



METR 1014: INTRODUCTION TO WEATHER & CLIMATE
Course Syllabus
Fall 2012



Class time: 11:30-12:20pm MWF, Room A235 SEC

Instructor: Professor Susan Postawko, School of Meteorology (spostawk@ou.edu)

Office: SEC room 414

Alternate Office: National Weather Center (NWC) room 5329, phone 325-1142

Office hours: 12:30-2:00pm MW, in room 414 SEC, or by appointment

Course web page: Accessible via <https://learn.ou.edu> (log on using your 4+4)

Grader: Mr. Nathan Anderson, Meteorology Graduate Assistant

Co-requisite: Lab section

Required Text:

Essentials of Meteorology: An Invitation to the Atmosphere, by C. Donald Ahrens, (5th edition or higher is OK)

There is no textbook for the lab. You will be expected to print lab exercises each week to bring to lab. The exercises will be posted on the D2L web site for your lab class.

LABS WILL NOT MEET DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES

Course Grade Determination:

2 in-class exams @ 15% each (no drops)	30%
Assignments/pop quizzes*	15%
Comprehensive Final Exam	30%
Lab Section Grade	25%

*assignments will include writing assignments, in-class exercises, and **unannounced** pop-quizzes

Please be sure to bring paper and pen/pencil to class each period!!

About this course:

Meteorology 1014 is a survey course of weather and climate for non-meteorology majors. In this class we will cover a wide variety of topics to help you gain an understanding of the science behind daily weather, climate and climate change, as well as current-events topics such as ice storms, heat waves, and global warming.

It is NOT the aim of the course to make scientists out of all of you; but to help you gain a basic understanding of the atmosphere, and to develop critical thinking skills so that you can read and intelligently discuss newspaper and magazine articles related to weather and climate.

You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the day's topic (from reading assignments from the required text). Although class attendance is not formally a part of your grade for this course, you will get much more out of the course, and have a much easier time with the material if you regularly attend class. In addition, there will be material presented in class that will not be in

the textbooks. Although I will make every effort to post material on the course web site, your comprehension of the material will be much greater if you are actually in class when it is presented.

If you are having problems with the course material, I strongly urge you to come and talk to me sooner rather than later. I can't do anything if you wait until the last week of classes to come and talk to me about problems you've been having all semester.

Remember that education is a two-way street – I can only present the material and facilitate discussion, but you must bring to class an intellectual curiosity and a willingness to learn. In order to get the most out of any class, you **MUST** take an active role in your own education!

About the labs:

The labs associated with this class are designed to both enhance your understanding of lecture material, as well as to introduce some material that we simply don't have time to cover in lecture. As such, the labs don't always coincide exactly with what is going on in lecture.

Although there are several lab sections associated with this class, PLEASE don't play "musical lab periods". That is, unless you have permission in advance from the Teaching Assistant(s), please only attend the lab section that you are enrolled in. The lab rooms have very limited seating capacity.

The lab section will make up 25% of your final grade for this class. Your Teaching Assistant will have more information for you when you attend your first lab.

IMPORTANT POLICIES:

Texting, Internet browsing, messaging, emailing, or gaming during class is inappropriate and unprofessional. Engaging in disruptive behavior during class will result in you being asked to leave.

Reasonable Accommodation: The University of Oklahoma is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for all students with disabilities. Students with disabilities who require accommodation in this course are requested to speak with me 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 325-3852 or TDD only 325-4173.

Academic Misconduct: All provisions of the Norman Campus Academic Misconduct Code shall apply in cases of academic dishonesty. Any violation of the Academic Misconduct Code will result in your removal from this course, and a grade of F will be recorded for the course. Academic misconduct is defined as "any act that improperly affects the evaluation of a student's academic performance or achievement." At the University of Oklahoma, academic integrity is expected from each student. Misconduct such as plagiarism, fabrication, and fraud, as well as attempting to commit such acts or assisting others in doing so, will not be tolerated. Students are responsible for knowing the OU Academic Conduct Code, which can be found at <http://www.ou.edu/studentcode> and <http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity>

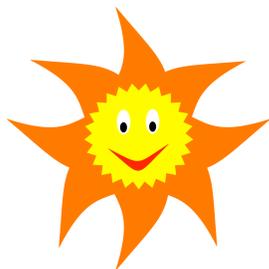


CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

This is a large class, and as such it is imperative that everyone make an extra effort to respect others in the class. Students pay to be here - good students are here to learn. You are adults and are expected to behave as such. Below are some basic “rules” that I expect everyone to follow while in my class:

- **You are expected to get to class on time.** Coming late is a disruption. If you do come in late, please take the first available seat so as to minimize disrupting everyone.
- **Come to class with the expectation of staying in class for the entire period.** In the rare event that you need to leave class early, please make every effort to let me know prior to the beginning of class that you will have to leave.
- **Please take care of all restroom trips either before or after class.** In the rare event that you need to make an emergency trip to the restroom, please do so as quietly as possible.
- **When in class, please be considerate by turning off cell phones and pagers, and turning down the volume on your laptop computer.**
- **Please do NOT engage in lengthy discussions with your neighbors.** This is very distracting to everyone around you (not to mention rude).
- **Clean up after yourself.** If you are reading a newspaper before class, please be sure to take it with you and dispose of it properly when you leave class. The same goes for any food or drinks you bring to class – please make sure to clean up the area around you when you leave.
- **Come to class with the intention of paying attention.** Obvious reading of newspapers or other materials not relevant to the lecture will not be tolerated.
- **Please be sure to bring paper and pencil (or pen) to each class**
- **Class ends when I dismiss the class.** Please do not begin to pack your things until I have dismissed the class.

Following these simple, common courtesy rules will make the class a much more pleasant experience for everyone.



Tentative schedule (subject to change)

Date	Topic	Text Chapter
WEEK 1 Week of Aug. 20	Intro to class/course expectations Origin of Earth/origin of atmosphere	Chapter 1
WEEK 2 Week of Aug. 27	Structure of Earth's atmosphere Energy and energy balance	Chapter 1 Chapter 2
WEEK 3 Week of Sept. 3 No classes on Monday, Sept. 3rd	Solar energy Temperature	Chapter 2 & class notes Chapter 3
WEEK 4 Week of Sept. 10	The water cycle/moisture Clouds and fog	Chapter 4
WEEK 5 Week of Sept. 17	Wednesday, Sept. 19 - EXAM 1 Stability & cloud development	Chapters 1-4 Chapter 5
WEEK 6 Week of Sept. 24	Stability Precipitation	Chapter 5
WEEK 7 Week of Oct. 1	Atmospheric pressure Atmospheric forces	Chapter 6
WEEK 8 Week of Oct. 8 No classes on Friday, Oct. 12	Local Winds Global circulation	Chapter 7
WEEK 9 Week of Oct. 15	Wind Power El Niño-Southern Oscillation	Class notes Chapter 7
WEEK 10 Week of Oct. 22	Wednesday, Oct. 24- EXAM 2 Air masses, front, mid-latitude cyclones	Chapters 5-7 Chapter 8
WEEK 11 Week of Oct. 29	Weather forecasting Thunderstorms	Chapter 9 Chapter 10
WEEK 12 Week of Nov. 5	Thunderstorms & tornadoes	Chapter 10
WEEK 13 Week of Nov. 12	Hurricanes	Chapter 11
WEEK 14 Week of Nov. 19	Global climate THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY NOVEMBER 21-25	Chapter 12
WEEK 15 Week of Nov. 26	Climate change	Chapter 13
WEEK 16 Week of Dec. 3	Climate change	Chapter 13
FINAL EXAM	Friday, December 14 1:30 – 3:30 pm Room A235 SEC	Comprehensive Exam