



# METR 1014: Introduction to Weather & Climate Course Syllabus (Subject to Change) Spring 2010



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

**Instructor:** Tiffani Wilke, Meteorology Masters' Student

**Email Address:** [twilke@ou.edu](mailto:twilke@ou.edu) (put METR 1014 in subject line)

**Office:** SEC room 526

**Alternate Office:** National Weather Center (NWC) room 5325

**Office hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:45pm-5:45pm in room SEC 526, or by appointment

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

**Co-requisite:** Lab section

**Texts:** *Essentials of Meteorology: An Invitation to the Atmosphere*, by C. Donald Ahrens (prefer 5<sup>th</sup> edition, but 4<sup>th</sup> edition is OK),  
*Explorations in Meteorology: A Lab Manual*

**Materials:** 2 separate notebooks or folders

-1 for notes

-1 for weather journal activities (This will be turned in twice throughout the semester. This means you need to keep track of your activities. If you lose them I will not give you another. Due dates can be found on your class schedule.)

## **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 weather events and the job of a meteorologist.

It is NOT the aim of this course to make scientists out of all of you. I want to help you gain a basic understanding of the atmosphere, and to develop critical thinking skills so that you can intelligently discuss newspaper and magazine articles related to weather and climate. This class will also give you the necessary information to understand your local or national meteorologists.

You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss and ask questions regarding the topics presented. Although class attendance is not taken, activities for your weather journal will only be given during class and you will receive participation points for doing them. Therefore, if you are not present in class you will not be given credit for these activities. If you have a valid excuse for not attending class and you have cleared it through me, **prior to class**, you will be given the weather journal activity you missed. In addition to obtaining weather journal activities, you will get much more out of the course and have a much easier time with the material if you regularly attend class. There will be material presented in class that will not be in the textbook and this material will be on the exams. Even though I will post material on the D2L website, your comprehension of the material will be much greater if you are actually in class when it is presented.

If you are having problems with the course material, I strongly encourage you to come and talk to me sooner rather than later. I am of the opinion that there is no such thing as a stupid question. So please ask me! I can't do anything if you wait until the last week of class to come and talk to me about problems you've been having all semester.

Remember that education is a two-way street – I can only present the material and facilitate discussion. In order to get the most out of any class, you **MUST** take an active role in your own education!

### **Course Grade Determination:**

2 in-class exams @ 20% each (no drops)	40%
Homework	9%
Weather Journals	6%
Final Exam	20%
Lab Section Grade	25%
Lab exercises:	15%
Lab quizzes:	10%

**Note:** lab grade will be made up of scores from lab exercises PLUS scores from 5 quizzes over lab material (1 will be dropped). Lab quizzes will be given in your lab section.

### **Final Grading Scale**

89.5-100%	A
79.5-89.4%	B
69.5-79.4%	C
59.5-69.4%	D
Below 59.5%	F

On the final class grade I will round up if you are at 89.5%, 79.5%, 69.5%, or 59.5% and higher. This means if your final grade is at 89.4% you will still get a B. Therefore, if you want a certain grade keep a close eye on your grade throughout the semester so you know how well you need to do in order to receive the grade you would like. Only the final grade is rounded; if you receive an 89.5% on a homework, weather journal, exam, or lab assignment the grade will not be rounded. I also do NOT curve grades. I do however give periodic extra credit opportunities throughout the semester so take advantage of them when they come around.

And remember: I DON'T GIVE OUT GRADES, YOU EARN THEM!!!!

### **Homework:**

There will be 6 homework assignments throughout the semester. The due dates are labeled on your class schedule to help you budget your time. Homework assignments will be posted on the Desire2Learn website and you will be given around a week to do each of these assignments. Some questions will be straightforward and others will be more challenging.

### **Weather Journals:**

These are short assignments (usually take 5-10 minutes to complete) that are given periodically throughout the semester. When you are given the assignment there will be a stamp on it. At the next class period I will come by and put a second stamp on it if you have it done (even if it isn't quite right). I will however check each weather journal when handed in to make sure your answers are reasonable. If I can tell that you just threw some answer

down you will not receive credit for it. At two times during the semester I will collect your weather journals in a folder. Each of these packets will count for 3% of your final grade! So as long as you come to class (or clear the reason for your absence with me before the start of class) and attempt to do the activities you will get a great grade booster!!!! Due dates for these weather journal packets are posted on your class schedule.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Weather journal activity announcements will **ONLY** be made **IN CLASS**. That is, they will **NOT** be posted on the Desire2Learn website. If you miss class, you miss the assignment. If your absence has been excused by me you will have the opportunity to make it up.

### **About the labs:**

The labs associated with this class are designed to enhance your understanding of lecture material. I will do my best to coincide the lab activities with lecture. However there will be some material covered in lab that will not be discussed in class and some of the labs will lag behind the material in the class. This unfortunately is inevitable.

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. Of this, 15% of the final class grade will come from your lab exercises. Each lab exercise will be weighted the same as another lab exercise even if the points between labs are different. 10% of the final class grade will come from quizzes over lab material. These lab quizzes will be developed by the Teaching Assistants and will be given in class. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. There are no make-ups for these quizzes, unless your circumstance has been approved by your Teaching Assistant.

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 (405) 325-3852, TDD only (405) 325-4173, FAX (405) 325-4491, or ods@ou.edu.

**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://judicial.ou.edu/content/view/27/32/> and <http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity>.

Group work is encouraged while working on homework. However, it is the student's responsibility to provide his/her OWN ANSWERS on the homework. If answers on homework questions are too similar to another student's answers, points will be taken off and in severe cases a 0 will be given.

**Religious Holidays:** "It is the policy of the University to excuse the absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays." All you need to do is inform me prior to the absence.



# 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.
- 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.