

# METR 1313 Syllabus, Spring 2017

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## Instructors

- Primary instructor: Professor Brian Fiedler, ✉ [bfiedler@ou.edu](mailto:bfiedler@ou.edu), NWC 5636
- Teaching Assistants: to be announced

## Class time

- Section 1: 2:00 pm - 2:50 pm MWF National Weather Center 5720 Jan 17, 2017 - May 05, 2017
- Section 2: 2:30 pm - 3:45 pm TR National Weather Center 5720 Jan 17, 2017 - May 05, 2017

Most of the class time is indistinguishable from a "help session". Often class begins with mini-lecture (10 to 15 minutes), or a Q&A session: the instructor asks some questions and the students provide the answers. Hopefully class is fun. Programming should be enjoyable.

## Grading

- **There is NO Final Exam**

7 programming projects, 10 points maximum each. Some of the projects are graded by "shoulder surfing" of the instructor or TA. For the first two projects, there is an online "studio" to post your creative work, or, in the latter part of the course, you will construct a personal website to display the results of your programs.

The final grades *might* be more lenient than the following scheme, but you won't do worse than this:

- total  $\geq 90\%$  : A
- $80\% \leq \text{total} < 90\%$  : B
- $70\% \leq \text{total} < 80\%$  : C
- $60\% \leq \text{total} < 70\%$  : D
- total  $< 60\%$  : F


Note the percentage listed in the above is: (total points)/70\*100%

Students need to make timely progress with the course. One reason is that an appropriate topic for mini-lectures is more obvious if the students are up to date. Secondly, students need to know if they are up to date. For the benefit of the students: the following draconian policy is enforced: *Projects submitted late (past 11:59pm on the Due Date) will be eligible for at most 1/2 the maximum credit. Projects submitted past the Due Date for the subsequent project will not be eligible to receive any credit.*

### Due Dates:

1. Project #1 **Friday February 3** Scratch
2. Project #2 **Friday February 17** Trinket
3. Project #3 **Friday March 3** SimpleData
4. Project #4 **Friday March 24** SST
5. Project #5 **Friday April 7** MesonetData
6. Project #6 **Friday April 21** CRUTEM
7. Project #7 **Friday May 5** GriddedData


### Office hours

- before and after class, or the class time of the alternative section
- Other time can be arranged: In the past we have done Thursday 9-10 pm, at the base of Adams Center (Tower), in or near the  HLC. We can do something like this, as needed.

### Textbook recommendations

There is no prescribed textbook. But if you want a Python book, you can read some of my opinions.

### Hardware recommendations

At least 95% of past students have completed METR 1313 using their own Hardware. If you are not able to bring a laptop to class, you can often borrow one from the instructor. I have several for that purpose. Another option is to use the computers built into the desks of our classroom, NWC 5720. But you will need an account to use those. Go to  <http://som.ou.edu/computing/>. Then in the upper right of that web page, click on the word **FORMS** and then the link **SoM computing account**. There is an online form to fill out. If granted an account, a password will be emailed to you.

### Topics:

*In Spring 2017, we will start from the same place that Harvard University does:*

We learn to program Scratch. We do this in addition to the official course description.

*Here is what was advertised, and approved by the Academic Programs Council:*

- Connecting to server, the linux command line, the linux file system, basic linux commands, the linux text editors, offering a file on the WWW.
- A program as a script of sequential linux commands
- Introduction to Python: numerical variables and values, arithmetic, loops, print statements, a simple Python program
- Python data structures: strings, lists, tuples, sets, dictionaries
- control flow, booleans
- searching and sorting
- functions
- modules
- python plotting: matplotlib
- simple python cgi scripts
- arrays and numpy
- working with simple files of data: text files and netCDF files

## Mandatory Announcement

NOTES regarding this policy:

- 1) You are strongly encouraged to make a statement in the opening session of your class and in the class syllabus such as this one:

**“Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent the full demonstration of his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.”**

- 2) Any student who responds to your announcement should be referred to the Disability Resource Center, (Goddard Health Center, Room 166, 325-3852) to make a formal request for accommodation.
- 3) Refer also to sections 5.2 Individuals with Disabilities and 5.3 Office of Disability Services of the Faculty Handbook. Please be assured that both the Disability Resource Center and the Provost’s Office will assist you in making appropriate accommodations.

Here are some more [Standard Statements for OU Syllabi](#)

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