

De Anza College
Physical Science, Mathematics & Engineering Division
Meteorology 10, Weather & Climate Processes

Section(s):	24621, Fall 2017
Instructor:	Terrence J. Mullens
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Office Hours:	M-Th: 2:40-3:20pm, F: 11:30-12:20pm
Classroom:	Online
Prerequisites:	None (Some basic math skills may be helpful)

Introduction

This syllabus is like the “Terms of Service” that you agree to when you download iTunes or anything else off the internet. However, this is much shorter and I actually expect you to read it! Our first quiz will be heavily based off of it! Your continued enrollment is your agreement to abide by the terms and conditions outlined in this syllabus.

Course Description

Welcome to the wonderful world of Weather! This course will cover all of the fundamental concepts behind the weather we see in our everyday lives. This includes atmospheric structure/composition, heat and radiation, forces that affect wind, humidity, atmospheric stability, precipitation and clouds, extreme weather and climate change. We'll also cover areas of interest such as the California Drought, El Nino/La Nina, and potentially any major weather events that occur during the quarter.

Course Website

Everything you will do on this class will be posted/submitted on the course's Canvas webpage. You are expected to log on to the course webpage at least two times a week.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze and explain the objective techniques used by synoptic meteorologists and climatologists to forecast our planet's weather and to predict future changes in our planet's climate.
2. Assess and critique the impact of meteorology and climatology as sciences on local, national and international economic, environmental, ethical and political issues including climate change.

Textbook and Course Materials:

“Essentials of Meteorology” by C. Donald Ahrens 7th edition (older editions are fine!). Because this is an online class, **having the textbook is essential!**

Contacting Me

If you need to get a hold of me for any reason, please email me at the email address listed above. I check my email continuously during the office hours scheduled above, often during business hours, and less often at nights/weekends. If, you do not hear from me within 24 hours, please re-send your email.

Online Class: What's the Difference?

Because this is an online class, you are allowed to study/watch lectures/attempt assignments at your own leisure. However, online classes can be difficult, simply because they require more discipline than a traditional lecture. There are no meetings that you have to be present at... but you still need to be regularly involved in the class to succeed.

Assignments: This class will consist of **10 modules** and **two exams** (the midterm and final). Each module will consist of a discussion question (to be posted on a forum on Canvas), a series of video lectures, reading assignments, an activity, and a quiz. Expect each module to take approximately 5 hours, not including time spent studying/preparing for the class. We will do one module each week. The first module of each week will be posted no later than **12am the Monday** of the week and due by **11:59pm that Sunday**.

A Word of Warning: While you are free to work on the modules at your leisure, I strongly urge you to not wait until the last minute to submit a module activity. If anything causes you to submit any module activity after the deadline, regardless of reason, you will still be assessed a late penalty. The same goes for the late deadline; if you are unable to submit your module activities within 48 hours of the original deadline, it will not be accepted, regardless of reason. Also, you are completely responsible for making sure that your work is submitted properly.

Attendance/Punctuality: You are expected to log in to the course website **at least twice per week**, and that is the bare minimum. You will be dropped from the course if you fail to log on for the first time by Sunday, October 1st, you fail to log on at least once each week, or if you fail to turn in at least one module activity in a given week. Regardless, if you choose drop the course, it is your responsibility to do so. If you fail to drop before the deadline, I have to award you a grade, most likely an F.

Issues/Grievances: While I try my best to make this class a positive learning environment, there is always the chance that either something I or someone else in class does might not sit well with you; if that is the case, I am more than happy to hear any grievances in private. I've found that 99.9% of any issues that arise are easily settled (and to everyone's satisfaction) by a brief conversation.

Important Dates:

Last Day to Drop (and get a refund): **October 8th** Last Day to Add: **October 7th**
Midterm Exam: **November 3rd** Final Exam: **December 15th**
Last Day to Drop (With a "W"): **November 17th**
Holidays: **November 10th (Veterans Day), November 23rd & 24th (Thanksgiving)**

Assignments and Grading

Module Discussion (10 @ 10 points each)...	100 pts
Module Activities (10 @ 20 points each)...	200 pts
Module Quizzes (10 @ 20 points each)...	200 pts
Midterm Exam...	100 pts
Final Exam...	100 pts
Total...	700 pts

Grading Scale:

>630 = A, 560-629 = B, 476-559 = C, 420-475 = D, < 420 = F

+/- grades will be assigned when a grade is within 14 points (2%) of the next grade level

Note: I reserve the right to adjust this scale, but only to benefit you.

Late/Makeup Policy: You are allowed to submit modules up to 48 hours late, but you will be penalized by **10% for each day late**. I will not make any exceptions to this policy, regardless of any reason. There will be one makeup module assigned the week before finals. **I will not schedule makeups/accept late exams for any reason!**

Other Policies

Disabilities: If you need any accommodation due to a disability (note taker, etc.), please don't hesitate to let me know and I'll be happy to help! All accommodations will need to be made through Disability Support Programs and Services (DSPS), which is located at RSS-141, or online at <https://www.deanza.edu/dsps/>.

Academic Integrity: I will NOT tolerate cheating or plagiarism of any kind! **This includes copying stuff off the internet!** While you're allowed (actually, encouraged) to work together) on assignments, you must turn in your own work, and in your own words! The first offense results in a grade of "0" on the assignment and a stern warning. Any subsequent offense results in a report filed with the dean's office.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	9/25-10/1	Module 1: Introduction to the Atmosphere, Due 10/1
2	10/2-10/8	Module 2: Temperature and Heat, Due 10/8
3	10/9-10/15	Module 3: Moisture and Clouds, Due 10/15
4	10/16-10/22	Module 4: Stability and Precipitation, Due 10/22
5	10/23-10/29	Module 5: Wind and Atmospheric Circulations, Due 10/29
6	10/30-11/5	Midterm Exam: Friday, 11/3 (Open at 12am, Closes at 11:59pm)
7	11/6-11/12	Module 6: Circulations, Monsoon, El Nino, Due 11/12
8	11/13-11/19	Module 7: Fronts and Mid-Latitude Cyclones, Due 11/19
9	11/20-11/26	Module 8: Thunderstorms and Tornadoes, Due 11/26
10	11/27-12/3	Module 9: Hurricanes and Superstorms, Due 12/3
11	12/4-12/10	Module 10: Global Climate Change, Due 12/10
12	Finals Week	Final Exam: Friday, 12/15 (Open at 12am, Closes at 11:59pm).

NOTE: This schedule is tentative and Subject to Change for any reason (and it probably will)!