

Weather Prediction - 1

Spring Semester 2013 Syllabus

Course Instructor: Greg Nordstrom

Internal [myCourses] E-mail: *(preferred)* – Always checked daily!

External Email: *(use only if you cannot get on myCourses):*
 gjn2@msstate.edu

Here is a list of the MSU Team and their responsibilities. Please refer to this list for guidance and contact information:

ALL Technical issues (access denied, server down, etc.)

– help@aoce.msstate.edu (662.325.0278)

Registration, change of address & video problems, general inquiries - Joy Bailey: jbailey@aoce.msstate.edu

Degree evaluations, degree requirements – Mary Dean: Mary@geosci.msstate.edu

Admissions issues - Lisa Carraway: lcarraway@aoce.msstate.edu

MSU Bookstore (662) 325-2247

Department of Geosciences Fax (662) 325-9423

TEXTBOOK(S) OPTIONAL

Course Code	Course Title	Textbooks Used (NOT REQUIRED)
GR 4443	Weather Prediction 1	Northeast Snowstorms – 2 Volume Set by Paul (ISBN: 9781878220646) Weather Analysis & Forecasting Handbook by (ISBN: 9832533-0-7)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Weather Prediction is the weather forecasting portion of your

studies. Our oncampus program takes great pride in applied forecasting! Of course I'm biased, but I strongly feel like MSU has one of, if not the very best forecasting programs in the country. I have tried my best to take the main concepts of our oncampus forecasting I/II classes, and incorporate it online. My goal is for everyone online to get as much out of our forecasting class Doug and I teach oncampus. Of course it's hard to incorporate everything online, but I think you will like our very hands on/applied methods of teaching. The lectures were shot by myself and Doug Gillham. There are also two comet modules (MetEd) on QPF/Convective Weather...

1. Weather Analysis – 1000mb, 850mb, 700mb, 500mb, 300mb, etc. 2. Weather Analysis – RAW, MOS, FOUS, METAR 3. RAW vs. MOS 4. Buikit Introduction (Tutorial) 5. QPF - MetEd 6. Convective Weather - MetEd 7. Winter Weather Forecasting - 1 8. Winter Weather Forecasting - 2 9. Winter Weather Forecasting - 3 10. Severe Weather Tips 11. Hurricane Forecasting Tips 12. Hurricane Forecasting Tips cont...

ASSIGNMENTS

There is an icon on the course tools page titled "Learning Modules". After you click on that you will see an "Assignments" icon. *This is where you will go for all class assignments.* The entire semester is broken into four quarters. You will be required to complete assignments listed for each quarter. Below is a description of each assignment you are required to submit online.

*Quizzes

Your weekly quiz is now your weekly homework assignment in weather prediction! You will NOT take four quarterly homework

tests! Instead, each quiz will be longer and count as your homework. There are no drop quiz grades, as each quiz will count 5% each. Since your quizzes is now your homework, DO NOT print or save any quiz until its deadline has passed and the instructor has released its results to the class.

You will have access to your graded quiz within 24 hours after each due date. They can be opened as many times as you would like. Quizzes are not timed. You may also use your books and lectures for answers. All answers MUST be your own. No extensions will be given!

***Midterm and Final Exams**

You will have a midterm exam and a final exam. The exam dates are listed on this Syllabus. You can only open an exam one time and will have 60 minutes from that moment to complete the exam. These exams will be available only during the time period noted on this Syllabus. No extensions will be given!

Below is an outline of the Assignment due dates:

1stQTR ASSIGNMENTS **Quiz 1 - Due January 23rd @ 11:00am CT**
Quiz 2 - Due January 30th @ 11:00am CT
Quiz 3 - Due February 6th @ 11:00am CT

2ndQTR ASSIGNMENTS **Quiz 4 - Due February 13th @ 11:00am CT**
Quiz 5 - Due February 20th @ 11:00am CT
Quiz 6 - Due February 27th @ 11:00am CT

Midterm Exam - Available from March 1st @ 9:00am CT to March 6th @ 11:00am CT.

3rdQTR ASSIGNMENTS **Quiz 7 - Due March 27th @ 11:00am**

CT Quiz 8 - Due March 27th @ 11:00am CT Quiz 9 - Due March 27th @ 11:00am CT

4thQTR ASSIGNMENTS Quiz 10 - Due April 3rd @ 11:00am CT Quiz 11 - Due April 17th @ 11:00am CT Quiz 12 - Due April 17th @ 11:00am CT

Final Exam - Available from April 19th @ 9:00am CT to April 24th @ 11:00am CT.

TEST RESULTS & GRADES

Each of the two exams is 20% of the final grade or 40% of the total.

Each of the twelve weekly quizzes is worth 5% of the final grade or 60% of the total.

The final grades will be assigned according to the following scale: A (90%+), B (80%-89%), C (70-79%), D (60%-69%)

OFFICE HOURS/AVAILABILITY:

This program is unique in that it offers 24/7 access to the course material during the semester. However, it is unreasonable to expect the instructor to be available during the same time period. Therefore, I have established the following hours of availability:

Monday-Friday: 9AM – 5PM, Central Time

During that period, I will be checking both the discussion boards and e-mail frequently. You

should receive a fairly prompt reply to any message sent during those times. Messages sent outside those times will be responded to the next day, or in the case of the weekend, the following Monday.

Holiday Policy: Days defined as holidays by MSU will be treated in this class as if they were weekend days. Responses should be expected after the holiday has concluded.

HOLIDAYS SCHEDULED BY MSU:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observed –
January 21st

Spring Break – March 9th – March 17th

Good Friday – March 29th

NOTE: You will quickly see that I do answer questions on holidays, weekends, and nights. I know everyone has different schedules, so I always try my best to make myself available...

TECHNICAL ISSUES:

In the event of technical issues, you can exit myCourses and attempt to re-enter and finish your assignment. In the event that your problems occur during a TIMED assignment (midterm/final), you must log out of myCourses and re-enter. You must contact myself, or our technology coordinators (help desk) ASAP in order to document the problem. Please don't just leave the test open for hours. Finish it as soon as you can log back in. Be sure to make note of any error messages that you are given as we will need this info to diagnose your computer problem. The help desk email is help@aoce.msstate.edu.

If you should have severe computer problems, you may need to find an alternate computer to finish any timed assignments by the deadline. Students have used computers at work, public library, friend's house etc. in order to meet deadlines and not fall behind.

COURSE COMMUNICATION

There are multiple ways in which to interact both with your fellow students and your instructor:

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION: The Classroom Discussion forums are intended as a tool for our classroom use. Instructors and students may post questions that are of interest and/or benefit to the entire class. We encourage students to help each other, so if you know the answer to a question posted by another student, feel free to answer it. (Remember, however, that the questions asked by a student cannot simply be asking for the correct answer to an assigned (quiz/test) question.)

Examples of good Classroom Discussion use include 1) requests for guidance on how to interpret a question, 2) assistance in finding references for specific course content (including questions in the current homework assignments and upcoming quizzes), 3) answers to another student's questions, 4) notes to the class about news items pertaining to the course material (usually posted under Weather Discussion) and 5) a pertinent web site you find.

You will find that there are discussion boards set up for each of the scenarios mentioned above. Make sure that your post is appropriate for the board on which you are posting. For example, don't post introductions in the homework discussion board, etc.

Please Note: Postings to the discussion board that are

offensive, improper or irrelevant can and will be removed at the discretion of the instructor.

E-MAIL: Use e-mail to ask private questions, not applicable to the entire class (ie. personal issues, grade/test issues, wanting to debate an answer), or questions you prefer not to ask in open class. E-mail is the proper forum for concerns about the class, questions about the quizzes or exams and questions that pertain to course material but are in a level far more complex than what the general group is studying. When e-mailing about a specific question, please *type the question and the response choices if applicable*. Reveal what you believe the answer to be, and why. It is a good idea to check the Discussion Board messages before e-mailing me about a topic; the question and answer may already be posted. Wait to e-mail the instructor for clarification on specific exam questions until *after* the exam closes and is scored. If you do not receive a response within 24 hours, unless on a weekend or holiday, please e-mail again. Messages have been known to get lost in cyberspace, although that is happening with less frequency than in years past.

CHAT ROOM: The chat room is designated for students. You may agree to meet in the chat rooms at any time to discuss assignments. The instructor

will not attend chat room sessions unless asked to do so. However, it should be noted that chat room conversations will be recorded and will be reviewed periodically to insure that all communication is within the rules of the Honor Code

Please Note: The Chat Rooms may be used for discussion of class material but it is improper to use it as a venue for exchange of answers. Remember, all answers must be your own. Should it become evident that the chat rooms are being used improperly, the students involved will be subject to penalties which may include, but are not limited to, a grade of zero for the assignment/assessment/quiz under discussion, temporary denial of access to the course and/or expulsion from the course.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

You are required to read and will be held accountable to the standards set out in Mississippi State University's policies and procedures for Academic Honesty. Acceptable practices in this course are as follows:

QUIZZES - open book. They are composed of 10-20 questions. There are 12 quizzes in all. Your final

answer choices MUST be your own. They are not timed and may be opened as many times as you wish. Be sure to save changes any time you make them.

EXAMS (Midterm and Final) - open book. Use any and all available resources from within the course to complete these exams. However, please remember that, since these are timed exams, time spent looking for the material can potentially take significant time away from answering the questions. Therefore, it is more important to be familiar with the material and concepts than simply having the resource materials available. ***Under no circumstances should you download, save, print or otherwise possess either exam at any time unless individually authorized to do so by the instructor.***

NOTE: The homework, midterm and final exams may contain "short answer, essay-type" questions. The answers to these questions MUST be in your own words. Copying an answer from any other source (including a pre-test assembled study guide) is considered a violation of the Honor Code. Should this occur penalties may include any, or all, of the following: a score of '0' for the exam, a grade of 'F'

for the course or expulsion from the program.

Additional Notes:

1) As a general rule, make-up's and extensions will not be given. However, we understand that things happen in life which are beyond our control. You will have to fully document the reason you missed, or will miss, the exam (no extensions given on quizzes due to rule 1). This documentation includes, but is not limited to: doctor's notes, hospital admission forms and obituaries. The documentation provided is subject to verification. Each request will be considered on an individual basis.

2) There is a time limit for each exam. If you exceed that time limit, only the first question answered after the deadline will be accepted. Additional questions will be disregarded, regardless of accuracy. Further, any answer submitted more than 1 (one) minute past the time limit will be disregarded, regardless of accuracy, even if it is the first answer submitted after the time limit.

Please Note: This rule also applies to the time at

which the quiz/exam is due. That is, you should start the assessment with ample time remaining before the time limit expires. If you are still taking the assessment at the expiration time, your assessment is subject to this rule.

3) Read the Instructor Forum discussion board as frequently as possible. Daily is preferred. That is the primary means of communication between instructor and class. You will be held accountable for all information posted there; for example, if the due date for an exercise is changed and the new date is posted on the Instructor Forum discussion board it is your responsibility to submit the exercise by the new date.

4) **DO NOT OPEN A TIMED EXAM UNLESS YOU ARE READY TO COMPLETE IT!** If you should mistakenly open a timed exam, close it immediately and contact the instructor.

5) Do not wait until the last minute to complete quizzes or timed exams.

6) External websites which are not assigned as part of the coursework may not be considered valid. The sheer volume of meteorology-related internet sites makes fact-checking of those sites impossible.

Should you have a question about the course material and something you discovered online, contact the instructor for resolution.

7) Additions to this list of notes/rules will likely be made throughout the semester; be sure to check the Instructor Forum discussion board. The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus at any point and in any manner they see fit. The course instructor has final say over any issues arising from this document.

HONOR CODE

Mississippi State University has established a code of ethics by which all students, faculty and staff are expected to abide:

"As a Mississippi State University student I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do."

Besides the code statement, the Honor Code covers plagiarism, or the using of material, ideas,

information, languages or writings from other sources without proper acknowledgement of the original source. This includes copying a source even if the source is cited, or copying of someone else's work and submitting it as the student's own work, on papers, exams, or any other assignment. Cheating will not be tolerated in this, or any other class and punitive measures will be enforced according to MSU policy. Author citations must be included for all written reports and assignments. Plagiarism is considered to be cheating and will result in failure of the course.

The following are also examples of cheating that will not be tolerated (it is not considered exhaustive): Obtaining and/or possessing a copy of an exam, quiz, assignment, lab, or other course material from a previous course offering, Taking exams, quizzes or other graded assignments while in communication with other students in any format (including, but not limited to myCourses, Skype, Google+, Facebook or other chats, on the telephone, or in person.

To read the entire document, follow the link below:
<http://www.students.msstate.edu/honorcode/>

SPECIAL NEEDS

Students with special needs, learning disabilities etc. must contact the university's Student Support Services to provide documentation of disability to MSU. Specific instructions can be found at <http://www.msstate.edu/dept/sss/>

TEST RESULTS & GRADES

Test results and grades for quizzes, homework exercise test, and exams will be available after each due date. Once the test results are released by, you will go to the "My Grades" link on the left frame in myCourses to view your grade. After the results are released, you can check the questions you missed clicking Assessments and then click View All Submissions. You will see a list for each assignment you have completed. To see a breakdown by each question, simply click on the assignment of interest. For example, if you want to check your answers for Quiz 1, simply click Attempt 1 under Quiz 1. You will

see your answer marked by icon that looks like a white sheet of paper with a check. The correct answer will be a green check box.

Letter grades for the semester are assigned on the following scale:

A (90%+), B (80%-90%), C (70-80%), D (60%-70%), F (< 60%)

***IMPORTANT:** I reserve the right to change the syllabus as the semester moves along...