

METR 4491/5491 Weather Briefing (Fall 2009)

Time of class: 1:00 – 1:45 PM MWF, NWC Rm. 5720

Instructor: Chad Shafer Email: cmshafer@ou.edu

Office Hours: After class to 3:00 PM MW Rm 5632. Please confirm with me via appointment.

Prerequisites: METR 4424, or permission from the instructor

Philosophy of the course: This one-credit-hour course for meteorology majors is specifically designed to help students develop skills in presenting the past, current, and future state of the atmosphere to your peers. Guidelines for weather briefings will be provided, and will be taught throughout the semester. Briefings will be prepared in two manners: through preparation and through “spontaneity”. Weather briefings should not be a “regurgitation” of the weather but rather should be a discussion that encourages audience participation, debate, and questions.

Required materials for class:

None. However, use of personal laptops and websites is encouraged.

Assignments:

Each student should be prepared to give a weather briefing every two weeks. A schedule of briefings will be determined on the first day of class. During at least one of the two-week periods through the semester, the presenter will be chosen by the instructor at the beginning of the session.

Policies/Grading: This is a pass-fail course (S/U). No exams will be given. To receive a satisfactory grade in this course, you must (1) attend every briefing unless an excused absence is provided, (2) prepare professional, high-quality briefings that encourage open discussion of meteorological phenomena and theory, and (3) participate as an audience member when a fellow student gives a weather briefing.

Attendance is mandatory. Acceptable excuses include at least two business day’s notice for medical appointments, weddings, or conferences. Emergency absences (including unexpected health problems, funerals, car accidents, etc.) are obviously acceptable but must be verified. If you will be absent during the section in which you are to provide a weather briefing, you will be required to make up the briefing on a separate day.

Reasonable Accommodation Policy: “Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating 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.” See <http://drc.ou.edu/content/view/16/> for more details.

Academic Misconduct Policy: “Each student should acquaint him or her self with the University’s codes, policies, and procedures involving academic misconduct, grievances, sexual and ethnic harassment, and discrimination based on physical handicap.” See <http://www.ou.edu/provost/pronew/content/integritymenu.html> for more details. The entire OU Academic Code can be found at <http://www.ou.edu/studentcode/OUStudentCode.pdf>