Weathercasting
Department of Physical and Environmental Science
Spring 2019

A. COURSE INFORMATION

Course number/section: ATSC2101 01
Class meeting time: Tuesday, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Class location: EN 400
Course Website: bb9.tamucc.edu

B. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Stacy Lynn
Office location: CS 130A
Office hours: M-W 11:00-3:00 PM
Telephone: TBD
e-mail: stacy.lynn@tamucc.edu
Appointments: Contact via email or phone to schedule an appointment. Additional hours available by appointment.

C. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Catalog Course Description
This course is to practice in preparing and presenting weathercasts for radio and television. The instructors of this course will provide the students with: (1) information in the form of lectures and supplemental readings; (2) opportunities to practice weathercasting on video, and (3) advice, supervision, and guidance. In lecture, students will spend most of the course learning about geography and weathercasting rules. A large portion of the course is to practice the weathercasting and report.

D. PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES

Prerequisites
ATSC3403

E. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S), READINGS AND SUPPLIES

Required Textbook(s)
NONE

Supplies:
Students may wish to purchase a binder (in which to keep your notes and assignments), and a set of colored pencils and/or pens. A business outfit is recommended, but not required.
F. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT

The goal of this course is to provide the students with an opportunity to improve oral communication skills and prepare students for careers in broadcast meteorology. Students will be sufficiently familiar with the geography of Texas, US and world, including names of major cities, regions and areas that being using in the general weathercasting. Student will learn the meteorological Jargons and American Meteorological Society rules and practice the TV weathercasting. For all components that are examined within each topic in the schedule, the student will be expected to weathercast in a professional manner.

G. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

This course will use a variety of instructional methods including PowerPoint lecture presentations by the instructor, online videos and Internet websites.

MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

During the course, students will be required to get familiar with the geography of Texas, US and world, meteorological terms and practice weathercasting in front of class. The grade will be based on the class attendance, performance of the weathercasting practices and the tests on the knowledge of geography and meteorology that introduced in the class. The final letter grade will be based on the percentage earned out of a possible 100 points, which are distributed as follows...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>% of FINAL GRADE</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weathercasting</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistical manipulations (e.g., curving) may be performed once—at the end of the semester—*not* for each examination. The final grading scale will also be determined at the end of the semester, but the cut-off for each grade will be *no higher* than the following:

\[
A \geq 90\% > B \geq 80\% > C \geq 70\% > D \geq 60\% > F
\]

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

My attendance policy is the same as that stated in the University Catalog. Attendance is the student’s responsibility, and students are expected to attend, be on time for and remain the entire period in every class. Attendance is not used to determine grades. In lecture, even when I take roll, I *do not* give—*per se*—a bonus for attendance, nor a penalty for absence (except for missing an examination, bonus points, or an assignment). (Note that I *may* choose to have “pop” quizzes, and/or “attendance” quizzes as part of the bonus points.) Coming to lecture on a regular basis should result in a higher grade, and if you come to class often, it will help you do well in this course.
Absences: You are responsible for the material covered and assignments made in every lecture regardless of whether you attend it. “I came in late and didn’t hear about the assignment,” is never an acceptable excuse. It is always your responsibility to determine what happened in class during your absence. If you are absent, tardy, or leave early, I will provide you with copies of assignments (including “bonus point” assignments) and handouts if—and only if—you ask for them. (In other words, I will not, “track down” absentees to make sure that they know about assignments.) You must obtain class notes from other students. Because developing note-taking skills is a necessary skill, I do not “share” or “post” my notes or PowerPoints.

Points missed because of an unexcused absence (including tardiness and leaving early) cannot be recovered. An excused absence allows us to make alternative arrangements for completing assignments. The documentation required for an absence to be excused must be…

- from an appropriate source (e.g., doctor, dentist, funeral director) who states the nature of the event that caused (or will cause) your absence.
- in writing, on official stationery, and signed. (I do not return excuses to you.) Telephone calls, FAXes, and e-mails are not acceptable.
- presented prior to the absence for a scheduled event (e.g., university-sponsored activity, recognized religious holiday, military service).
- presented no more than one week after the date of an unexpected absence.

There Are NO Individual Make-up Examinations: The grading formulas above give you three chances to earn points from lecture examinations: method 1 or 3 if you miss one lecture examination; method 1 if you miss more than one lecture examination; method 2 if you miss the final examination.

Miscellaneous Policies Regarding Attendance:

Unacceptable Excuses: Once enrolled in a class, it is the student’s responsibility to arrange his or her schedule (work and personal) so that no regularly scheduled class or examination time is missed. Only unavoidable absences are excused, so routine personal events (e.g., vacations, weddings, birthday celebrations, reunions, non-emergency medical or dental visits, parent-teacher conferences, household or auto repairs) should be scheduled to avoid conflicts with classes. Oversleeping is never an acceptable excuse. Employment conflicts and school or work interviews should be arranged to avoid conflicts with your classes and are not acceptable excuses for absences, tardiness, or leaving class early. Texas waives jury duty for students, so jury duty is not an acceptable excuse.

“Pre-Tests”: For some scheduled events (athletics, military duty, etc.), you may arrange to take a lecture examination before (but not after) its scheduled date. (You should take a test as close to its originally scheduled time as possible, but you may not take a test more than one week before its originally scheduled time. You must obtain your instructor’s approval at least one week before you wish to take the pre-test.) If you arrange to take any test at an alternate time and do not show for that appointment, then you forfeit the opportunity to take the test except at its originally scheduled time. Students who do not arrange to take examinations in
advance will not be eligible for this special consideration. A written excuse from the university department involved or from the Office of Student Engagement and Success is required.

The instructor—in consultation with Dr. Don Albrecht, Vice President for Student Engagement and Success—will determine if circumstances warrant giving an individual a make-up test after the original test. A make-up test given after the original test will be all written (i.e., no multiple choice or matching), and it will be administered on the “Reading Day” for the semester.

**Late Assignments:** You may always turn in assignments early. Except for excused absences, late assignments will not be accepted. If you know in advance that you will have an excused absence when an assignment is due, you must turn in that assignment before its due date. You should turn in assignments that were missed because of an unexpected, excused absence as soon as possible.

Any situations for which you cannot provide an acceptable excuse as outlined above (e.g., “I have an excuse, but it is too personal to discuss with you”) will be referred to Dr. Don Albrecht, Vice President for Student Engagement and Success.

**H. COURSE CONTENT/SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/14</td>
<td>Introduction to Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/28</td>
<td>Geography of the world</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/30</td>
<td>Geography of the US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/4</td>
<td>Geography of the US cities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/11</td>
<td>Geography of Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/18</td>
<td>AMS Rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/27</td>
<td>TV Weathercasting Seal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>Jargons of Meteorology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/11</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK NO CLASS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/18</td>
<td>TV weathercasting exercises</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3/25 | TV weathercasting exercises  
4/1 | TV weathercasting exercises  
4/8 | TV weathercasting exercises  
4/15 | TV weathercasting exercises  
4/22 | TV weathercasting exercises  
4/29 | TV weathercasting exercises  
5/7 | Final Exam 11:00 – 1:30 pm

Note: Changes in this course schedule may be necessary and will be announced to the class by the Instructor. The assignments shown are directly related to the Student Learning Outcomes described in Section F.

I. COURSE POLICIES

Attendance/Tardiness
Attendance is required and makes up a substantial portion of your grade in this course. Any absence without a valid, reported excuse will result in the deduction of 5% of your total grade. Excessive tardiness may also result in deduction of attendance points at the discretion of the instructor. Please notify of excused absences in advance, if at all possible.

Late Work and Make-up Exams
There will be no exams. Written assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date announced. For every day that assignments are late, there will be a 20% reduction in the possible score. An assignment that is 5+ days late will not receive credit. Please discuss extenuating circumstances in advance if at all possible, as leniency may be granted at the discretion of the instructor.

Extra Credit
Extra credit opportunities may be offered to the entire class at the discretion of the instructor. These extra credit opportunities will often require visits to the ‘Writing Center’ and other resources available on campus. No extra credit will be offered or accepted after Thanksgiving. No late submissions for Extra Credit.

Cell Phone Use
Cell phones should not be used during class. In case of emergency, please leave the room. Repeated distractions and lack of attention due to cell phone use in class will result in a deduction of class participation points at the discretion of the instructor.

Laptop Use
Laptop use in class is encouraged for note taking and reference to the PowerPoint and articles that are being discussed. Laptop use should only be for the use of class materials, and laptop
use that distracts the student from the class may result in a deduction of class participation points at the discretion of the instructor.

**Food in Class**
Food is allowed in class as long as it does not cause distraction to other students. Clean up after yourself.

**Blackboard**
Blackboard will be used extensively in this class. The student is responsible for making sure that submissions are made timely, and that Blackboard accepts and show the assignment. Grades will be managed in Blackboard; please check them often. All submissions should be in ‘MS Word’ format except journal article submissions should be in PDF format.
Appointments
Please avoid ‘ambushing’ the professor before or after class. You will like the outcome of just about everything better if you make an appointment or send an e-mail to my school e-mail account. I cannot maintain confidentiality in the classroom setting in front of other students.

J. COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

- Academic Integrity (University)
  University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a failing grade.

- Classroom/Professional Behavior
  Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

- Statement of Civility
  Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

- Deadline for Dropping a Course with a Grade of W (University)
  I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Please consult the Academic Calendar (http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/calendar/) for the last day to drop a course.
• Grade Appeals (College of Science and Engineering)

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules website at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html, and the College of Science and Engineering Grade Appeals webpage at http://sci.tamucc.edu/students/GradeAppeal.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the chair or director of the appropriate department or school, the Office of the College of Science and Engineering Dean, or the Office of the Provost.

• Disability Services

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call (361) 825-5816 or visit Disability Services in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

Returning veterans experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816. http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/

• Statement of Academic Continuity

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

K. OTHER INFORMATION

• Academic Advising

The College of Science & Engineering requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. Meetings are by appointment only; advisors do not take walk-ins. Please call or stop by the Advising Center to check availability and schedule an appointment. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Center for Instruction 350 or can be reached at (361) 825-3928.
GENERAL DISCLAIMER

I reserve the right to modify the information, schedule, assignments, deadlines, and course policies in this syllabus if and when necessary. I will announce such changes in a timely manner during regularly scheduled lecture periods.