours are read before the others.

### **Classroom Courtesy:**

Cell phones, pagers, and watch alarms should be turned off or put to silent before coming to lab.

### **Desire2Learn Website:**

I will be using Desire2Learn in this lab for posting grades, lab notes, and other important information. You can find this at <https://learn.ou.edu>. Please check it regularly for announcements.

### **Accommodation of Students with Disabilities**

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 instructor 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. You may contact the office at 405-325-3852 (voice) or 405-325-4173 (TDD).

### **Academic Misconduct**

Cheating will not be tolerated and will be reported. No exceptions, no excuses. Those found cheating will be penalized under the OU Academic Misconduct Code, which can be found at <http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity>. In short, if you cheat, expect to be removed from the course and to receive an F for the course.

## Lab Schedule\*

Week #	Lab
Week 1 Aug. 23-27	No lab
Week 2 Aug. 30-Sept. 3	Lab #1: North American Geography
Week 3 Sept. 7-10	Dimensions & Units
Week 4 Sept. 13-17	Lab #2: Earth-Atmosphere System
Week 5 Sept. 20-24	Lab #3: Radiation & Energy Transfer
Week 6 Sept. 27-Oct. 1	Lab #4: Daily Temperature Cycle
Week 7 Oct. 4-8	Saturation & Atmospheric Stability Lab
Week 8 Oct. 11-15	Atmospheric Motion Lab
Week 9 Oct. 18-22	Lab #5: Atmospheric Moisture
Week 10 Oct. 25-29	Lab #6: Air Masses & Fronts
Week 11 Nov. 1-5	Lab #7: Surface Map Analysis
Week 12 Nov. 8-12	Mid-Latitude Cyclone Lab
Week 13 Nov. 15-19	Thunderstorms & Tornadoes Lab
Week 14 Nov. 22-23	Thanksgiving -> No Lab!!
Week 15 Nov. 29-Dec. 3	Lab #13: Hurricane Tracks & Forecasts
Week 16 Dec. 6-10	COMET Lab: Climate Change: fitting the pieces together

\* Subject to change at the Instructor's discretion