



METR 1014: INTRODUCTION TO WEATHER & CLIMATE
Course Syllabus
Summer 2013



Instructor: Professor Susan Postawko, School of Meteorology (spostawk@ou.edu)

Office: National Weather Center (NWC) room 5329, phone (405) 325-1142 or (405) 325-6561

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

You will have 2 separate web sites on D2L for this class – one for the “lecture” portion, and one for the lab portion.

Required Text:

Essentials of Meteorology: An Invitation to the Atmosphere, by C. Donald Ahrens, (5th edition or higher is OK)

Co-requisite: Lab section

Lab Instructor: Dr. Alex Zwink (azwink@ou.edu)

There is no book for the lab. The exercises will be posted on the D2L web site for your lab class.

Course Grade Determination:

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| 5 quizzes @ 10% each | 50% |
| Assignments | 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-events topics such as tornadoes, heat waves, and global warming.

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 will be expected to keep up with material each week. That is, you can't wait until the last week and then try to turn in all of the assignments. There will be due dates by which assignments will need to be turned in and quizzes will have to be taken. You are free to work ahead and complete assignments early, but no late assignments will be accepted.

If you are having problems with the course material, I strongly urge you to contact me sooner rather than later. I can't do anything if you wait until the last week of classes to 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, but you must bring to class an intellectual curiosity and a willingness to learn. In order to get the most out of any class, you **MUST** take an active role in your own education!

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

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>

Academic integrity is particularly important in an online class. Please be sure you are familiar with the OU policy!



Tentative schedule (subject to change)

| Date | Topic | Text Chapter |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| WEEK 1 Week of July 1st | Intro to class/course expectations Origin of Earth/origin of atmosphere Structure of Earth's atmosphere | Chapter 1 |
| WEEK 2 Week of July 8 | Temperature and Heat Energy and energy balance Seasons QUIZ OVER CHAPTERS 1 AND 2 Air temperature | Chapter 2 Chapter 3 |
| WEEK 3 Week of July 15 | The water cycle Atmospheric moisture Cloud types QUIZ OVER CHAPTERS 3 AND 4 Stability | Chapter 4 Chapter 5 |
| WEEK 4 Week of July 22 | Cloud development Precipitation Atmospheric pressure Wind QUIZ OVER CHAPTERS 5 AND 6 | Chapter 5 Chapter 6 |
| WEEK 5 Week of July 29 | Local wind systems Global circulation ENSO | Chapter 7 |
| WEEK 6 Week of August 5 | Air masses, fronts, and midlatitude cyclones QUIZ OVER CHAPTERS 7 AND 8 Weather forecasting Thunderstorms | Chapter 8 Chapter 9 Chapter 10 |
| WEEK 7 Week of August 12 | Tornadoes Hurricanes QUIZ OVER CHAPTERS 9, 10, AND 11 | Chapter 10 Chapter 11 |
| | Class ends on Friday, August 16 | |

During a typical week there will be several short assignments that will be due by the end of the week. This is in addition to the lab work you will do each week.