

Course	Meteorology 10 – Weather & Climate Processes (Online) – Spring 2015 Section 64Z (CRN# 42780) & Section 66Z (CRN# 42781)
Instructor	Bridget James
Class Location	http://catalyst.deanza.edu
Office Hours	Wednesdays and Thursdays 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Office Location	Online - email
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 Objectives:

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 should you take from this course: 1.) Be able to recognize and apply methods of science where conceptual, quantitative and analytical techniques are used; 2.) Be able to recognize and apply basic concepts and vocabulary essential to the study of the atmosphere; 3.) Use your knowledge of atmospheric processes to make informed decisions as an active participant in the democratic process.

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 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 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 Catalyst. Modules include all assignments that will be completed for a particular topic (whether turned in or not). Modules are to be completed within the dates specified on the syllabus (schedule is below). 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. If you need this software (which is free), you will find a link for it at the top of the course website. YouTube presentations will also be made available. 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 on topics involving the earth sciences and atmosphere. More details of what will be expected of you can be found in a document called “Forum Participation Guidelines” located at the top center of the course website. Forum posts are not accepted late for any reason. However, you will be allowed to make up one week’s worth of forum participation as there will be a make-up forum provided at the end of the quarter during Final Exam week.

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 10 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. A make-up activity will be assigned at the end of the quarter that will be due during finals week.

IMPORTANT! Remember, by waiting until the grace period deadline to turn in your activities, you have already received and used your deadline extension for these assignment(s)! Do not ruin your hard work this semester by trying to turn in all of your activities just before the grace period deadline. If something happens (car accident, sudden illness, sudden death in the family, Catalyst goes down, your internet goes down, etc, etc) 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 and most likely a non-passing grade in the course.

Mid-Term and Final Exam (30% of your grade):

There will be two online timed exams for this course that will each be an objective-type multiple-choice exam. The mid-term will cover topics learned in Modules 1-5. The final exam will cover topics learned in Modules 6-10. It is your responsibility to understand when an exam opens and when it closes. Make sure you double check those dates (see schedule below) and mark them in your calendar. 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 a week in advance of the exam opening. I will also make a sample exam available a few days before the exam opens. 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 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.

WARNING: BY TRYING TO COMPLETE AN EXAM THE DAY IT'S DUE TO CLOSE, YOU ARE DOING SO AT YOUR OWN RISK. THIS IS DUE TO ANY NUMBER OF THINGS THAT COULD GO WRONG (INTERNET AND/OR CATALYST CRASHES, POWER FAILURE, ETC.). YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE THE EXAM IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG ON THE LAST DAY THE EXAM IS DUE. IT IS ALSO **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** TO UNDERSTAND WHEN AN EXAM OPENS AND CLOSES. IF YOU MISS AN EXAM DUE TO MISUNDERSTANDING EXAM DATES, YOU WILL STILL RECEIVE A ZERO ON THAT EXAM. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Grading:

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	

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. 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 6th - 12th
Module 2: Earth’s Heat & Temperature, Apr 13th - 19th
Module 3: Humidity, Condensation & Clouds, Apr 20th - 26th
Module 4: Atmospheric Stability & Precipitation, Apr 27th - May 3rd
Module 5: Air Pressure & Wind, May 4th - 10th
MID-TERM EXAM, May 11th - 17th
Module 6: Atmospheric Circulation & El Niño, May 18th - 24th
Module 7: Air Masses & Weather Fronts, May 25th - May 31st
Module 8: Thunderstorms, Jun 1st - 7th
Module 9: Hurricanes, Jun 8th - 14th
Module 10: Climate Change, Jun 15th - 21st
FINAL EXAM: Jun 22nd - Jun 26th (Monday - Friday)

Important Administrative Dates

Apr 6th (Mon): First day of class
Apr 19th (Sun): Drop deadline with no record of grade. Also Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.
May 1st (Fri): Last day to request pass/no pass grade.
May 10th (Sun): Final deadline for Module Activity 1-5 submissions.
May 23rd - 25th (Sat-Mon): Memorial Day Weekend
May 29th (Fri): Last day to drop with a “W”
Jun 21st (Sun): Final deadline for Module Activity 6-10 submissions.