

**Severe and Unusual Weather
METR 2603, Sec 900**

Fall 2011: MW 4:30-5:45 PM, SEC N202

Instructor: Vivek Mahale (vmahale@ou.edu include METR 2603 in subject)

Course website: <http://learn.ou.edu> (login with your 4+4)

Office: SEC _____ (outside office hours: NWC 5355)

Office hours: MW 3:00-4:00 PM or by appointment

Grader: Dylan Lusk (dylanl@ou.edu note: last character is an “L”)

Required textbook: *Severe and Hazardous Weather: An Introduction to High-Impact Meteorology* (3rd ed.)

Authors: Robert Rauber, John Walsh, and Donna Charlevoix

ISBN: 978-0-7575-5043-0 Website: <http://severewx.atmos.uiuc.edu>

Course description: From OU’s 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.”

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

Grade breakdown:

Homework	10%
Quizzes	10%
Exams (3)	60%
Cumulative Final Exam	20%

Explanation of graded items:

Homework: Homework is due at the beginning of the class on the due date. Any homework turned in at the end of the class will automatically have a 10% deduction from the final score. Collaboration is allowed on homework; however, please understand how to solve the problems and just don’t copy answers from other students. Realize that just copying answers may substantially affect your grade on exams. Reasonable attempt on a homework problem will result in at least 50% credit on that problem. No late homework will be accepted unless there are extenuating circumstances and if the graded homework has not been handed back to the class. Solutions will be provided for homework.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be given on a somewhat regular basis. I will tell you what material to study prior to a quiz. Quizzes are intended to help you stay involved with the class material. There will be no makeup quizzes; however, the lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Exams: Three in-class exams will be given throughout the course of the semester. Exams are *tentatively* scheduled for **9/21**, **10/19** and **11/16**. These dates are subject to change. There will be no makeup exams except for extenuating circumstances (i.e. death in the family, serious illness, jury duty, Provost-approved university-sponsored activities, etc.). Please notify the instructor as

soon as possible (within 24 hours if possible) if there are extenuating circumstances. Otherwise, a score of 0% will be given for missed exams where the instructor was not contacted beforehand. Any material from lecture, the textbook readings, quizzes and homework is considered testable material.

Cumulative Final Exam: A cumulative final exam will be given on **12/15** from **10:30 AM-12:30 PM**. The final exam **must** be taken during the university's scheduled date and time unless there is a University-wide make-up.

Extra Credit: Extra credit questions may appear on quizzes and exams.

Grade scale:

A	90.00-100.00
B	80.00-89.99
C	70.00-79.99
D	60.00-69.99
F	0.00- 59.99

These are the *guaranteed* grade cutoffs. The cutoffs may be lowered if the instructor deems it necessary at the end of the semester.

Academic misconduct: OU states that academic misconduct is “any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement”. These acts include cheating, plagiarism, fraud and fabrication. Cheating will **NOT** be tolerated during quizzes or exams. All alleged instances of academic misconduct will be investigated and, if substantiated, appropriate penalties will be imposed. Students have the right to appeal any alleged instances of academic misconduct. Please see <http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity-rights/> for further information.

Disability policy: "Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities." The Office of Disability Services is located in Goddard Health Center, Suite 166, phone 405-325-3852. Please see <http://www.ou.edu/drc/home.html> for further information.

Important dates:

- September 5th: Labor Day—No Class
- September 21th: Exam #1
- October 19th: Exam #2
- November 16th: Exam #3
- November 23rd: Thanksgiving Break—No Class
- December 15th: Final Exam (10:30 AM-12:30 PM)

Note: The instructor reserves the right to alter the syllabus if he feels it is in the best interest of students in this class. Any changes to the proposed syllabus will be announced in class.