

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

Section(s):	25429 and 25646, Fall, 2021
Instructor:	Terrence J. Mullens (Pronouns: They/Them)
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Email:	mullensterrence@fhda.edu
Office Location	Online (at https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/6625783048)
Office Hours(on Zoom):	M/W 9-9:25am and 1:30-1:50pm, T/Th 11:30-12:20pm, and by Appointment (schedule an appointment at https://terrence-mullens-meeting-appointments.appointlet.com/b/terrence-mullens)
Classroom:	Online (100% Asynchronous)
Prerequisites:	Met 10 (Can be taken concurrently or you could have taken it years ago... I promise you won't be at a disadvantage)

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, or you signed up because of RateMyProfessors, I'm really 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.

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.

Textbook and Course Materials:

1. *Investigations in Weather and Climate, 2nd edition* by Terrence J. 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 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, and three quizzes**. Each module will consist of a module discussion forums, three or four laboratory exercises (each lab will have a video demonstration). Expect each module to take approximately 6 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 **12am the Saturday** of the first week and due by **11:59pm the Friday of the second week**. In order 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 (Friday, October 1st, 2021). 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 11:59pm on Sunday, October 3rd. I will not make exceptions to this policy!

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 3rd, 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 F.

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.

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, and may not work together on quizzes.

PLEASE READ: NORMALLY, it would be 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. HOWEVER, I know that the current circumstances surrounding COVID-19 have given each of you unique challenges, and I don't want anything to keep you from succeeding in this class... a list of resources available to you is given in Appendix B of this syllabus. I also encourage you to reach out to me specifically regarding any particular challenges you may have during this course.

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. Pet Peeve: Saying something is "unfair" is not the way to solve your problem...

Working together: 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, and may not work together on quizzes. Furthermore, any written/problem solving/plotting work must be done in your own words... meaning three people can't turn in identical written answers... put it in your own words!

Assignments and Grading

Laboratory Assignments (18 @ 25 points each, lowest 2 dropped)...	400 pts
Quizzes (3 @ 50 points each, lowest dropped)...	100 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 three or four laboratory investigations from the Lab Manual. The labs will be submitted using an online form linked on the assignment's Canvas page. 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.

Late Work/Makeup Policy: You can submit work up to two days after the deadline, with a 10% per day late penalty. I will drop your two lowest labs, your lowest quiz, and your lowest discussion forum. Please note that this policy will be enforced in all circumstances, so I strongly recommend not waiting until the last minute to complete work.

Returned Work: It is your responsibility to hold on to any returned work until the conclusion of the quarter. In the event I made an error in your grade, you may need to present the assignment to me for verification.

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.

The Deadline to Drop this class with a W is Friday, November 12th

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! Multiple students submitting identical written answers is considered a violation of this policy!** 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 dean's office.

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.

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:

Deadline to Add: 10/2

Deadline to Drop with Refund: 10/3

Deadline to Drop with a W: 11/12

Holidays: 11/11 (Veterans Day), 11/25 and 11/26 (Thanksgiving)

Course Schedule

Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
Module 1 9/20-10/1	Introduction to Course Lab 0: Orientation Lab Lab 1: Surface and Upper-Air Weather Module 1 Labs due by 11:59pm on 10/1
Module 2 10/3-10/16	Lab 2: Heat, Radiation, and Seasons Lab 3: Air Temperature Applications Quiz #1 Module 2 Labs, and Quiz 1 due by 11:59pm on 10/15
Module 3 10/17-10/30	Lab 4: Clouds and Moisture and Rising Air Lab 5: Weather Data, Satellite, and Radar Module 3 Labs due by 11:59pm on 10/29
Module 4 10/31-11/13	Lab 6: Air Pressure Lab 7: Surface Winds Quiz #2 Module 4 Labs, and Quiz 2 due by 11:59pm on 11/12
Module 5 11/14-11/27	Lab 8: Upper Air Winds, El Nino and La Nina Lab 9: Fronts, Mid-Latitude Cyclones Module 5 Labs due by 11:59pm on 11/26
Module 6 11/28-12/11	Lab 10: Thunderstorms and Tornadoes Quiz #3 Module 6 Labs and Quiz 3 due by 11:59pm on 12/10

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

Appendix A: Technology Resources

Comprehensive List of Resources: <https://www.deanza.edu/online-ed/students/remoteteaching.html>

Need a computer?: Contact Lisa Mandy at Financial aid (mandylisa@deanza.edu), and she will be able to provide information on a number of resources available to get a computer.

Need internet?: Several internet companies are offering free wifi hotspots/internet accounts for students during this crisis. They include:

- Comcast Xfinity WiFi: <http://wifi.xfinity.com/>
- Charter Spectrum: <https://corporate.charter.com/newsroom/charter-to-offer-free-access-to-spectrum-broadband-and-wifi-for-60-days-for-new-K12-and-college-student-households-and-more>

Need to learn Zoom fast?: <https://ccctechconnect.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360009517753-Overview-of-ConferZoom-in-Canvas>

Need to learn Canvas?: <https://deanza.instructure.com/courses/272>

*****Please note: This is NOT an exhaustive list! If you find a resource that is valuable, let me know, and I'll add it to our course Canvas Page!*****

Appendix B: Frequently Asked Questions (aka FAQ's):

1. **Is this class entirely online:** Yes! There will be no sessions held on campus at De Anza, nor any other physical location.
2. **Are there class meetings:** No! You can still schedule to meet with me, and I'll be happy to help, however.
3. **How Much Time should this class take?**
 - a. **Common Misunderstanding:** "This is a one-unit course, so it should only take one hour..." That's true for Lecture Courses (where the idea is that you're spending two additional hours on homework/studying/etc per hour of class time), however this is a LAB course. For a lab class, a one-unit class equals three hours of lab activities in class (and none done as home)... and that's what I shoot for. Because this is an asynchronous course, all of the lab work is done independently.
 - b. **Expect that this class should take about 3 hours a week...** a little less if you're really comfortable with the material, or a little more if you are struggle with the material or need extra help.
4. **Can I work with others:** Yes, **BUT...**
 - a. You must turn in your own work and a any written/problem solving questions must be **YOUR OWN WORK**. I will not award any credit for identical submissions from two different students (meaning, **PUT ANY WRITTEN QUESTIONS IN YOUR OWN WORDS!!!**... I can't emphasize this enough... I even put it in **bold**, **ALL CAPS**, underlined and *italicized*, with three exclamation points... I don't know how to further emphasize it!).
 - b. You are not allowed to work together on quizzes... I need to know what **YOU** understand.
5. **Do you enforce your late policy and academic honesty policy:** Yes! It's not to be a jerk... it's just to be fair! It's not fair to other students if I accept late work for full credit, or allow students to turn in identical answers. Plus, when two (or more) students turn in the exact same answer, I don't know who did what, and so I can't fairly award credit.
6. **What do you "take points off" for?:** Points are mine to give, not yours for me to take away... every point is earned. However, a reduction in points is given for inaccurate answers, a lack of work shown (always show your work!), or academic dishonesty. Most questions are objective "right or wrong" questions, while others will have a set criteria provided in the feedback.
7. **What if campus re-opens during the quarter?:** I wouldn't count on it, however, if it is deemed safe for students to return to campus, I will begin to offer on-campus office hours/appointments. However, this class will be delivered entirely online, regardless of what happens. **But again, I don't see this happening!**
8. **What should I call you?:** Terrence is fine... So is Mr. Mullens... but don't call me "Dr." ... I don't have a PhD... nor do I want one!

Are all of your syllabi this long?: No! This one is longer because of all of the additional information related to COVID-19 and changes to course modality. I don't expect you to have this all memorized... but please keep it handy!

Student Learning Outcome(s):

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