GEOG 484

Advanced Topics in Geography:

Advanced Studies in Weather and Climate

Spring 2019

Classes: Wednesday and Thursday, 14:30 15:50
in Clearihue Building C109

Laboratories:

This course does not have a formal laboratory component scheduled, however we will take some time in class during which you will gain experience using the GEMPAK system of weather analysis tools. You will also learn a little bit about one particular version of linux computer system, a friendly version of RedHat known as CentOS.

We will also take time for the workshop. We want to take advantage of Claude's time throughout his stay. Claude and I realize that integrating this workshop into the existing curriculum requires greater flexibility and requirements on the part of you the students. To this end, in order to assist you in giving more time to this course, Claude wants to make this as easy as possible. Thus, meals on **Saturday Jan 26** will be provided. Based on his recent experiences at Aurora College in Inuvik and UNBC in Prince George, Claude reminds us that student participation and cooperation is essential to make this as beneficial as possible. Yes, it's the old "you get what you put in" and there is much to be gotten here. Claude will only be able to visit for a limited time and we want to maximize his generous offer. When you get out of school, the type of professional training course he is offering would easily cost you $3000+. (I paid $3000 for 3 days' training on an ocean wave buoy system, and they didn't so much as buy me coffee!).

Claude will be staying on or near campus and will be available as a resource.

Textbook and readings:

Djuric, Dusan. 1994. *Weather Analysis*. Prentice-Hall/Pearson. **do not purchase unless you want to purchase it online. It will be available on 2hr reserve in the library**

There is also an online introductory meteorology textbook available, that the author (Prof. Richard McNulty from Kansas State University). (let me know if you spot any errors).

Journal article readings will be made available on the CourseSpaces site.

Assignments

There will be a number of general homework assignments, usually one per week unless the reading load is too great. These will consist of (a few) written or (more typically) graphical/numerical analytical work which will be graded. The assignments near the beginning of the course focus on instruments and skills development. Assignments are handed out on Thursday and due the following Thursday.

In a real forecast office there is no such thing as a "late" forecast (by definition!). Here however there is some leeway, thus: **Late assignments will be reduced by 20% per day.**

Weather discussion

Each week ments

Paper discussion

A selection of research papers will be assigned for reading. Papers will be made available on the CourseSpaces site. Each student will rotate through presentation of detailed analysis of a paper and all students will be expected to participate in discussion. Marks will be given for participation and clarity of presentations.

CourseSpaces: This course is hosted on the UVic CourseSpaces system. http://coursespaces.uvic.ca/ I will post various course-related materials or news items here from time to time; make sure you keep a regular eye on the site. Readings will be posted here ahead of classes for which they are required.

Evaluation: The course grade will be based on the following:

		Date (or date due)	Weight	Grading considerations
1	Assignments	Listed below	30%	Accurate numerical or graphical solution, correct steps followed and presented, or if written, thorough assessment, clearly expressed. Emphasis will be placed on clarity of expression because of the crucial role communication will play in your futures
2	Weather presentation	Assigned in class	10 %	Depiction of weather situation at hand that captures relevant weather forming parameters. Marks also given for style and clarity of presentation. Non-binding peer evaluation will be conducted.
3	Paper discussion engagement	No due date	10 %	

Tentative scheduling

I reserve the right to modify lecture subjects, computer subjects, and the reading schedule in response to how fast we are progressing.

Wk	Date	Lecture subject (Wednesday)	Computer

Undergraduate Grading**

Passing Grades	*Description*
A+ A A-	**Exceptional, outstanding and excellent** performance. Normally achieved by a minority of students. These grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectation and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.
B+ B B-	**Very good, good and solid** performance. Normally achieved by the largest number of students. These grades indicate a good grasp of the subject matter or excellent grasp in one area balanced with satisfactory grasp in the other area.
C+ C	**Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory**. These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
D+ D	**Marginal** Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.