

Community Education – Spring Quarter 2026

Course Title: Weather 101

Instructor: Prof. Kyle Dittmer

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Course Details

- Item # 43942
- Fee \$129.00
- CTC campus (18700 Mill Plain Blvd), in-person, Room 338
- Wednesday afternoons, April 15, 22, 29. May 6, 13, 1:30pm to 3:30pm

Course Description

Learn basic weather reading skills to help the Gardener, Hiker, or outdoor person. Learn to read weather maps, interpret cloud formations, understand our local climate, and gain practical weather knowledge. Taught by a USDA-Graduate School certified Meteorologist and former NOAA/NWS Portland office forecaster.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

- Learn the basic science of Meteorology, Climate Science, and the causes of Climate Change
- Learn to work with and interpret many types of weather maps
- Learn how to produce a weather forecast and verify it with official NOAA/NWS data
- Learn the practical everyday living aspects of weather science

Course Schedule

Week 1

Introduction: Overall picture of the atmosphere, heating/cooling, energy budget, global heat distribution.

Week 2

Clouds: How do clouds form, types of clouds and their weather significance; Humidity; Precipitation.
Atmospheric Motion: Driving/Resisting forces, vertical changes, Air Masses, Cold Fronts, Warm Fronts.
Weather Forecasting: How to put together a forecast and evaluate it; Interpreting a variety of weather maps.

Week 3

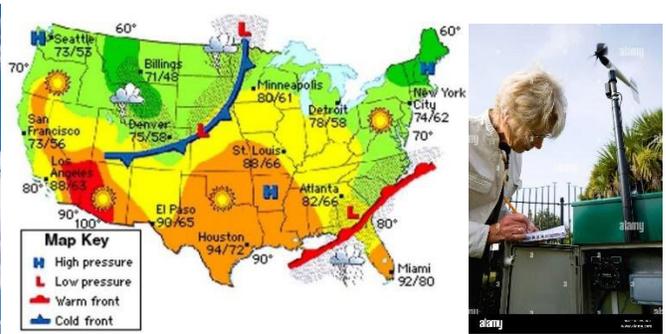
Severe Weather: Thunderstorms, Lightning, Tornadoes, Hurricanes, and associated safety measures.
NOAA/National Weather Service products and services.

Week 4

Hydrology: water cycle, snowmelt, Water Supply Forecasts, streams, flooding, flood risk assessment.
Climate Science: climatology, ENSO phenomena (e.g., El Niño, La Niña events).

Week 5

Causes of Climate Change. Practical applications: Hikers, Travelers, Homeowners, Farmers and Gardeners, Maritime users, and weather education. Specialty Topics: per student interest.



Resources

Recommended references for further study:

- “Essentials of Meteorology”, 8th Ed. (2018), by Ahrens/Hensen (see instructor for free link)

Class Evaluation

- Class evaluations are sent by email.
- If you don't see it right away, check your **junk/spam folder**.
- Evaluations are **anonymous** and come directly from Clark College.
- If you don't receive one, contact:
 - Email: continuingeducation@clark.edu

- Phone: 360-992-2939
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Inclement Weather

- If the college closes due to weather, updates will appear at www.clark.edu
 - Community Education may also cancel classes independently if travel is unsafe.
 - If canceled, you will be notified by both phone and email.
 - Please check that your contact information is correct on the class roster.
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More Classes

Looking for more Community Education courses? Visit: www.clark.edu/cce/