

Weather and Climate; Understanding the Basics: Facilitated by Paul Belanger and Jim Keller

Weather is our day to day experiences of rain, snow, ice, winds and temperature, daily and seasonally. Climate and climate zones are the reflection of the longer-term areas and habitats as a result of the average weather throughout the year. Climate change is a statistical calculation of weather changing over time.

Come take this course to learn some basics on weather, how our current weather is changing and impacting climate change. This course will draw on selected DVD lectures from two of the Great Courses' series, lectures, discussion and handout. Slides and other resources will be posted at <http://denverclimatestudygroup.com/>

Our excursion into extreme weather subjects will help us to think like a meteorologist. In search of potentially life-threatening conditions, we'll learn to interpret clues in the sky and the significance of temperature, pressure, humidity, and wind direction and speed. Simple and practical forecasting rules, such as that falling air pressure signals stormy weather and rising air pressure for clear skies, will suddenly make sense. We'll learn to better understand technical data, such as Doppler radar images, which provide velocity information on the motion of precipitation inside storms—like an X-ray into the shrouded birthplace of tornadoes. I recommend getting Colorado Weather Almanac by Channel 7's Mike Nelson.