



METR 1014: Introduction to Weather & Climate Course Syllabus Spring 2012

Class time: 6:00pm-7:15pm MW, SEC Room N202

Instructor: Ethan Cook

Office: SEC room 410c

Alternate Office: National Weather Center (NWC) room 5345

Email: ecook@ou.edu

Office hours: 3:30pm - 5:30PM M,W in room SEC 410, or by appointment

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

Co-requisite: Lab section

Required Texts: Essentials of Meteorology: An Invitation to the Atmosphere, by C. Donald Ahrens, 6th ed. **and, for your lab section:** *Explorations in Meteorology: A Lab Manual*

Course Grade Determination:

2 in-class exams @ 20% each (no drops)	40%
Assignments/pop quizzes	10%
Comprehensive Final Exam	25%
Lab Section Grade	25%

About this course: Meteorology 1014 is a qualitative survey course of weather and climate for non-meteorology majors. 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.

The course is not intended to make scientists out of you, rather, it should help you gain a basic understanding of the atmosphere and to develop critical thinking skills so that you can read and have principled discussions about newspaper and magazine articles related to weather and climate.

Please 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 textbook. I will make every effort to post lecture presentations on the course web site. These presentations, however, will be in Powerpoint form and will tend to *outline* lessons rather than list all the specific information I present in the corresponding lectures. **You will need to take notes.** Besides that, your comprehension of the material will be more complete if you are actually in class when it is presented.

If you are having problems with the course material, I 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.

Education is a two-way street – I can only present the material and facilitate discussion, but you must bring to class 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:

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 causes a disruption, especially in the crowded classroom we have. 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 Jan. 16 – Jan. 20	Intro to class/course expectations Origin of Earth/Origin of atmosphere No class Jan. 16	Chapter 1
WEEK 2 Jan. 23 – Jan. 27	Structure of Earth's atmosphere Energy and energy balance	Chapter 1 Chapter 2
WEEK 3 Jan. 30 – Feb. 3	Solar energy Temperature	Chapter 2 Chapter 3
WEEK 4 Feb. 6 – Feb. 10	The water cycle/moisture Clouds and fog	Chapter 4
WEEK 5 Feb. 13 – Feb. 17	Wednesday, Feb. - EXAM 1 Stability & cloud development	Chapters 1-4 Chapter 5
WEEK 6 Feb. 20 – Feb. 24	Stability Precipitation	Chapter 5
WEEK 7 Feb. 27 – Mar. 2	Atmospheric pressure Atmospheric forces	Chapter 6
WEEK 8 Mar. 5 – Mar. 9	Local Winds Global circulation / El Niño-Southern Oscillation	Chapter 7
WEEK 9 Mar. 12 – Mar. 16	Air Masses, Fronts Mid-latitude cyclones	Chapter 8
WEEK 10 Mar. 19 – Mar. 23	Spring Break	
WEEK 11 Mar. 26 – Mar. 30	Wednesday, Oct. 26 - EXAM 2 Weather Forecasting	Chapters 5-8 Chapter 9
WEEK 12 Apr. 2 – Apr. 6	Thunderstorms Tornadoes	Chapter 10
WEEK 13 Apr. 9 – Apr. 13	Tornadoes Hurricanes	Chapter 10 Chapter 11
WEEK 14 Apr. 16 – Apr. 20	Earth's Climate	Chapter 12
WEEK 15 Apr. 23 – Apr. 27	Climate Change	Chapter 13
WEEK 16 Apr. 30 – May 4	Climate Change Wed. May 2 – COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM	Chapter 13 Chapters 1-13