

METR 4491/5591: Weather Briefing (Spring 2012)

Instructor: Prof. Steven Cavallo
Class meetings: MW 1-1:45pm in NWC 5600
Office: NWC 5349
Office hours: MW 1:45-2:45pm or by appointment
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Course goals and description

This one-credit-hour course for meteorology majors aims to help students learn to prepare and present a daily weather briefing. Briefings will demonstrate the ability to synthesize weather information on all scales, prepare a forecast and communicate this clearly and succinctly to an audience. 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 be a discussion that encourages audience participation, debate, and questions.

Required course materials

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

Class format

Monday's class time will be reserved for registered students to practice weather briefings. Each student will be required to prepare and lead at least one weather briefing; the date of this presentation will be pre-assigned. In addition, students will be required to lead at least one impromptu weather briefing. The impromptu briefing could occur during any Monday class time. Since a course goal is to improve oral communication skills amongst peers, students will be asked to provide written critiques of weather briefings given by both themselves and other students.

Wednesday's class time will generally be used for students to observe guest weather briefings. These will be open for anyone in the National Weather Center to attend or participate. Although registered students are not required to lead a weather briefing during a Wednesday class time, attendance is required. These weather briefings are intended to provide students with useful examples of professional weather briefings. Students can choose to lead a Wednesday briefing with the permission of the instructor, which can substitute their required Monday briefing.

Grading

This is a pass/fail course (S/U). Conditions for passing are:

- Completion of at least one pre-assigned and one impromptu weather briefing, in which each must satisfy the course goals outlined above. Students will have the opportunity to present a weather briefing on more than one occasion, and the best briefing will be used for the final student evaluation. Student evaluations will consist of feedback by the instructor, classmates, as well as self-evaluation by the student.
- No more than 2 absences (Monday and Wednesday class times)
- A minimum of 2 written good faith weather briefing critiques: One of themselves and one by the student but of another classmate.