

**METR 2603 Sec 900**  
**Severe and Unusual Weather**  
**Spring 2013, T-TR 6:00-7:15pm, SEC A235**

**Instructor:** Mr. Daniel Betten

**Email:** danbettenOU@gmail.com

**Office Hours:** After class or by appointment (email) before class, Tues & Thurs.

**Final Exam:** Last day of class May 2<sup>nd</sup>! 6pm-8pm.

**Official Class Website:** Learn.ou.edu (Login using OU 4x4) will be used to post lecture notes, homework assignments, and test reviews. Quizzes may be given online as well. I have created a Facebook page “METR 2603” to provide another avenue for class announcements and discussion.

**Required Materials:** *Severe and Hazardous Weather: An introduction to high impact meteorology* (4th edition) by Robert M. Rauber, John Walsh, and Donna Charlevoix. You will only be responsible for material presented in lecture as the book covers too many topics for one semester.

**Book Website:** <http://severewx.atmos.uiuc.edu/index.html>, excellent source for animations and links to current weather.

**Course Description:** OU course catalog entry “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, and global climate change.” Other phenomena include droughts, floods, and El Niño/La Niña. Students will also be shown how to use basic forecasting tools for severe weather.

**Grading:**

In-class activities/quizzes      125 pts 25%

Homework assignments            100 pts 20%

2 Mid-term exams                    200 pts 40%

Final exam                            100 pts 20%

Total                                    500 pts

**Grade Scale**

A: >90%,      > 450 pts

B: 80-89.99%, 400-449 pts

C: 70-79.99%, 350-399 pts

D: 60-69.99%, 300-349 pts

F: <59.99%,      <300 pts

**Quizzes:**

There are extra points built into the “in-class activities/quizzes” section to reward students for keeping up with the material. There will be weekly open book reading quizzes online that will make up the majority of the points for this section. The quiz will open Friday morning and students have until class

time Tuesday evening to complete the quiz. Once the quiz is closed there will be no opportunities to retake the quiz.

### **Homework Assignments:**

Homework assignments should be turned in at the beginning of class on the due date. After the due date, a 15% penalty will be applied but will then be due at the end of the semester. Students are allowed to work together but are responsible for producing original work. Simply copying down someone else's answers is considered academic misconduct and will be given a 0 on the assignment.

### **Exams:**

There will be two mid-term exams each covering a third of the material and a non-comprehensive final. However, the material builds on itself and elements of old material will show up on later exams. Makeup exams will only be given for students that bring University approved excuses to the attention of the professor before the exam.

Tentative exam dates: Feb 19<sup>th</sup>, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, and May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Due to weather one of the test dates may need to get moved back.

### **Academic Misconduct:**

Academic misconduct is a serious offense and will not be tolerated. Whether it is looking at someone else's test, copying homework, or plagiarizing someone's writing. All alleged instances of academic misconduct will be investigated and, if substantiated, appropriate admonitions will be imposed. Please read the student integrity guidelines at [integrity.ou.edu](http://integrity.ou.edu) 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.

**Disability Policy:** Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities. The Office of Disability Services is located in Goddard Health Center, Suite 166, phone 405-325-3852 ([drc@ou.edu](mailto:drc@ou.edu)). Please see <http://www.ou.edu/drc/home.html> for further information.