

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

Section(s):	45737, Spring 2018
Instructor:	Terrence J. Mullens (Preferred Pronouns: He/Him/His)
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Office Hours (in S48A):	M/W 2-3pm, T/Th: 1-2pm
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.

Textbook and Course Materials:

1. “Essentials of Meteorology” by C. Donald Ahrens 7th edition (older editions are fine!). I also have copies on reserve in the school library.
2. Computer with reliable internet connection and browser that meets Canvas' minimum requirements (Info: <http://www.deanza.edu/online-ed/students/>)

Contacting Me

If you need to get a hold of me for any reason, please email me at mullensterrence@fhda.edu. For a quicker response, please do NOT email me using the Canvas messenger; I check my email much more often! 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 a **general discussion board, 10 modules, and four exams** (three midterms and the final, I drop your lowest midterm). 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 module for each week will be posted no later than **12am the Monday** of the week and due by **11:59pm that Sunday**. In order to be prepared for the module quiz, I strongly recommend that you complete the module discussion and activity **PRIOR** to attempting the module quiz.

In addition to Modules and Exams, 100 points of your grade are determined by participation in the General Discussion forum. In order to get full credit for participation, you must do at one of the following:

1. **Ask a content-related question onto the discussion board**
2. **Answer someone else's question on the discussion board**
3. **Post something course related that you just came across (an article, story, or weather event that you just experience), with an explanation.**
4. **Any of the 3 items above must have substance to them (I won't count posts such as "cool story!" or "that's awesome!" towards your participation requirement).**

In order to make sure that posts are being made regularly during the quarter, you must have accumulated 3 posts by the date of the first midterm, 5 posts by the date of the second midterm, 8 posts by the date of the third midterm, and the full 10 posts by the date of the final.

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.

Getting off to a good start: Because it often takes a little time to get accustomed to online classes, nothing is due until the conclusion of the 2nd week of class (Sunday, April 22nd, 2018). However, I still expect you to begin working on class material as soon as the

quarter begins. For census purposes, I must drop anyone who hasn't logged on or completed any work by 11:59pm on Sunday, April 22nd.

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, April 22nd, you fail to log on at least once each week, or if you fail to turn in at least one module activity in a two-week period. Regardless, if you choose drop the course, it is your responsibility to do so. If you fail to drop before the deadline, I will 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): 4/22	Last Day to Add: 4/21
Midterm Exams: 4/27, 5/18, 6/8	Final Exam: 6/29
Last Day to Drop (With a "W"): 6/1	
Holidays: 5/28 (Memorial Day)	

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 Exams (2 @ 100 points each)...	200 pts
Participation in General Discussion Forum (10 @ 10 points each)...	100 pts
Final Exam...	100 pts
Total...	900 pts

Grading Scale:

>810 = A, 720-809 = B, 585-719 = C, 495-584 = D, < 495 = F

+/- grades will be assigned when a grade is within 18 points (2%) of the next grade level

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

Grading Criteria and Discussion Forum Policies: A general criteria for how I will grade your work and the policies for the discussion forums are available as Appendix A and Appendix B of this syllabus.

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, or submitting work under a phony name to get “answers” prior to making an actual submission!** 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	4/9-4/15	Module 1: Introduction to the Atmosphere, Due 4/22
2	4/16-4/22	Module 2: Temperature and Heat, Due 4/22
3	4/23-4/29	Module 3: Moisture and Clouds, Due 4/29, Exam 1: 4/27
4	4/30-5/6	Module 4: Stability and Precipitation, Due 5/6
5	5/7-5/13	Module 5: Wind and Atmospheric Circulations, Due 5/13
6	5/14-5/20	Module 6: Circulations, Monsoon, El Nino, Due 5/20, Exam 2: 5/18
7	5/21-5/27	Module 7: Fronts and Mid-Latitude Cyclones, Due 5/27
8	5/28-6/3	Module 8: Thunderstorms and Tornadoes, Due 6/3
9	6/4-6/10	Module 9: Hurricanes and Superstorms, Due 6/10, Exam 3: 6/8
10	6/11-6/17	Module 10: Global Climate Change, Due 6/17
11	6/18-6/24	Module 11: Weather Forecasting, Due 6/24
12	Finals Week	Final Exam: Friday, 6/29 (Open at 12am, Closes at 11:59pm).

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

Appendix A

Grading Rubric: While each assignment/exam/activity is different, I always use the following guidelines when I award points (I don’t “take points off,” I award points):

The maximum number of points are awarded for work that is:

1. Clearly written and answers the question.
2. Detailed and thorough, leaving no doubt that you understand the material.
3. Submitted following directions and is on time.
4. Accurate (aka your answer is correct)

A reduction in the number of points awarded (aka “points taken off”) happens when:

1. You don’t put your name on the assignment (5 points for an exam, 1 point for all other assignments).
2. You don’t show your work... ***Always show your work and provide evidence.***
3. You don’t follow directions, or you don’t answer the question.
4. You don’t explain your answer: Whenever I say “list and explain/describe,” an explanation or description is required in order to earn maximum credit.
5. You include irrelevant/incorrect information. There is such as thing as saying too much (I call this “throwing everything onto your paper and expecting credit for what sticks”).
6. Using an unverified or inappropriate source (i.e. Wikipedia, Quora, etc).
7. The work is copied from a source and not put in your own words. A quote or “blurb” is okay, but when the majority of your answer isn’t actually your work, it’s not fair to award you points for someone else’s work. When the work is copied from another student or a source without proper credit given, this also becomes an academic dishonesty issue (see my policy on academic dishonesty).
8. The submitted work is poorly written or unclear. Always proofread your work!
9. The work is submitted late, or missed due to unexcused absences.

I will share any other details regarding a specific assignment prior to attempting/submitting that assignment. Please note that whenever I grade an assignment, I approach it from an “I know nothing” standpoint, meaning that your job on every assignment in this course is to teach me the material (you know 90% of what you can teach). A lower number of points are awarded when there are holes in your explanation, major details are left out, or the information is inaccurate.

Student Learning Outcome(s):

*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.

*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.