Syllabus: METR 2603.001, Fall 2014

Class Sessions: MWF 9:30–10:20am, Adams Hall Rm 359
Instructor: Dr. LaDue **Email:** dzaras@ou.edu
My Real Office: National Weather Center, 325-1898
My "Fake" Office (for office hours): SEC 410, no phone; Date/time will be posted to the D2L calendar. Alternate times available, please ask.
Grader: There is a grader to help me. Please direct all questions to me.

Content: Severe and Unusual Weather is a non-majors course that serves as a General Education Core II Natural Science Elective (non-lab). It is designed to provide students with an in-depth look at the physical and societal aspects of severe and unusual weather. You will learn some basic properties of the atmosphere, types of meteorological measurements, and some aspects of how the weather is predicted, but emphasis will be more holistically on the science and how it impacts life/society for the following severe and unusual weather phenomenon: hurricanes, thunderstorms, downbursts, tornadoes, hail, lightning, great plains blizzards, ice storms, and climate/climate change.

Course Objectives: At the conclusion of this course, you should be able to:

- Explain several key, underlying physical processes behind severe weather
- Explain both the typical occurrences and range of possibility for how extreme the weather can be in place and time.
- Understand your own and others' risk from severe and unusual weather.

Required Textbook: Rauber, Robert M., John E. Walsh, and Donna J. Charlevoix. *Severe and Hazardous Weather: An Introduction to High-Impact Meteorology* (4th ed.), Kendall/Hunt, 2012. The 4th edition was new in August of 2012, so there should be used copies available. Check locally and online. Copes are on reserve at Bizzell and at the National Weather Center's Library.

Other course materials:

- Course documents and grades will be disseminated through the OU online course management system, Desire2Learn (D2L): http://learn.ou.edu.
- I have started a list of good web resources and will add to it as the semester goes on. There is a lot of weather information online. Some if it is far below our course (e.g., grossly oversimplified), and some is far above.

Special Course Activities:
1. Paper: Our main writing activity will be a single-spaced, 3-page paper in which you explore how your future career intersects with an aspect of severe weather. Alternately, you may connect the course to life in general. We will mock the peer review process scientific papers go through using these papers. With first-hand experience, you will better appreciate a key process of science. The final paper submission replaces our final exam grade this semester. Bonus points will be available for finishing early.

2. Team Teaching: You will be assigned to work on two team teaching projects during the semester. Being put into the position of teaching helps you learn better. Many of the assignments are designed to give you and your classmates a better appreciation for how course content connects to your majors, and matters to our lives. Use feedback from your first team experience to improve your second team teaching! You are also learning teamwork skills in this class that will be valuable in your career. It is expected that all team members will contribute approximately equally. Each team member rates each other team member's contributions through an online peer evaluation tool called catme.org. Peer evaluation is factored into how the team grade is applied to each team member.

Grading:

Teamwork	20%
Assignments	30%
Quizzes	30%
Paper	20%

You are responsible for checking D2L throughout the semester. If you see an error, such as a missing or incorrect grade, you must notify the instructor within two weeks of the grade being posted.
Grading Scale: A: 100 – 90%; **B**: 89 – 80%; **C**: 79 – 70%; **D**: 69 – 60%; **F**: < 60%

Quizzes: Quizzes will take place approximately every two weeks. The lowest two quiz grades will be dropped. No make-up quizzes will be given except if: (1) serious medical condition (illness or injury) of you or an immediate family member; (2) University excused absence; (3) jury duty; (4) religious observance; or (5) military orders. Appropriate documentation *must* accompany any appeal to make up a quiz.

Assignments: Assignments will be due approximately every two weeks, alternating weeks with quizzes. Assignments must be turned in *by the beginning of class* on the assigned due date to be considered on time. If you are sick, please consider scanning your assignment (if it is a paper assignment) and uploading it to the "Assignments Dropbox" on D2L. If it is not submitted on time, it is late and will be capped at no more than 60% credit. Exceptions listed under quizzes apply here.

Working Together: I encourage you to work together to understand class material, and thus understand how to complete class assignments. However, your assignment must be your own work! Work together to *understand*, then each person completes their paper in their own words. Assignments ask who you worked with and request that you sign an integrity statement. Ask me if you are unsure what constitutes "inappropriate aid." See section on Academic Integrity.

Extra Credit: These will be a few optional activities that can be done for extra credit. Up to two may be done. The assignment grade receiving the boost must also be turned in, and earn at least 60%. Assignments earning less than 60% may be redone once, in order that this boost can apply. All extra credit is due by the Magic Date (see below).

November 14 = The Magic Date: Late assignments must be turned in by this date; credit will be capped at 60%. Optional extra credit assignments are due by this date. All grading issues must be raised by this date.

Attendance: You are expected to attend every class session. Frequent in-class activities are important to your learning, and content is included that is not in the book. That said, please stay home when you are sick, and work with me to make up missed material.

Absence for Religious Observance: 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. Notify me as soon as possible if you plan to observe a religious holiday so I may work with you on appropriate arrangements.

Student Privacy: I am committed to keeping all your personal information and grades private in accordance with the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). As such, I will not share information on your performance in this class with any third party (including parents and academic counselors) without written permission from you, the student. If you wish for me to share your class grades and other information with a third party, provide a written notice designating the third party (by name) and what information I may and may not share with them.

Academic Integrity: All students are instructed to read the official University student's guide to academic integrity: http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html. 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; see the various resources under the Student tab at http://integrity.ou.edu for further information.

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.

Technology Policy: Technology may only be used for class purposes during class time.