

METR 4491/5491: Weather Briefing (Fall 2014)

Weather Briefing Coordinators: Dr. Lance Leslie and Nathan Anderson

Class Meetings: MW 1-1:40pm in NWC 5600

Office: NWC 5106 and 5345, respectively

Office Hours: Contact as needed by email or phone

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Course Goals and Description

This single credit class for meteorology majors aims to assist students in the preparation, presentation, and discussion associated with a daily weather briefing. Briefings will synthesize weather information from various sources and across all scales, with the end goal of a coherent, concise, and professional discussion of past and present conditions leading into a subsequent forecast. Guidelines for weather briefings will be provided and taught throughout the semester. Weather briefings should encourage audience participation, debate, and questions.

Required course materials

None. Briefings can primarily be web-based, and relevant web links/resources will be provided throughout the semester.

Class Format

Monday classes will be dedicated to enrolled students for practicing weather briefings. Students will be required to prepare and lead 2 Monday weather briefings, and will participate in group discussions when no designated speaker is assigned. Because this course seeks to improve oral communication skills, written peer critiques will provide valuable feedback to the speaker.

Wednesday classes will be reserved for guest weather briefings, open for attendance and participation by anyone in the National Weather Center. Registered students are required to attend these discussions, with the primary objective of observing and interacting with graduate students, faculty, and other professional contributors. During periods with no scheduled speakers, registered students will be required to lead 1 Wednesday weather briefing.

Grading

This is a pass/fail course (S/U). The minimum conditions for passing include:

Regular attendance (keep absences and late arrival to a minimum)

2 informal Monday “practice” briefings per student

1 formal Wednesday briefing per student

Active participation (which should include engaging the presenters, providing written critiques for Monday classes, etc.)