



*Physical Science, Math & Engineering Division  
Earth & Space Science Program – Meteorology Department*

**Logistical Information:**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Course</b>          | Meteorology 10 – Weather & Climate Processes (Online)            |
| <b>Section</b>         | 64Z  |
| <b>Term</b>            | Spring 2017  |
| <b>Instructor</b>      | Bridget James  |
| <b>Class Location</b>  | <a href="http://canvas.deanza.edu">http://canvas.deanza.edu</a>  |
| <b>Office Hours</b>    | Wednesdays 3 – 4 pm  |
| <b>Office Location</b> | Online/Email   |
| <b>Email</b>           | <a href="mailto:jamesbridget@fhda.edu">jamesbridget@fhda.edu</a> |

**Required Materials**

- Ahrens, C.D., 2014, Essentials of Meteorology, Brooks Cole, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition (older edition is also okay to use)
- Regular and reliable access to a computer with a good Internet connection

**Course Description and Student Learning Outcomes**

This course is an introduction to the sciences of meteorology and climatology. How scientists evaluate atmospheric processes using the scientific method will be emphasized throughout the course. Student learning outcomes for this course is: 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.

**About Online Courses**

Online courses are different from traditional lecture courses. They offer much more flexibility in completing assignments and listening to lectures. However, you will need to have good self-discipline in completing these tasks, especially in a timely manner. This is a five-unit course. This equates to five hours of work per week during a regular quarter. This does not include the extra personal study time needed in addition to those mandatory class hours that the State of California and De Anza College requires. If you plan on mastering the material covered this quarter, you will need to make sure you 1) Are engaged in the course at least 5 hours a week (not including study time); 2) Login at least two different days during the week (to maximize your forum participation points); 3) Study for the exams using your class lecture notes, activities, the study guide and the sample exams provided.

**Modules**

A module is a specific and discrete learning segment that leads to the understanding of a given topic. Modules will be assigned by topic on Canvas. Modules include all assignments and tasks that will be completed for a particular topic and are to be completed within the dates specified on the syllabus (schedule is below and online). All modules will include the following tasks to complete: 1) Discussion; 2) Listening to lectures; 3) Module Activity. In addition, it’s possible you will also have a documentary to watch. For instructions on how to complete the above tasks, please read the instructions for each task below.

**Lectures**

Lectures will be presented online as Power Point presentations converted into a movie file that can be watched and listened to on YouTube ©. It will be expected that you take notes while listening to the lecture, much like a traditional lecture course. A benefit to a recorded lecture is you can re-listen to any topic at anytime. Any questions you may have during the lecture should also be written down immediately in your notebook. Sometimes, those questions answer themselves further in the lecture. What isn’t answered should be e-mailed to me or posted in the online forum participation to get feedback from your fellow students.

Missing lectures will severely impact your ability to learn the course material, and most likely will severely hurt your grade, much like in a traditional class. Exam questions almost always come directly from these lectures, so be sure to discipline yourself to listen and take notes. Notes do not need to be turned in to me. Please keep those for studying purposes.

**Weekly Discussions (20% of your grade)**

One time each week for C-level (70%) work, or several times each week (earlier and later in the week) for A-level or B-level work (80-100%), you will be required to participate in an online discussion on topics involving the Earth

Sciences. More details of what will be expected of you can be found in a document called “Discussion Participation Guidelines” located at the top center of the course website. Discussion posts are not accepted late for any reason. However, the lowest discussion participation grade will be dropped from your final grade in the course.

### **Module Activities (50% of your grade)**

Module activities are assignments that are completed after listening to a lecture on a particular topic within a module and are due by the end of the week that module is assigned for. These assignments are designed to help students master the course material in preparation for the exams. These activities are both problem solving and review questions based on the lecture, module activity and/or films watched. You will turn in these activities online. Emailed assignments are not accepted for any reason. The top of each activity will have submission instructions. There will be 11 module activities this quarter. If you have a situation where you cannot submit an activity in on time, I will accept most activities later than their due date, but only for a specified period of time (see activity instructions for details). Once that period of time has passed, I will not accept the activity for any reason. However, the lowest Module Activity score will be dropped from your final grade in this course.

**IMPORTANT:** Attempting to turn in a module activity just before the grace period deadline is at your own risk. If you miss this deadline for any reason at all, even if that reason is out of your control, and you cannot get your assignment turned in because you waited until the very last day of your grace period to turn it in, that is completely on you and you will receive a zero on those activities. No exceptions. It is also your responsibility to make sure your activity has submitted properly. No exceptions.

### **Mid-term and Final exam (30% of your grade)**

There will be two timed online exams for this course that will be an objective-type multiple-choice exam. Exam #1 will cover topics learned in Modules 1-5. Exam #2 will cover topics learned in Modules 6-11. A study guide, which will outline administrative details of the exam along with the topics covered, will be posted on the course website for studying purposes in advance of the exam opening. I will also make a sample exam available a few days before the exam date. You may use notes while you take an exam, but because the exams are timed once you start them, you should master the subjects you are being tested on before attempting an exam so that you can finish in plenty of time. I highly recommend having a small index card worth of notes near by and your completed sample exam while you are taking each online exam to help you save time thumbing through your notes and textbook for answers. Much like a classroom exam, once you submit your answers, your exam score will not be available to you immediately. Your score will be made available to you after the last day the exam is available to students. Note: If you miss an exam, a make-up exam may be assigned to you in the few days following the main exam.

**WARNING:** IT IS **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** TO UNDERSTAND WHEN AN EXAM OPENS AND CLOSSES. IF YOU MISS A REGULAR AND MAKE-UP EXAM PERIOD DUE TO MISUNDERSTANDING THE SCHEDULE, INTERNET ISSUES, WEBACCESS ISSUES, HOSPITAL STAY, ILLNESS OR FOR ANY OTHER REASON, EVEN IF THAT REASON IS OUT OF YOUR CONTROL, YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZERO ON THAT EXAM. NO EXCEPTIONS.

### **Grading**

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|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Forum Participation (10) | 20% (200 points)   |
| Module Activities (10)   | 50% (500 points)   |
| Exams (2)                | 30% (300 points)   |
| Total Points:            | 100% (1000 points) |

|             |             |              |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| A: 920-1000 | C+: 780-799 | D-: 600-619  |
| A-: 900-919 | C: 720-779  | F: Below 600 |
| B+: 880-899 | C-: 700-719 |              |
| B: 820-879  | D+: 680-699 |              |
| B-: 800-819 | D: 620-679  |              |

### **Important note about travel**

It is assumed that you are completing this course at home within the United States, and that you have excellent Internet access for the entire quarter. If you need to travel, it will be your responsibility to make sure you have access to the course and all of its assignments. Assignments, including exams, will not be extended for you because you choose or need to travel for any extended period of time during the quarter, even if that reason is out of your control. Also, please note that all dates and times given in this course are in Pacific Time unless otherwise noted.

### **Policy on Academic Dishonesty**

A student, who displays inappropriate conduct, including cheating and plagiarism, will be subject to disciplinary action. At minimum, a student will receive a “zero” for the assignment in question and will be reported to the College for further action. For more information on academic dishonesty, please see the college catalog.

### **Policy for Dropping Students**

Students who have not logged into the course website on Canvas and posted their first forum participation post or submitted their first module activity within the first week of classes may be dropped for non-attendance. However, it is **always** the student’s responsibility to drop courses they have registered for before the drop deadline if they wish to drop.

### **Note for students with disabilities**

Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor and/or DSS. Disability Support Services (DSS) will facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. DSS is located in SCS 41 and can be reached by telephone (Voice 408-864-8753/TTY 408-864-8748).

### **Course Schedule**

Module 1: Introduction to the Atmosphere, Apr 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>\*

Module 2: Earth's Heat & Temperature, Apr 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>

Module 3: Humidity, Condensation & Clouds, Apr 24<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>

Module 4: Atmospheric Stability & Precip., May 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>

Module 5: Air Pressure & Wind, May 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> (Note: Module Activity 5 does not have a grace period)

MIDTERM EXAM: MONDAY, MAY 15<sup>TH</sup> – OPEN BETWEEN 8:00 AM – 11:55 PM

Module 6: Atmospheric Circulation & El Niño, Mon, May 16<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>

Module 7: Air Masses & Weather Fronts, May 22<sup>nd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>

Module 8: Thunderstorms, May 29<sup>th</sup>\*\* – Jun 4<sup>th</sup>

Module 9: Hurricanes, Jun 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>

Module 10: Climate Change, Jun 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>

Module 11: Climate Change Part II, Jun 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> (Note: Module Activity 11 does not have a grace period)

FINAL EXAM: MONDAY, JUNE 26<sup>TH</sup> – OPEN BETWEEN 8:00 AM – 11:55 PM

### **Important Administrative Dates**

Apr 10 (Mon): First day of class

Apr 23 (Sun): Drop deadline with no record of grade

Jun 2 (Fri): Last day to drop with a "W"

\*If you plan on observing Easter, be sure to complete this module no later than April 15<sup>th</sup>. For those who would like to take advantage of the holiday to complete this assignment, the module will be open through Easter.

\*\* Note that May 29<sup>th</sup> is Memorial Day. However, this module will be open for those who would like to use the holiday to complete assignments.