

Course	Meteorology 10 – Weather & Climate Processes (Online) Section 61Z & 65Z (CRN# 10956 & 11744) – Summer Quarter, 2015
Instructor	Bridget James
Class Location	http://catalyst.deanza.edu
Office Hours	Online Wednesdays & Thursdays 1pm – 2 pm, immediate email replies
E-mail	jamesbridget@deanza.edu

Textbook & Materials Needed:

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

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. What are the student learning outcomes for this course?

- 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.

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 is an accelerated summer quarter, which means you will be spending 10 hours per week completing material for this class. 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 are planning 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 exam using your class lecture notes, activities, the study guide and the sample exam provided.

Modules:

A module is a specific and discrete learning segment that leads to the understanding of a given topic. Modules include all assignments that will be completed for a particular topic, and are to be completed within the dates specified. More details on these assignments, including which ones will be turned in, as well as how they will be turned in are explained below and on the assignments themselves.

Lectures:

Lectures will be presented online as Power Point presentations converted into a movie file that can be watched and listened to with “Quicktime” software. In addition to note taking, any questions you may have during the lecture should be written down to ask me about later via email or through online forum participation with your fellow students. Missing lectures could 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. Be sure to discipline yourself to listen to these lectures and take notes. Notes do not need to be turned in to me. Please keep those for studying purposes.

Forum Participation (20% of your grade):

One time each week for C-level work, or a couple of times each week (early and later in the week), for A-level or B-level work, you will be required to participate in an online forum, where you will discuss Earth Science topics. This part of the course fulfills both class participation and a writing requirement. There is no grace period for forum participation. It is required to be completed each week during the week assigned to receive credit. However, there will be a make-up forum provided the week before the final exam (August 3rd – 9th), which will allow you to replace your lowest score out of the five prior forums assigned for summer session.

For the details on what this assignment requires of you, please go to the top of the main course page. Under “Administrative Items” click on a link called “Forum Participation Guidelines”. Read that document completely to ensure you completely understand what will be expected of you.

Module Activities (50% of your grade):

Module activities are assignments that you complete after listening to a lecture on a particular topic within a module, which will help you master the course material in preparation for your exams. These activities are both problem solving and review questions based on the lecture and/or films watched. You will turn in these activities online and instructions will be included within the document on how to complete the activity, as well as how to turn in that activity for grading purposes. There will be 10 module activities this semester that you will be graded on. However, there will be a make-up activity provided the last seven days of the semester (Monday, August 3rd – Sunday, August 9th), which will allow you to replace your lowest score out of the 10 prior activities assigned for summer session.

IMPORTANT! Attempting to turn in more than one 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 assignments 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.

Final Exam (30% of your grade):

There will be one online timed (70 minute) exam for this course that will be an objective-type multiple-choice exam. The exam will be available on Monday, August 3rd starting at 8 am. You can choose to take it at anytime on Monday, however, you may only take the exam one time. For example, if you take the exam at 8 am, you won't have another opportunity to take it later in the day. If you cannot take the exam on Monday, August 3rd, an automatic extension of time (you do not need to ask me for it) to take the exam will be given. This extension will last up until Sunday, August 9th at 11:55 pm. However, please take the exam as close to Monday as possible. The closer you wait to the last day the exam is open, the better your chances something will get in the way of you taking that exam at all, which would ultimately result in a score of 0/300, as no further extensions will be given for any reason (see warning below).

A study guide, which will let you know the details of the exam (how many questions, etc), will be posted on the course website for studying purposes two weeks in advance of the exam date. I will also post a sample exam for your studying purposes, which will be available one week before the exam date.

You may use notes while you take the 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 the 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 within 24 hours after the exam grace period ends.

WARNING: BY ATTEMPTING TO COMPLETE THE EXAM DURING THE GRACE PERIOD/EXTENSION, YOU ARE DOING SO AT YOUR OWN RISK. IT IS ALSO YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO UNDERSTAND WHEN AN EXAM OPENS AND CLOSES. IF YOU MISS THE EXAM DUE TO MISUNDERSTANDING EXAM DATES, INTERNET ISSUES, WEBACCESS ISSUES, HOSPITAL STAYS, OR FOR ANY OTHER REASON, EVEN IF THAT REASON IS OUT OF YOUR CONTROL, YOU WILL STILL RECEIVE A ZERO ON THE EXAM. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Grading:

Forum Participation 20% (200 points)
Module Activities 50% (500 points)
Exams 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 on final grades:

Grades are non-negotiable. Once a final grade has been determined, I will not change it unless there is a calculation error. Borderline grades are always carefully considered before issuing a final grade. If I did not bump you up to the next grade level, you can be assured the decision was made carefully and a request to change it will not be considered. No exceptions. Extra credit will not be assigned (use that time to study for your exams!). No exceptions.

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 Catalyst 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. 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	
<u>June 29th – July 5th (Note: July 4th is a holiday)</u> Module 1: Introduction to the Atmosphere Module 2: Earth's Heat & Temperature <u>July 6th – 12th</u> Module 3: Humidity, Condensation & Clouds Module 4: Atmospheric Stability & Precipitation <u>July 13th – 19th</u> Module 5: Air Pressure & Wind	Module 6: Atmospheric Circulation & El Niño <u>July 20th – 26th</u> Module 7: Air Masses & Weather Fronts Module 8: Thunderstorms <u>July 27th – Aug 2nd</u> Module 9: Hurricanes Module 10: Climate Change <u>Monday, Aug 3rd</u> FINAL EXAM