

De Anza College
Physical Science, Mathematics & Engineering Division
Meteorology 10L, Meteorology Laboratory

Section(s):	28240, Fall, 2024
Instructor:	Neel Desai
Email:	desaineel@fhda.edu
Office Hours	Wed 10:15-11:30 am in S42 or by Appointment on Zoom
Classroom:	Online (100% Asynchronous)
Prerequisites:	Met 10 (Can be taken concurrently or you could have taken it years ago)

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 shorter (and with less legal jargon) and I actually expect you to read it! Your continued enrollment is your agreement to abide by the syllabus, and you will be quizzed on it during our first quiz!

Course Description

Welcome to the wonderful world of Weather! Regardless of if a friend/counselor recommended this class to you, I’m glad you’re here! In this class, you’ll get to work with the many data products, graphics and instruments that real life meteorologists use to forecast and understand the weather. Laboratory assignments will use information gathered from various data sources and the free lab manual. It may take a week to get the hang of things, but the class quickly becomes very doable, and in fact most people enjoy it.

Student Learning Outcome

Assess and defend the analysis and decision-making skills employed by meteorologists to diagnose air patterns, understand air motions and predict future atmospheric conditions.

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.

***Office Hours:** Given the weird time we're in, office hours are quite a bit different... I am regularly and diligently checking my email during the scheduled times above.

Textbook and Course Materials:

1. *Investigations in Weather and Climate, 4th edition* by Alicia T. Mullens (Free Download – Each Chapter of the lab manual will be available on the corresponding activity's Canvas page).
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).**

In the Classroom/Class Rules

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 must be present at... but you still need to be regularly involved in the class to succeed.

Assignments: This class will consist of **six modules**. Each module will consist of a module discussion forums, two to four laboratory exercises (each lab will have a video demonstration). Expect each module to take approximately 5 hours, not including time spent studying/preparing for the class. We will do one module every two weeks. The module will be posted no later than **Sunday night** of the first week and due by **11:59pm the Friday of the second week**. To be prepared for the module quiz, I strongly recommend that you complete the module discussion and laboratory exercises PRIOR to attempting the quizzes.

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. 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. 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 October 6th.

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 6th, you fail to log on at least once each week, or if you fail to turn in at least one laboratory activity in a two-week period. Regardless, if you choose to 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 FW.

Lab Partners: In this class, you have the choice of either working on lab assignments on your own, or in groups of 2 or 3. However, each person must submit their own lab assignments.

PLEASE READ: Since you are signing up for an online class, it is assumed that you are completing your course work at home, in the United States, with a high speed internet connection and access to Canvas and Zoom. You can obviously make it work from other locations, but it is not my responsibility to provide you additional accommodations (such as a VPN or more time because you are doing work from halfway across the world) if you are doing so.

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.

Assignments and Grading

Laboratory Assignments	300 pts
Quizzes	200 pts
Total...	500pts

Grading Scale:

>90% = A, 80-89% = B, 65-79% = C, 55-64% = D, < 55% = F
+/- grades are assigned when a grade is within 2% of the next grade.
Note: I reserve the right to adjust this scale, but only to benefit you.

Laboratory Assignments: Each module will consist of two to four laboratory investigations from the Lab Manual. The labs will be submitted online on Canvas. Because each laboratory assignment has a different number of questions, I scale each assignment to a point total of 25 (so that one lab doesn't carry a larger or smaller weight than another). All laboratory assignments are due at the end of the respective module, unless I announce an alternative due date.

Important Reminders: While these policies represent the "letter of the law," I will, in many cases, be gracious within reason. As we have adjusted to a "post-COVID" learning environment, 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 HAVEN'T BEEN LOGGING IN**. 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. Once I announce a deadline in class (or on Canvas), you are expected to write it down and keep track of it.

Dropping

I will drop you if:

- You miss more than one complete module
- or-
- You fail to log on at least once a week for two consecutive weeks.

Otherwise, if you choose to drop the class, you must do so on your own. Failure to do so will result in you being awarded an FW, which is the equivalent of an F.

The Deadline to Drop this class with a W is Friday, Nov 15th

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 submitting work under a fake name in order to get answers prior to submitting your work.** While you're allowed (actually, encouraged) to work together on labs, you must turn in your own answer sheet, **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 college.

Incomplete Contracts: Except for very special circumstances (where what you missed is small and can easily be made up), I'm no longer honoring requests for incompletes. This is because students I have arranged incomplete contracts with in the past have never been able to complete the missed work. If you are in a situation where something catastrophic happens in the last few weeks of the class, consider applying for an Excused Withdrawal (EW) grade. If the required work to complete the class is something small, such as making up the final exam (something that I can easily arrange), I can consider arranging an incomplete.

Final Grade Changes: At the end of every term, almost without fail, at least one or two students approach me to ask for additional work/some leeway with their grade to earn a higher grade. While I appreciate the gravity that grades can have, I need to both be fair to the rest of the class (I don't think other students would appreciate it if I just bumped another student's grade without merit, or gave them extra work without making it available to the rest of the class) and maintain my own academic integrity (i.e. I can get in trouble for awarding grades that were not earned), so I must deny all requests for a higher grade, except in instances where I made a mistake. However, I am more than happy to help you earn a good grade if you reach out to me for help before the end of the term. There will also be plenty of extra credit during the course.

Met 10 Lecture Class: A common misunderstanding that many have is that this class is a part of my Met 10 Lecture Class (i.e. same grade, same deadlines, etc) that's not true.

This class is completely independent from my sections of the “regular” Met 10 class. Also, some express concern about taking a different lab instructor than they had for their lecture class. I can reassure you that you are at no disadvantage if you took the Met 10 Lecture class with a different instructor, or in a different term.

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:

Classes begin 9/23

Deadline to Drop with a W:11/15

Course Schedule

Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
Module 1 9/23-10/4	Lab 0: Orientation Lab Lab 1: Surface and Upper-Air Weather Module 1 Labs due by 11:59pm on 10/4
Module 2 10/7-10/18	Lab 2: Heat, Radiation, and Seasons Lab 3: Air Temperature Applications Module 2 Labs due by 11:59pm on 10/18
Module 3 10/21-11/1	Lab 4: Clouds and Moisture and Rising Air Lab 5: Weather Data, Satellite, and Radar Module 3 Labs due by 11:59pm on 11/1
Module 4 11/4-11/15	Lab 6: Air Pressure Lab 7: Surface Winds Module 4 Labs due by 11:59pm on 11/15
Module 5 11/18-11/29	Lab 8: Upper Air Winds, El Nino and La Nina Lab 9: Fronts, Mid-Latitude Cyclones Module 5 Labs due by 11:59pm on 11/29
Module 6 12/2-12/13	Lab 10: Thunderstorms and Tornadoes Module 6 Labs by 11:59pm on 12/13

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

Student Learning Outcome(s):

- Assess and evaluate the analysis and decision-making skills employed by meteorologists to diagnose air patterns, understand air motions and predict future atmospheric conditions.

Office Hours:

M	10:15 AM	11:30 AM	In-Person	S42
W	10:15 AM	11:30 AM	In-Person	S42