

**THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON**  
**COLLEGE OF APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**Department of Disaster Science and Emergency Services**  
**Emergency Management and Homeland Security**

**Course Title:** Hazardous Weather Observations

**Course Number:** EMHS:407

**Course Credits:** Three (3)

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:**

Provides an overview of meteorological variables along with weather data useful to emergency management. Some of the topics include meteorological instruments, forecasts, models, radar and satellite imagery, thunderstorms, tornadoes, winter storms, and hurricanes.

**Program Outcomes:**

Students will gain a better understanding of:

- 1) the scientific processes of various meteorological variables
- 2) major atmospheric hazards
- 3) professionalism in Emergency Management
- 4) data sources and their reliability
- 5) utilization of technology and data in Emergency Management
- 6) utilization of case studies

**PROGRAM ASSESSMENT:**

The University of Akron and specifically the Emergency Management and Homeland Security program assesses student learning at several levels. The goal of these assessment activities is to improve student learning. As a student in this course, you will participate in various assessment activities. Grades and work samples may be selected to gather learning outcome data to be measured and tracked over several years. Student names or indicators are not used in data analysis. Students have an active role in course and program assessment projects. Generated data will direct any changes made in the curriculum which is designed to strengthen and constantly improve student learning and educational outcomes.

Knowledge of scientific processes of various meteorological hazards will be demonstrated through assignments.

Emergency Management fundamentals (response, preparedness, recovery, and mitigation) will be demonstrated through assignments.

Professionalism in Emergency Management will be demonstrated through an oral presentation in the final project.

Data sources and their reliability will be demonstrated with assignments and the final project.  
The utilization of technology and data will be demonstrated with assignments and the final project.  
Utilization of case studies will be demonstrated with assignments and the final project.

**Course Outline:**

Topic I: Earth, Sun, and the Atmosphere  
Basic Concepts

Topic II: Meteorological Variables  
Temperature  
Pressure, Moisture, Stability  
High and Low Pressure  
Air Masses and Fronts

Topic III: Meteorological Observations and Measurements  
Data Sources (Government and Private)  
Watches, Warnings, and Advisories  
UTC  
Meteorological Instruments  
Radar and Satellite Imagery  
Weather Maps  
Atmospheric Observations  
Forecasts and Models  
Precipitation  
Atmospheric Stability  
Clouds

Topic IV: Emergency Management Issues  
Storm Spotting  
Severe Weather Preparedness

Topic V: Atmospheric Hazards  
Thunderstorms, Lightning, and Hail  
Tornadoes  
Winter Storms  
Blizzards  
Hurricanes  
Heat Waves

A	≥ 94%	625.10-665.00 points
A-	90-93%	598.50-625.09 points
B+	88-89%	585.20-598.49 points
B	83-87%	551.95-585.19 points
B-	80-82%	532.00-551.94 points
C+	78-79%	518.70-531.99 points
C	73-77%	485.45-518.69 points

C-	70-72%	465.50-485.44	points
D+	68-69%	452.20-465.49	points
D	63-67%	418.95-452.19	points
D-	60-62%	399.00-418.94	points
F	≤ 59.9%	≤ 398.99	points

**Course Rationale:**

This course will cover meteorological fundamentals useful in emergency management. Emergency managers need to understand the basic scientific principles in order to communicate with experts and the public. This will aid in decision making along with expanding the student's knowledge. Furthermore, the course is designed to promote critical thinking through applications which is a basis for learning rather than memorizing material.

Special Accommodations:

In pursuant to University policy #3359-38-01, The University of Akron recognizes its responsibility for creating an institutional atmosphere in which students with disabilities have the opportunity to be successful. Any student who feels he/she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Accessibility at 330-972-7928 (v), 330-972-5764 (tdd) or [access@uakron.edu](mailto:access@uakron.edu). The office is located in Simmons Hall Room 105.