

**METR 4713/5713 Private Sector Meteorology**  
**Spring 2011**  
**Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 9:00 AM, NWC 5930**

Instructor: John T. Snow; Room NWC 5710, National Weather Center; 325-1174,  
[jsnow@ou.edu](mailto:jsnow@ou.edu) If you call and I don't answer, please leave a voice mail.

Textbook: There are no required texts for this course. However there will be a significant amount of required reading. Extensive notes and assigned reading materials will be available on-line and/or placed on reserve in the NWC Library.

Office hours: Right after class or by appointment; call or e-mail for an appointment

What is this course about? This professional course provides an overview of private sector meteorology in the U.S. The evolution and current state of the private sector will be considered. The course then considers a series of topics where private sector meteorologists are active. These topics may include support to air quality, wind and solar power, weather derivatives, energy production, commodity marketing and trading, transportation, industrial and commercial business, construction, and city and state government.

The course is designed to build background knowledge about the private sector, foster the use of higher-order analytical skills, and further develop communication and presentation skills. The course consists of lectures by the instructor; directed readings; visits with local private sector companies; interviews with practicing meteorologists focusing on their recent business/professional experiences; and completion and presentation of a course project.

Tentative Grading Scheme:

Class participation: 10%

Post-visit interview papers: 10%

Project: 40%

Prospectus: 10%

In-progress review (IPR): 10%

Final report and presentation: 20%

Mid-term: 20%

Final: 20%

Portfolio: 20% (Graduate students) (added to above, then renormalized to 100% scale)

It is *likely* that grades will be assigned based on the following cutoffs: A  $\geq$  90.000%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F < 60%. An **average performance** in this class will receive a **satisfactory grade (C)**