

METR 2603-001 – Severe and Unusual Weather Fall 2007 Syllabus

Lecture: MWF 9:30 – 10:20 a.m., SEC N202

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Content: Severe and Unusual Weather is a non-majors course that serves as a General Education Core II Natural Science Elective (non-lab). It is designed to provide students with an in-depth look at the physical and societal aspects of severe and unusual weather. Specific topics to be covered include thunderstorms, squall lines, supercells, hail, lightning, tornadoes, microbursts, tropical storms and hurricanes, observation systems, remote sensing tools, severe weather climatology and forecasting, blizzards, ice storms, and lake-effect snow storms.

Course Objectives: At the conclusion of this course, students should:

- Know basic properties of the atmosphere and how to interpret weather maps, charts, and symbols.
- Be able to define meteorological terms and do physical calculations using SI units.
- Correctly identify the meteorological phenomena listed above and understand their underlying physical processes.
- Know and be able to explain climatological distributions of severe and unusual weather phenomena.
- Synthesize weather information from the web and other resources.
- Be able to analyze and discuss meteorological events scientifically.
- Understand the societal impacts of severe and unusual weather.

Required Textbook: Rauber, Robert M., John E. Walsh, and Donna J. Charlevoix. *Severe and Hazardous Weather: An Introduction to High-Impact Meteorology* (2nd ed.), Kendall/Hunt.

Web Component: Course documents and grades will be disseminated through the OU online course management system, Desire2Learn (D2L): <http://learn.ou.edu>.

The website associated with the textbook is <http://severewx.atmos.uiuc.edu/>.

Grading:

In-class exams (2)	20%	200 pts.
Final exam (cumulative)	20%	200 pts.
Homework (4)	40%	400 pts.
Essay assignments (2)	10%	100 pts.
In-class exercises/participation	10%	100 pts.
TOTAL	100%	1000 pts.

Grading Scale:	A	100 – 90%
	B	89 – 80 %
	C	79 – 70 %
	D	69 – 60 %
	F	< 59%

Exams: Exams must be taken on the scheduled date. No make-up exams or quizzes will be given. The only exceptions to missing more than one exam or quiz without significantly impacting your grade will be: (1) serious medical condition (illness or injury) of you or an immediate family member; (2) University excused absence; (3) jury duty; (4) religious observance; or (5) military orders. Only in such instances will an exam or quiz be rescheduled depending on the best interests of the student. Appropriate documentation must accompany any excused absence from an exam or quiz.

Attendance: You are expected to attend every lecture. Daily in-class exercises will factor into your class grade. The material learned in one class is connected to other material learned in the class on other days, so it is to your advantage to attend every lecture in order to maintain continuity of information.

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* class exercises, you are expected to *arrive* at your solutions independently. Significant similarities between solutions may be taken as evidence of improper collaboration.

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.

Please note: This syllabus is subject to adjustment, if necessary.