

2015

Earth Science 101 Introduction to Weather Fall 2015

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Syllabus – ESC101-003 - Introduction to Weather – Fall 2015

The mission of Parkland College is to engage the community in learning

Lecture: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:00-12:50pm Room L216

Lab: Thursday 1:00-2:50pm Room L216

Instructor: Julie Angel

Office: L212

Office Telephone: 217-373-3743

E-mail: Via Cobra's email system (See *Cobra System Web Site* below) at jangel@cobra.parkland.edu or at jangel@parkland.edu if Cobra is down.

Student Office Hours (L212): Mondays and Fridays 10-11am
Wednesdays 1-2pm
(or by appointment)

Course Description and General Objectives:

Basic meteorology with emphasis on topics directly related to everyday experiences with weather while stressing the understanding and application of meteorological principles.

Required Materials: "Essentials of Meteorology", C. Donald Ahrens. Seventh Edition. Textbook (3-ring binder/soft cover) available from Parkland bookstore

"ESC101 Weather Lab Packet" (purchased from Parkland Bookstore)

Recommended Materials: A three-ring binder is strongly recommended for your textbook and to organize your notes, handouts, labs, and any other material related to this course. A basic scientific calculator would also be helpful. There is a textbook on reserve in the Parkland Library.

Grading:

15% Attendance/Class Participation
25% Lab
40% Hour Exams
20% Final Exam

Grading Scale:

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

You may access your current grade at any time by going to our course site in Cobra and clicking on "Grades". I keep your grades current by recording them in the Cobra gradebook in a timely manner.

Cobra System Web Site:

I will be using the Cobra system as a repository for class materials that may include our syllabus and related handouts, PowerPoint® lectures, the student gradebook, and more. **Please send e-mails to me at jangel@cobra.parkland.edu via the Cobra email system unless Cobra is unavailable.**

You may access Cobra on any computer by doing the following:

- Open a web browser
- Log in to my.parkland.edu and click on "Cobra Learning Login" under the "Applications" tab.
- Click our course name, "ESC101-003 Introduction to Weather" on the Cobra homepage
- The system will send you into our course space in Cobra.
- There are a number of tabs at the top of the page just to the right of the Cobra symbol. We will primarily use:

<u>Content</u>	PowerPoint lectures, assignments, and field trip information will be posted here
<u>Grades</u>	Access your current grades here at any time

Please contact the Tech Services Help Desk if you need assistance accessing the Cobra system! Information regarding this wonderful help resource can be found in the Fall 2015 syllabus addendum (on our course homepage in Cobra under "Syllabus Addendum" or within the "Course Information" module under "Content")

Methods of Instruction:

Our class meets for lecture three days a week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday for 50 minutes) and for lab one day a week (Thursday for 1 hour and 50 minutes). Lectures will include topics and information from our text as well as additional information not found in the text. Labs may include a short lecture to introduce you to the lab topic and hands-on exercises with maps, photos, worksheets, weather data, etc. to enhance your understanding of weather processes.

Pace of Course and Time Commitment:

College courses generally move at a much faster pace than you may have experienced in high school. It is **VERY IMPORTANT** to keep up with your readings, lab assignments, etc. and to take time to review your notes as we move along. A college course will also require more study time outside of class than you may be used to. The general rule states that for each hour in our class, you will need to spend a *minimum* of 2 hours of studying outside of class each week. This means that this course may require *at least* 8 hours of studying outside of class each week.

Attendance:

Parkland College requires that I keep attendance records for this course. Attendance for lab is mandatory. Attendance for lecture is highly recommended as attendance and participation count as 15% of your total course grade. You are responsible for information provided in class even if you are absent that may include: changes in test dates, modification of lab exercises and due dates, changes in the syllabus and course information, and additional material not found in your text.

Our mutual goal is **your success** in this course. *Inadequate attendance has always been a leading cause of failure in college courses.* The attendance policy in this course is in keeping with the policy stated in the Parkland College Catalog. It says "Regular and prompt attendance is expected at all classes," except in cases involving illness or emergency which should be brought to the attention of the instructor. "Regular attendance and consistent study habits are considered necessary for academic success in college. ***Faculty members have the prerogative of lowering grades for excessive absence.***"

Please read the section “Dropping or Withdrawing from a Class Section” in the Syllabus Addendum found in our Cobra course space. If you find it necessary to withdraw from this course, withdrawal on or before Friday, December 4, 2015 by 5pm will result in a grade of “W” (withdraw, no penalty). Non-attendance after the census will result in an F if you don’t withdraw yourself. Always consult with your counselor or financial aid advisor before dropping any course.

In the event of inclement weather, students should listen to local radio and television stations for information regarding cancellation of Parkland classes. The basic philosophy of the college is to remain open if at all possible. If weather deteriorates during overnight hours, the decision to close/not close will be made by 5 am (Monday through Saturday). A complete listing of radio/television stations and inclement weather policies can be found at <http://www.parkland.edu/hr/ptfacguide.htm#2g>.

According to College policy “parents are requested not to bring children to class or leave them unattended anywhere on campus.” (<http://www.parkland.edu/hr/ptfacguide.htm#2f>)

Daily Responsibilities:

You can have a great effect on what happens in your college career and in your life just by taking care of what needs to be done each day, not falling behind in your work, and following a few simple steps for success:

1. Attend each class and arrive on time. Tardiness is very disruptive to other students and can result in missing important information/announcements at the beginning of each class period.
2. Take care of personal business (sharpening pencils, borrowing paper, etc.) before class.
3. **Turn cell phones to vibrate** before coming to class and make sure they are put away (do not leave them on your desk or in your lap!). Please do not take calls or text-messages during class.
4. Stay awake in class. You can’t learn about weather if you’re dreaming about last night’s concert! ☺
5. Take good notes in class, keep up with your assignments (reading, lab, etc.), and don’t hesitate to ask questions in class. This course is more interesting when there is instructor/student interaction!
6. Be considerate of your fellow students by refraining from private conversation and behavior that could distract them (even whispering can disrupt others). ***All students and instructors have the right to learn and teach in an environment free from distraction, disruption, or threat.***
7. Laptops may be used in the classroom only for course-related sites. Accessing other sites during lecture can be disruptive to students around you.
8. Only drinks with screw caps can be brought into the classroom...No Food!
9. Chewing of tobacco or use of smokeless artificial cigarettes is prohibited in this classroom.

Hour Exams:

There will be four hour exams given during the semester. The lowest hour exam grade will be dropped. Exams will be traditional closed-note, paper-and-pencil exams. Questions may be a combination of multiple-choice, matching, short answer, or labeling diagrams. The dates for the hour exams will be announced in class one week prior to the exam, although tentative exam dates are listed on the tentative schedule. We will have a review session during the class period before the exam.

If you know in advance that you have a conflict with a scheduled hour exam, notify me as soon as possible to arrange a make-up exam. Make-up exams must be taken within one week of the original exam date (e.g., if you miss a Friday exam, you must take the make-up exam before the next Friday class period). Documentation of an extreme medical, family, or personal situation is necessary to schedule a make-up exam outside the one-week deadline.

If you miss an hour exam without contacting me in advance, that exam will count as your lowest exam score and will be dropped. No make-up exam will be offered unless extreme circumstances occur, such as a serious health situation or family emergency. Verifiable documentation is required to excuse the absence and allow a make-up exam. You must contact me by 5pm on the day the exam is given. Please note: If the original exam is already graded and returned to class, an alternate exam version with comparable coverage and difficulty will be substituted.

Note: Cell phones, digital organizers, or electronic dictionaries/translation aides are not permitted on desk tops during quizzes or exams.

Final Exam:

The final exam is comprehensive and covers material that you learned throughout the semester. You will be given 2 hours to complete the exam in our regular classroom (L-216). Each student is required to take the final exam at the scheduled time.

****Final for ESC101-003: 11am – 1pm, Wednesday, December 16, 2015**

Lab:

Weather is a laboratory science so we will be performing lab work by interpreting weather data, writing simple lab reports, learning to read weather maps, etc. All lab work is due at the end of the lab period. A handout distributed during the first lab period will give you a detailed account of our lab schedule, lab procedures, safety regulations, and how your lab grade will be determined. *A passing grade in lab must be attained to pass the entire course.*

****Three lab absences results in an automatic failure of the lab portion of the course**

If you know in advance that you have a conflict with a scheduled lab period, notify me as soon as possible to arrange attendance in another ESC101 lab section or to schedule an alternative make-up date.

If you miss a lab without contacting me (later than one day after the lab), you will receive a zero (0) for that assignment. No make-up lab will be offered unless extreme circumstances have occurred such as a serious illness, family emergency, etc. Verifiable documentation will be required in this situation. Labs may not be made-up after grades labs are returned.

Please note that there is one lab held in the Parkland Planetarium and one field trip lab to the Illinois State Water Survey. We will meet in the planetarium at Noon on the day of the planetarium lab, as it was necessary to schedule it on a Friday during our normal lecture time. For the Water Survey trip, we will travel together via Parkland van and carpool. Dates for these labs can be found in the “Tentative Schedule”.

Homework/In-class Activities:

The purpose of homework and in-class assignments is to help you understand and practice key concepts from the course. To help relieve anxiety and encourage completion, all assigned homework and in-class activities will be graded on a “check-plus-minus” system. Homework submitted with a reasonable attempt at all assigned problems or tasks will receive a check ✓ indicating full credit earned (100%). A student can earn a check-plus ✓+ (100% plus 2 bonus points) if specific instructor-selected homework answers are correct or by completing specified bonus activities. If a homework assignment is incomplete, submitted late, or the work does not show a reasonable attempt, a student will earn a check-minus ✓- (50% credit). Students will earn no credit (0%) for missing assignments. Homework assignments and respective due dates will be announced in class.

Your semester homework grade will be determined from in- and out-of-class homework assignments:

1. **Submitted Homework** – To be considered for full credit (check or check-plus), all take-home assignments must be submitted at the start of lecture, i.e., 12:00 PM on the due date. Any work submitted after this time will be considered late (check-minus).
2. **In-class Work** – Frequently, problems or hands-on activities will be done as lecture break-out sessions. You may be asked to complete these activities individually or as a member of a group. At the instructor's discretion, these assignments might be graded, either as written submissions or class presentations (i.e., review the question, reveal the answer, explain how arrived at the answer, and respond to any questions the instructor or classmates have). In-class work will be graded on the check-plus-minus system. When working as a member of a group, each member must fill out and turn in his/her own exercise sheet.
3. If you know in advance that you have a conflict with a scheduled lecture period, notify me as soon as possible to arrange an alternative make-up date for the missed activity. If this is not possible [e.g., materials/equipment no longer available or graded worksheets already returned to class], an alternative assignment may be substituted.

If you miss an in-class activity without contacting me in advance, you will receive a zero (0) for that assignment. No make-up class activity will be offered unless extreme circumstances occur, such as a serious health situation, family emergency, etc. Verifiable documentation will be required.

Student Email Account:

You should access your Parkland email account at <http://stu.parkland.edu> a minimum of several times each week (preferably daily) to obtain information about courses or college announcements. Please check your email daily within our ESC101 course in the Cobra system for potential course updates.

If you need additional assistance, please contact the Tech Services Help Desk as listed in the syllabus addendum.

Veterans

We welcome student veterans of military service to join Student Veterans at Parkland (SVAP). For further information about veterans' issues, please contact:

Kristina Taylor, Financial Aid Advisor/Veterans Certifying Official, 351-2228 or ktaylor@parkland.edu

Disabilities

If you believe you have a disability for which you may need an academic accommodation (e.g. an alternate testing environment, use of assistive technology or other classroom assistance), please contact: Cathy Robinson, Room U260, 217-353-2338, disabilityservices@parkland.edu. Students with accommodations are asked to contact their instructors during the first week or two of classes to show their ODS ID card, which shows all approved adjustments and accommodations for which the student is eligible through ODS. I look forward to talking with you to discuss your accommodations and needs.

No Classes: **Labor Day** – Monday, September 7, 2015 (college closed)
 Thanksgiving recess – Thursday, November 26 – Sunday, November 29, 2015

Other Important

Dates:

Last day to withdraw with “W” grade from full-semester courses – Friday, December 4, 2015 by 5pm
Last day of fall semester classes – Friday, December 11, 2015
Final Examinations – December 14-18, 2015
****Final for ESC101-003: 11am-1pm; Wednesday, December 16, 2015**

Note: The final exam schedule in the printed Fall 2015 Class Schedule is incorrect. There is a corrected version with the other course documents in Cobra within the “Course Information” module under “Content”.

*Please Note: Not all possible situations can be covered by one policy. If you feel you have exceptional circumstances that merit waiver of any of these policies, please inform me as soon as possible. ****This syllabus may be changed, when needed, according to the instructor’s discretion.**

Please refer to the “Fall 2015 Syllabus Addendum” for additional information regarding Parkland policies and services. The addendum can be found on the homepage of our Cobra course or in the “Course Information” module under the “Content” tab in Cobra.