

# De Anza College

## Physical Science, Mathematics & Engineering Division

### Meteorology 10, Weather & Climate Processes

#### 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! Regardless of if a friend/counselor recommended this class to you, or you signed up because of RateMyProfessors, I'm really glad you're here! 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, Fire Weather, and potentially any major weather events that occur during the quarter.

#### Course Website and Communication

Everything you need for this course (Syllabus, Assignments, Lectures, etc.) can be found on the course page which can be accessed through Canvas. I will also make all communication (announcements/reminders, emails, etc) through the Canvas webpage. Please enable your Canvas settings to receive notification when an announcement is posted.

Also note that it is your responsibility to stay on top of assignments and deadlines... while I try my best to send out reminders often, a lack of a reminder isn't a valid excuse for missing work (just like in the working world). Once I announce any assignment/deadline in class, any additional reminders (with the exception of necessary changes) are a courtesy.

#### Textbook and Course Materials:

1. **Recommended Textbook:** “Essentials of Meteorology” by C. Donald Ahrens 7<sup>th</sup> edition (older editions are fine too!)
2. **Computer with access to the internet and browser that meets Canvas' system requirements** (Info: <http://www.deanza.edu/online-ed/students/>)
3. **Recommended: A webcam and access to a printer and scanner (you can get by without them, but they will make your life easier).**

## Contacting Me:

If you need to get a hold of me for any reason, you can email me directly at [mullensalicia@fhda.edu](mailto:mullensalicia@fhda.edu), or via the messenger on Canvas. I check my email often during business hours, less often at nights/weekends (please don't feel discouraged if I don't immediately reply to an email sent at 2:30am). **If, you do not hear from me within 24 hours (48 hours on the weekend), please re-send your email.**

## In the Classroom/Class Rules

### How this class is going to work:

**Respect:** I expect everyone to respect me and everyone else! This means that I will not tolerate commotion between neighbors or any activity that is disruptive. I will give you ONE warning and then ask if to leave if any of the above issues happens again (if this happens, you also lose any participation credit for the day).

**Cell Phone Policy:** If I catch you browsing on your phone during class, I will tell you "please put your phone away." If I catch you again, I will ask you to leave for the day, and you will forfeit any in-class assignment points for that day. **This is becoming a more serious issue as each quarter passes, so I WILL BE ENFORCING THIS!** You are not allowed to use your phones in the movie theater... so you certainly aren't allowed to use them here! You have been warned!

**Attendance/Punctuality:** Attendance will be taken in each class session via a participation question at the beginning of class, which will be worth 2 points. **Students who are late may make up the participation question at the end of the class, but will only get half the possible points. Two late submissions will count as an absence for dropping purposes (see section on dropping\*). I also reserve the right to assign a pop quiz if I feel that attendance or punctuality is becoming an issue.** While most (if not all) class sessions will end on time, there may be a time or two where class runs a minute or two late. If you must leave immediately at the scheduled end time, you are more than free to do so without penalty. However, I ask that if you must leave, that you do so quietly and respectfully.

**Leaving Class Early:** While I understand that 2hrs and 15mins is a long time (we used to offer 50minutes/day sections of this class, but no one was signing up for them), I expect you to be present for the entire class session. About half way through the class, we'll take a short 10 minute break... however, this break is by no means a "Thanos Snap" (if you haven't seen Avengers Infinity War, you probably don't know what I mean here), and so with the rare exception/emergency, I expect you to return. I will try my best to make the entire class engaging and enjoyable, but it takes two to tango and so I rely on you to participate and be engaged in class the whole time. If I notice that a large number of people are not returning at the break, I reserve the right to institute increasingly draconian measures (such as pop quizzes, moving classwork to the second half of the session, emailing offending students spoilers for the latest blockbuster movie/tv show, and even good old attendance taking).

**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. With that said, be respectful and professional when approaching me about any issues that arise; grievances aired in a rude and disrespectful manner won't be considered, and won't help your case.

**My Expectations (how to get an “A” in this class):**

1. Attend every (or almost every) class session, and be on time, or reach out to me if you have to miss. While in class, be fully present (i.e. not on your phone/tablet).  
**Also, know that if you need to miss class, you are still responsible for any material that you missed that day!**
2. Put in the work, and briefly (15-20 minutes) review after each class.
3. Reach out when you need help or something is wrong; I'm happy to help!
4. Accept constructive criticism/feedback. When I took Met 10, I didn't get a perfect score on everything... but I learned/grew from it.
5. Become less focused on the points and more focused on the POINT! Students who take an interest in the class almost always get A's. NOTE: I get a ton of emails from students near the end of the quarter saying things like “my grade is important to me,” but those same students never once reach out for actual help with understanding the course material. Please note that if your grade is important to you, I EXPECT YOU TO see understanding of the material as important too (and will keep that in mind when considering any requests for things like extensions/grade leniency and stuff like that).

**Assignments and Grading**

Warm Up Questions...	approx. 50 pts
In-Class and Field Activities	approx. 100pts
Homework Assignments...	50 pts
Quizzes (5 @ 25 points each, lowest dropped)...	100 pts
Final Exam...	100 pts
<b>Total...</b>	<b>approx. 400 pts</b>

**Grading Scale:**

> 90% = A, 80% = B, 65% = C, 55% = D, < 55% = F

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

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

**In-Class Activities and Warm Up Questions:** Throughout the quarter, we'll be doing numerous in-class activities that will be submitted in your composition notebook. These activities include group and individual assignments that will build on in-class discussions. These are designed to be low-risk, high-reward activities to help you go deeper in your understanding of course material. Some “lecture” will be assigned as homework to free up in-class time for more engaging activities.

**Homework:** There will be a homework assignment every couple of weeks! There will either be an activity or brief video/quiz. These assignments will be assigned and completed online through the Canvas Learning Management System.

**Midterm Quizzes:** There will be five quizzes during even weeks (2, 4, 6, 8, and 10), and one comprehensive final exam. The quizzes will consist of 10 multiple choice/true-false questions, fill in the blank questions, and one or two short answer questions. I will drop your lowest midterm quiz, but will not drop the final!

**Late Work/Makeup Policy:**

1. All assignments and quizzes, with the exception of the final exam, will have an automatic one-week extension available. You do not need to request the extension... it's automatic
2. This does not apply to the final, or anything due during Finals week... it's not trying to be a jerk... it's just because, being the last week, I need to get grades in right afterwards (usually by that weekend), so I can't wait a week.
3. THERE WILL BE NO ADDITIONAL EXTENSIONS GRANTED!!!

**Returned Work:** Once I return an assignment to you, it is your responsibility to hold on to it until the conclusion of the quarter in case a mistake is made with your final grade.

**Important Reminders:** While these policies represent the “letter of the law,” I will, in many cases, be gracious within reason. As the COVID-19 pandemic has dragged on, I've had situations where requests of leniency have become more extreme, and downright unreasonable, so I want to be clear here:

1. You are responsible for all content, assignments, and deadlines, EVEN IF YOU MISS CLASS. Saying “oh, I haven't been here in the past two weeks” isn't a valid excuse (unless you have a legitimate, documented reason). If you need to miss a class session, I strongly recommend making a friend and having them fill you in on what you missed (at least in terms of assignments, etc).
2. I allow for a one-week automatic extension after the deadline... any exceptions to that must be discussed with and approved by me (and only in extenuating circumstances, where it is clear that you were not able to meet the deadline for a valid reason). Emailing me in week 9 asking if you can make up an assignment from week 3 is NOT okay, and such requests will be denied... I'm not trying to be mean... just fair!
  - a. Seriously... I've had people email me in the last week or two of the course asking if I'll accept work from the first few weeks... the answer is no. I bake a lot of forgiveness (dropped assignments, extra credit) into my grading, so, to quote the Beatles, if you missed something from earlier in the course, “Let it be!”
3. Once I announce a deadline in class (or on Canvas), you are expected to write it down and keep track of it... any additional reminders are a courtesy, and should not be relied on. I'll always try to give a reminder, but I'm also human.

All of this being said, I seriously try to be gracious... I just want to make sure that I'm establishing a proper boundary, as a well trained therapist would say. If you need to miss

a bunch of class, or encounter an issue, please reach out to me, and I'll work with you... but don't wait until after things have settled down to do so... the moment you need help, let me know!

## Dropping

I will drop you if:

- You miss more than 3 class sessions\* (2 late arrivals or early departures count as a missed class) -or-
- You miss more than two quizzes.

Otherwise, if you choose to drop the class, you must do so on your own, **and no later than Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>** (or be awarded a grade of FW, which is treated as an F). I need to enforce this policy, regardless of who you are (you can even be Tad, my favorite Animal Crossing villager, and I'd still have to give you an FW).

## 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 paper, 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 Student Conduct.

**TL;DR:** Engage in the class, try your best, turn in your work on time, don't cheat/copy off of others/submit identical written work, and reach out whenever you need help and I promise you that I won't let you fail this class! Everything else is just details (still read them because I will adhere to them, but the gist is above)!

## Important dates/deadlines:

*Deadline to Add: 10/8*

*Deadline to Drop with Refund: 10/9*

*Deadline to Drop with a W: 11/18*

## Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	9/26, 9/28	Chapter 1: Introduction to the Course, Weather vs. Climate, The Atmosphere.
2	10/3, 10/5	Chapter 2: Temperature and Heat, Radiation Laws, Seasons, <b>Quiz #1</b>
3	10/10, 10/12	Chapter 3: Everything you need to know about Air Temperature
4	10/17, 10/19	Chapter 4: Latent Heat and Relative Humidity, <b>Quiz #2</b>

Week	Dates	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
5	10/25, 10/27	Chapter 5: Stability, Clouds and Precipitation
6	10/31, 11/2	Chapter 6: Air Pressure, Why the Wind Blows <i>Quiz #3</i>
7	11/7, 11/9	Chapter 7: Global Circulation Chapter 8: Air Masses, Fronts and the Norwegian Cycle
8	11/14, 11/16	Chapter 10: Extreme Weather Part 1, <i>Quiz #4</i> <b><i>Deadline to Drop with a "W": 11/18</i></b>
9	11/21, 11/23	Chapter 11: Extreme Weather Part 2
10	11/28, 11/30	Chapters 12 and 13: Global Climate Change, <i>Quiz #5</i>
11	12/5, 12/7	Chapters 12 and 13: Global Climate Change, Review for Final
12	12/12-12/16	<b><i>Final Exam (Opens on 12/12 and due by 12/16).</i></b>

**NOTE: This schedule is tentative and Subject to Change for any reason!**

### Appendix A: Grading Rubric

**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 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 a thing as saying too much (I call this "throwing everything onto your paper and expecting credit for what sticks"). Remember that you are trying to show me what you understand.
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.

**Commonly Asked Question: "Do you grade on completion, or accuracy?"**

**My Answer: It depends... but only on the type of assignment:**

1. **Warm Up Questions: 100% on Completion, 0% on Accuracy**
2. **In-Class Activities, Homework and Weather Investigations: 80% on Completion, 20% on Accuracy**
3. **Quizzes and Final Exam: 0% on Completion, 100% on Accuracy**

**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.

**Office Hours:**

In-Person	S48 A	M,W	12:00 PM	12:25 PM
In-Person	S48 A	M,W	02:20 PM	02:45 PM
Zoom		T,TH	03:30 PM	04:20 PM