

METR 1014: Introduction to Weather & Climate

Course Syllabus

Spring 2013

TR 1:30-2:45

NH 270

Instructor: Kristen Bradford—M.S. in Professional Meteorology

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Office: National Weather Center rm. 5110

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 12 - 1pm

My job is to help you understand the presented material, but I can't help if you don't ask me questions. If you have a conflict with my scheduled office hours, or a question arises that you would prefer to discuss sooner than then, feel free to e-mail me. I will do my best to respond in a timely manner.

Course Web Page: D2L (<https://learn.ou.edu>)

Co-requisite: Lab section

Required Texts:

1. *Essentials of Meteorology: An Invitation to the Atmosphere*, by C. Donald Ahrens, 6th ed.

Course Grade Determination:

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Assignments/Pop Quizzes	10%
Comprehensive Final Exam	25%
Lab Section Grade	25%

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-event 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; instead, I hope 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.

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 do not have time to cover in lecture. As such, the labs don't always coincide exactly with what is going on in lecture.

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

Attendance:

Attendance to each lecture is MANDATORY. Unexcused absences are not tolerated. Any assignments, quizzes, or exams missed due to an unexcused absence will be recorded as a 0. I do not accept ANY late work (unless there are legitimate extenuating circumstances), so please plan accordingly.

Regardless, it is your responsibility to make up the material you missed in class. The PowerPoints from each lecture will be posted on D2L; however, it is always a good idea to copy the notes from another student in class. Unfortunately, I do not have the time re-teach the lessons to you, but I am always willing to answer any points of confusion that you may have during my office hours.

Exams

If you know that you will be absent on an exam day, please let me know before class. I require that you let me know a **week** before a scheduled absence (i.e. vacation, religious holiday, etc.) in order to make any necessary arrangements for make-up work; however, I understand that this is not always possible. If an unexpected circumstance arises (i.e. illness, a family emergency, etc.), please let me know as soon as possible **before** class begins.

If you miss an exam due to an *excused* absence, you have one (1) week to make it up. After that, the grade will be recorded as a 0.

A missed exam resulting from an *unexcused* absence will automatically result in a 0.

Pop Quizzes and Class Assignments

Although I will not be taking attendance during class, I will be distributing pop quizzes and in-class assignments frequently throughout the semester. If you are not in class at the time and miss the quiz and/or assignment, it will be recorded as a zero. You will not have an opportunity to make these up if missed. Pop quizzes and class assignments are 10% of your overall grade (see course grade determination). At the end of the semester, I will drop your two (2) lowest grades under this category.

Important Policies:**Accommodation of Students with Disabilities**

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 instructor 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. You may contact the office at 405-325-3852 (voice) or 405-325-4173 (TDD).

Academic Misconduct

Cheating will not be tolerated and will be reported. No exceptions, no excuses. Those found cheating will be penalized under the OU Academic Misconduct Code, which can be found at <http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity>. In short, if you cheat, expect to be removed from the course and to receive an F for the course.

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 there - good students are there 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 Lecture Schedule:

Week	Date	Topic	Text Chapter
Week 1	15-Jan	Intro to class/course expectations	
	17-Jan	Introduction to the Earth's Atmosphere	Chapter 1
Week 2	22-Jan	Energy and Seasons	Chapter 2
	24-Jan	Air Temperature	Chapter 3
Week 3	29-Jan	Water Cycle/Moisture	Chapter 4
	31-Jan	Clouds and Fog	Chapter 4
Week 4	5-Feb	Wind Power and Renewable Energy	Class Notes
	7-Feb	Class Topic: TBD	
Week 5	12-Feb	Global Winds	
	14-Feb	EXAM 1	Chapters 1-4
Week 6	19-Feb	Stability and Cloud Development	Chapter 5
	21-Feb	Stability and Cloud Development	Chapter 5
Week 7	26-Feb	Precipitation	Chapter 5
	28-Feb	Atmospheric Pressure	Chapter 6
Week 8	5-Mar	Atmospheric Forces	Chapter 6
	7-Mar	Local Wind Systems	Chapter 7
Week 9	12-Mar	Global Circulation	Chapter 7
	14-Mar	Air Masses and Fronts	Chapter 8
Week 10	19-Mar	SPRING BREAK!	
	21-Mar		
Week 11	26-Mar	Pre-Spring Break Review	Chapters 5-8
	28-Mar	Moisture and Precipitation	
Week 12	2-Apr	EXAM 2	Chapters 5-8
	4-Apr	Mid-Latitude Cyclones	Chapter 8
Week 13	9-Apr	Weather Forecasting	Chapter 9
	11-Apr	Thunderstorms	Chapter 10
Week 14	16-Apr	Thunderstorms and Tornadoes	Chapter 10
	18-Apr	Tornadoes	Chapter 10
Week 15	23-Apr	Tornadoes	Chapter 10
	25-Apr	Hurricanes	Chapter 11
Week 16	7-May	Climate Change	Chapter 12
	9-May	Climate Change	Chapter 12

Cumulative Final: TUESDAY, MAY 14 1:30-3:30 NH270