



METR 2603

SEVERE AND UNUSUAL WEATHER

Spring 2012



Instructors:

Prof. Susan Postawko (spostawk@ou.edu)

Office: 414 SEC

Ms. Somer Erickson

(tornadosomer@ou.edu)

Office Hours: Tu/Th 4pm-5:30pm or by
appointment

Office Hours: to be determined

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

Text: Severe & Hazardous Weather by Rauber, Walsh and Charlevoix (3rd ed.)

Course Grade Determination:

3 exams @ 25% each (no drops) 75%

In-class writing assignments/homework 25%

About this course:

Meteorology 2603 is a survey course of the physical processes that are important in the formation of various severe and unusual weather phenomena such as thunderstorms, hail, tornadoes, and lightning, as well as current-events topics such as El Niño, hurricanes and droughts.

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 textbook. 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.

When in class, please be considerate of your classmates by turning off cell phones and NOT engaging in lengthy discussions with your neighbors.

If you are having problems with the course material, I strongly urge you to come and talk to me sooner rather than later.

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>

TENTATIVE LIST OF TOPICS AND COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Text Reading
Week 1	Intro to atmosphere/seasons	Chapter 1
Week 2	Weather maps Forecasting	Chapters 3 and 4
Week 3	Atmospheric stability Atmospheric forces	Chapters 6 and 7
Week 4	Pressure systems Airmasses and fronts	Chapters 8 and 9
Week 5	Mid-latitude cyclones EXAM 1 (Wed., Feb. 15)	Chapters 10 and 11
Week 6	Winter weather	Chapters 12 - 16
Week 7	Thunderstorms Tornadoes	Chapters 18 and 19
Week 8	Hailstorms Lightning	Chapters 20 and 21
Week 9	Downbursts EXAM 2 (Wed., March 14)	Chapter 22
Week 10	SPRING BREAK (March 17-25)	
Week 11	Hurricanes and waterspouts	Chapter 24
Week 12	Floods and Drought	Chapters 25 and 26
Week 13	Heat Waves	Chapter 27
Week 14	El Niño and La Niña	Chapter 26
Week 15	Space Weather Global Climate – how extreme can Earth’s climate get?	Chapter 5
Week 16	Global Warming EXAM 3 (Wed., May 2)	

Evening Classes. Classes that begin at 5:00 PM or later will have the final examination during the last lecture period.

