

# METR 2603-900 – Severe and Unusual Weather

## Fall 2010 Syllabus

M-W 4:30 – 5:45 p.m. – SEC N202

**Instructor:** Mr. Jeffrey Snyder  
**Office:** SEC 526 (Regularly NWC 5355)  
**Grader:** Lindsay Tardif

**Email:** [wxguy1@ou.edu](mailto:wxguy1@ou.edu)     **AIM:** metr2603  
**Office Hours:** Friday 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
or by appointment (in SEC 526)

**Required Text:** Rauber, Robert M., John E. Walsh, and Donna J. Charlevoix. *Severe and Hazardous Weather: An Introduction to High-Impact Meteorology* (2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 (non-lab) course.

**Grading Scale:** This scale *guarantees* the respective letter grade for a given numerical score.

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

Graded Items:	COMPONENT	PERCENT	POINTS
	Homework (4)	20%	200
	Quizzes (5 of 6)	10%	100
	Mid-term exams (2)	40%	400
	Final exam	30%	300
	<hr/> TOTAL	100%	1000

### Explanation of graded items:

**HOMEWORK** – All assigned homework material should be turned in at the start of class on the date it is due. Half-credit will be assigned to all homework assignments that are submitted late (i.e. a student that receives an initial score of 80% on a homework assignment will receive only 40% of the available points for that homework). No assignments will be accepted later than the start of the next class following 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 50% of the final exam.

EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES – A couple 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 6<sup>th</sup> (Labor Day Holiday) and on November 24<sup>th</sup> (Thanksgiving Vacation). The FINAL EXAM will be given on Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM.

It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays.

**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* assignments, you are expected to *arrive* at your solutions independently. Significant similarities between solutions may be taken as evidence of improper collaboration.

Some lecture material used in this course is borrowed from previous instructors.

**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.