

# Syllabus

## Weather and Climate Laboratory

### METR 1014-996

### Summer 2013

**Laboratory Instructor:** Alexander Zwink

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My job as your Teaching Assistant is to help you understand the presented material, but I can't help if you don't ask me questions. If you have any questions regarding your understanding of the material, structure of the course, or any issue that arises, please do not hesitate to send me an e-mail.

#### **Course Description:**

This lab will cover a wide range of topics about weather and climate and serves as a complement to the material covered in the METR 1014 lectures.

**Course Goals:** 1) To gain an understanding of how material presented is used in real world applications and 2) to gain hands-on experience using some of the methods and techniques used in weather and climate studies.

#### **Course Materials:**

**Text:** C. Donald Ahrens, *Essentials of Meteorology: An Invitation to the Atmosphere*, (We will not be directly using the textbook, however it will be useful to use on the labs and quizzes.)

**For Labs:** Access to a computer with a word processor (Microsoft Office preferred) and a PDF viewer.

**Optional Supplies:** Color Pencils and access to a printer and scanner. (For one of the extra credit opportunities, this will be discussed at a later time)

#### **Laboratory Expectations:**

Each student is required to do their own lab and must submit their own lab to D2L. Discussion of the lab concepts amongst your classmates is encouraged, however I expect you to come up with your own answers to the questions asked. Late lab reports will not be accepted unless there are extenuating circumstances that have been brought to my attention and cleared. If extenuating circumstances arise and have been cleared, the lab must be completed **within a week** of the due date for the lab.

#### **Lab Structure:**

The lab will consist of two parts: the lab exercises and quizzes.

**Lab Exercises:** Each lab will have 3 provided parts: a powerpoint, a PDF with the exercises and questions, and a Microsoft Word document that contains the answer sheet.

Here is a general guideline on how to proceed with each lab:

- 1) Read the beginning of the answer sheet. Any tips or advice on how to proceed with the lab will be here.
- 2) Read through the lab PDF file to gain an understanding of the lab.
- 3) As you reach questions in the lab, check the answer sheet to see if you are required to answer the question. If you are required, attempt to answer the question. If not, move along in the lab.

4) If you are stuck on a particular problem, reference the powerpoint. The powerpoint will provide useful tips and descriptions of topics discussed within the labs. The powerpoint will also in most cases provide page numbers where you can refer to the book used in the main class for additional information on the topic.

5) If you are still confused and unable to answer a question, **do not hesitate to ask questions**. Please refer to the Correspondence portion later in the syllabus on how to contact me and ask questions.

6) Once you have answered each question on the answer sheet, submit the lab to the appropriate dropbox on the D2L page for the class.

**Quizzes:** These quizzes are to test your knowledge on the topics covered in the laboratory exercises. These quizzes will be taken on D2L and will be **timed**. Each question for the quizzes will be short answer. You will only have one attempt per quiz.

Both the lab exercises and the quizzes are **open book, open note, open computer/internet**. Be warned though, if you need to look through your notes for every question on the quiz, the time limit will become a problem for you. Make sure you are at least familiar with the material before attempting the quiz.

### **Grading**

Lab exercises            25% (8 labs, 10 points each)

Lab quizzes              75% (4 quizzes, 10 points each)

Your final lab grade will account for 25% of your total grade in the course.

Full completion of the lab and a score of 50% or above will get you full credit for the lab exercise. My primary desire is to have you fully complete the lab to show you have taken the time to work through the material. The lab exercises will be graded for the most part on accuracy. You may lose points for sloppy or illegible work, so please be as neat as possible.

There will be a total of 4 quizzes over lab material, and will be worth 10 points each. With each quiz there will be an additional (untimed) quiz that will ask for your feedback on the quiz you just took. Completion of these feedback quizzes will earn you 2.5 bonus points towards your quiz grade, for a total of 10 possible quiz bonus points possible from these feedback surveys.

### **Correspondence:**

When sending me e-mails, please use your OU e-mail address and put METR 1014: last name in the subject line. I receive many e-mails and this will ensure that yours are read before the others.

When asking questions about the material in the e-mails, please be as descriptive as possible. Instead of being vague by saying "I don't understand this lab", try to ask specific questions involving the material, like "I am having issues with converting feet to micrometers" or "This atmospheric stability stuff is really confusing to me, how exactly do I know when the atmosphere is unstable?"

### **Desire2Learn Website:**

I will be using Desire2Learn in this lab for posting grades, lab notes, and other important information. You can find this at <https://learn.ou.edu>. Please check it regularly for announcements.

### **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.

## Summer 2013 Lab Deadlines

\*\*\*This list is not finite and is subject to change\*\*\*

July 5<sup>th</sup>: Lab 1, Lab 2, and Quiz 1 are due  
July 12<sup>th</sup>: Lab 3 is due  
July 19<sup>th</sup>: Lab 4 and Quiz 2 are due  
July 26<sup>th</sup>: Lab 5 is due  
August 2<sup>nd</sup>: Lab 6 and Quiz 3 are due  
August 9<sup>th</sup>: Lab 7 is due  
August 16<sup>th</sup>: Lab 8 and Quiz 4 are due