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

Section(s):	25429, Fall, 2025
Instructor:	Neel Desai
Email:	desaineel@fhda.edu
Office Hours	Tue 1-2.30 pm on Zoom https://fhda-edu.zoom.us/j/2921026568
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 you are required 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 whether a friend/counselor recommended this class to you, I'm glad you're here! In this class, you'll get a hands-on experience working 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 Outcomes

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 notifications when an announcement is posted.

Office Hours

I will be present on Zoom at the times mentioned above. If those times don't work for you, please message me on Canvas or email me, and we can arrange a Zoom call at a more convenient time. If you would like to meet me in person, I'll be on the De Anza campus on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Contacting Me

If you need to get in touch with me for any reason, please email me at desaineel@fhda.edu or use Canvas Messenger. I check my email continuously during the office hours scheduled above, often during business hours, and less often at night/weekends.

Response Times

I will do my best to respond to Canvas messages, discussion questions, and emails within 24 hours. But sometimes (like on weekends) it might be around 48 hours.

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 a 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 Policies:

Online Asynchronous 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 courses can be challenging simply because they require more discipline than a traditional lecture. There are no meetings that you have to 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 forum, 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 **11:59 pm 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 before attempting the quizzes.

A Word of Warning

While you are free to work on the modules at your leisure, I strongly urge you not to **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 entirely responsible for making sure that your work is submitted correctly and on time.

Late/Make-up policy

Stuff happens, people get sick, accidents happen, and natural disasters can strike. If any of this causes you to miss an assignment/quiz/midterm/final, let me know as soon as possible,

and I'll work with you to obtain a reasonable extension/rescheduling. If you do not contact me before the deadline, you can still submit the assignment, but Canvas will deduct 10% points/day.

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 starts. For census purposes, I must drop anyone who hasn't logged on or completed any work by Sunday, October 5th.

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 5th, if you fail to log on at least once each week, or if you fail to turn in at least one laboratory activity in two weeks. Regardless, if you choose to drop the course, it is your responsibility to do so. If you fail to drop the class 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 will complete your coursework 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. Still, it is not my responsibility to provide you with 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 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

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.

Quizzes/Midterm/Final Exam

We will have 2 Quizzes, which will act as the Midterm Exam and the Final Exam for this class. Each Quiz will be worth 100 points and will be open-book/notes. The Quiz/Midterm/Final Exam will be online on Canvas and will be based on the materials covered in the laboratory assignments.

Laboratory Assignments	300 pts
Quizzes	200 pts
Total	500 pts

Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	Range
A	100%to94%
A-	< 94%to90%
B+	< 90%to87%
B	< 87%to84%
B-	< 84%to80%
C+	< 80%to75%
C	< 75%to65%
D+	< 65%to60%
D	< 60%to55%
F	< 55%to0%

Important Reminders

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 the class

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.
Last day to drop this class without a W: **October 5**
Last day to drop this class with a W: Nov 14

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

Cheating or plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated! **This includes submitting work under a fake name to get answers before submitting your actual 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 will result in a report being 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 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 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.

Summary: Engage actively in class, do your best, submit your work on time, refrain from cheating, copying from others/submit identical written work, and reach out whenever you need help.

Course Schedule

Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
Module 1 9/22-10/3	Lab 0: Orientation Lab Lab 1: Surface and Upper-Air Weather **Module 1 Labs due by 11:59pm on 10/3**
Module 2 10/6-10/17	Lab 2: Heat, Radiation, and Seasons Lab 3: Air Temperature Applications **Module 2 Labs due by 11:59pm on 10/17**
Module 3 10/01-10/31	Lab 4: Clouds and Moisture and Rising Air Lab 5: Weather Data, Satellite, and Radar **Module 3 Labs due by 11:59pm on 10/31**
Module 4 11/3-11/14	Lab 6: Air Pressure Lab 7: Surface Winds **Module 4 Labs due by 11:59pm on 11/14**
Module 5 11/17-11/28	Lab 8: Upper Air Winds, El Nino and La Nina Lab 9: Fronts, Mid-Latitude Cyclones **Module 5 Labs due by 11:59pm on 11/28**
Module 6 12/1-12/12	Lab 10: Thunderstorms and Tornadoes **Module 6 Labs by 11:59pm on 12/12**

NOTE: This syllabus and schedule are 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	1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	PSME Village
T	1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Zoom
T	1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Zoom
W	1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	PSME Village