

**Severe and Unusual Weather**  
**METR 2603, Sec 001**  
**Spring 2011**

**Lecture:** MWF 9:30-10:20am

**Location:** Sarkeys energy Center, room N202

**Instructor:** Terra Thompson

**Email:** terrat@ou.edu

**Regular Office:** 4370 National Weather Center

**Office Hours Office:** Sarkeys 526

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 3-4:30pm or by appointment

**Grader** (homework only): Jordan Guernsey

**Textbook:** Severe and Hazardous Weather 3<sup>rd</sup> edition by Robert Rauber, John Walsh, and Donna Charlevoix. ISBN: 978-0-7575-5043-0.

<http://severewx.atmos.uiuc.edu>

The “Active Learning Workbook” will not be used specifically in this course. You can certainly use it to aid or enhance your own learning of class material.

**Website:** <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. There are no prerequisites.

**Course Goals:**

1. Develop an understanding of basic atmospheric properties and processes.
2. Develop an understanding of daily weather events and conditions.
3. Develop an understanding of the causes, formation, evolution and impacts of a variety of severe weather events.
4. Be able to think critically and communicate scientifically about weather events.

## **Grading:**

### Grade Distribution:

|                                   |               |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| In Class Activities/Participation | 10%           |
| Homework                          | 30%           |
| Project                           | 6%            |
| Exams (3)                         | 3 x 13% = 39% |
| Final                             | 15%           |

### Activities/ Class Participation:

Show up for class and participate in the lectures. Students who participate in class will have opportunities to earn points and students who disrupt class will lose points. Frequently, in the last few minutes of class students will participate in activities to reinforce the lecture material. Grading of all activities in this category will be done purely based on completion.

### Homework:

There will be between 6 and 9 homework assignments during the semester. The purpose of homework is to demonstrate the student's ability to apply concepts discussed in class. Homeworks are due at the BEGINNING of class on the specified due date. You may work with a partner, but copied homeworks will NOT be accepted and will earn a 0 on the assignment.

Project: You will have a few choices for the project. We will discuss this later in the semester.

Exams (in class): February 16<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)

March 9<sup>th</sup> (Friday)

April 25<sup>th</sup> (Monday)

Final (cumulative): May 11<sup>th</sup> 8am (Wednesday)

Extra Credit Opportunities will be announced during the semester.

Grade Scale: Will follow the standard system:

A: >90

B: 80-90

C: 70-80

D: 60-70

F: <60

## **Policies:**

1. Class will begin AT 9:30, please don't be late.
2. I expect you to act in a professional and respectful manner.
3. Assignments are due at the beginning of class.
4. Some Assignments can be turned in late for a deduction of 20% per day late.
5. Make-up exams will only be allowed if arrangements have been made prior to the exam when a reasonable circumstance exists.
6. There will be no make-up for the Final.
7. Please write legibly. If I have great difficulty reading your answers, they will be deemed incomplete/wrong, and you will lose points.
8. It is strongly recommended that you print the lecture notes (from Desire2Learn) and bring them to class with you.
9. If you need help with the course ask!

**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.

Note: Some lecture material used in this course is borrowed, with permission, from previous instructors. All material provided in this class is protected by copyright.

**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.