



# Syllabus

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## What You Should Already Know

Earth 55 is an introductory meteorology course. You should have successfully completed a first-year algebra course before taking this course. This course is not highly mathematical, but a basic understanding of algebra will help you do things like convert temperatures from Fahrenheit to Celsius.

## Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to do the following:

1. Describe the Earth's atmosphere and explain why we have seasons.
2. Explain how water in the atmosphere plays a major role in our weather.
3. Describe and identify different forms of precipitation and explain different optical phenomena in the atmosphere.
4. Describe the different types of air masses and weather fronts.
5. Explain why wind blows.
6. Compare and contrast different types of severe weather including thunderstorms, hurricanes, and tornadoes.

## Course Materials

Earth 55 is a self-contained course. There is no separate textbook for this course. There are, however, a variety of optional Web links that you can visit if you are interested in learning more about a specific topic.

## Assignments

Earth 55 contains six units. Each unit is broken into smaller chunks called lessons. Each will teach you about a different aspect of meteorology. After carefully reading the lesson material, there are questions in an ungraded quiz called a self check.

Each unit is followed by a unit quiz. There are two review quizzes, which are submitted in the same manner as the other unit quizzes. Unit quizzes and review quizzes count toward your grade.

As you read through each unit, you will find one or more “Backyard Weather Projects.” These projects are optional; there is nothing you need to submit, and you will not be tested directly on these activities. However, they do provide you with some interesting experiences and opportunities to apply what you are learning. I encourage you to try each of them.

## Exams

The final exam is worth 30 percent of your grade and will consist of fifty multiple choice questions.

## Grading

EARTH 55 contains six units. The unit quizzes for units 1–6 are each worth 10 percent of your total grade. The cumulative review unit quizzes are each worth 5 percent of your total grade.

Your final course grade will be calculated in the following manner: the unit quizzes (after each unit and the two review quizzes) will count for a total of 70 percent of your final grade; the other 30 percent of your final grade comes from the final exam.

Assignment Weights

Assignment	#	Weight
Unit Quizzes	6	60%
Review Quizzes	2	10%

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Final Exam	1	30%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

Grade Scale

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>A</b>	100 -93
<b>A-</b>	92 -90
<b>B+</b>	89 -87
<b>B</b>	86 -83
<b>B-</b>	82 -80
<b>C+</b>	79 -77
<b>C</b>	76 -73
<b>C-</b>	72 -70
<b>D+</b>	69 -67
<b>D</b>	66 -63
<b>D-</b>	62 -60
<b>E (fail)</b>	59 or below