METR 4650
METEOROLOGY PROFESSIONAL SEMINAR
SPRING 2025

Instructor: Dr. Matthew Eastin
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Class Time: Monday at 10:10 – 11:00 am
Class Location: McEniry 203

Office: McEniry 209
Office Hours: Monday / Wednesday 9-10 am and 1-2 pm

Text: No text – All presentations and supplements will be provided

Course Description: Advanced seminar series examining career opportunities in the atmospheric sciences. Coursework consists of a series of oral presentations by students, combined with traditional and invited lectures. Topics will include short-term and long-term career goals, internships, jobs, graduate schools, resume refinement, interview strategies, and university-provided resources. The course is designed for meteorology majors with junior or senior status.

Course Student Learning Objectives (SLOs):

1. Prepare and orally present a concise and informative description of your career goals.
2. Prepare and orally present a concise and informative presentation on an atmospheric topic.
3. Prepare and orally present a concise and informative summary of a scientific publication.
4. Prepare a concise and informative personal statement.
5. Prepare a concise and informative resume.

Programmatic Student Learning Objectives (SLOs):

1. Practice oral communication skills to a degree whereby one can effectively communicate a scientific topic to the public. (Meteorology – SLO3)

Course Policies:

Course Etiquette: Open and mutually respectful communication of varied opinions, beliefs, and perspectives during classroom or online discussion encourages the free exchange of ideas that is essential to higher learning and to the ability to learn from each other. Students are expected to display tolerance for others' views and refrain from the use of any inappropriate language. Unwelcome conduct directed toward another person based upon that person's actual or perceived race, gender, color, religion, age, national origin, ethnicity, disability, or veteran status, or for any other reason, may constitute a violation of University Policy 406, The Code of Student Responsibility. Any student suspected of engaging in such conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Attendance and Participation: Attendance is essential to maintaining an effective learning environment. Regular class attendance and participation are expected. Attendance will be taken twice each class – five minutes after the start of class (10:15 am) and five minutes before the end of class (10:55 am). You must be present both times to earn attendance credit for any given class day. **The use of smart phones, email, music players, headphones, earbuds, or any form of social media during class is strictly prohibited.**

Assignment Deadlines: You are expected to complete assignments and give oral presentations as scheduled. Any exceptions due to participation in college-sanctioned events must be communicated to the instructor beforehand. There will be **no extra credit**.

Accommodation: Students seeking disability accommodation must first consult the Office of Disability Services and follow the instructions provided by that office for obtaining accommodation.

Academic Integrity: Students are responsible for knowing and following the university's Code of Student Academic Integrity https://legal.charlotte.edu/policies/up-407 and the Code of Student Responsibility https://legal.charlotte.edu/policies/up-406. These codes forbid cheating, fabrication or falsification of information, multiple submissions of academic work, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials, and complicity of academic dishonesty. Standards of academic integrity will be enforced in this course.

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Course Requirements:

Class Participation: Each student is required to attend class and actively participate (ask questions and complete in-class activities). During any virtual classes, your virtual classroom cameras must remain ON throughout the class period. Attendance will be taken twice during each class – five minutes after the start of class (at 10:15 am) and five minutes before the end of class (at 10:55 am). You must be present at both times to earn credit for attendance on any given class day. **Use of phones, email, texting, social media, music players and/or earbuds during class is strictly prohibited.**

Presentation of Career Goals (no visuals): Each student will present their short-term and long-term career goals, including any additional education plans. The presentation will be **3-4 minutes** in length and should be given in a professional manner. *This presentation is designed to mimic a short introduction a student might give to a potential employer at a conference, a job fair, or during an interview.* More specific guidelines and evaluation rubrics are available on the course website.

Presentation of an Atmospheric Topic (no visuals): Each student will present an atmospheric topic or phenomenon of their choice. The presentation will be **4-5 minutes** in length and should effectively communicate the scientific significance and/or societal impact of the topic/phenomenon. All topics must be approved by the instructor. *This presentation is designed to mimic a short response a scientist might give to a non-scientist to explain the significance and impact of the topic. More specific guidelines and evaluation rubrics will be available on the course website.*

Presentation of a Scientific Paper (with visuals): Each student will read and orally present a peer-reviewed journal article on an atmospheric phenomenon. The presentation will be **8-10 minutes** in length and must provide an effective summary of the article's motivation, methodology, and results. All articles must be approved by the instructor. *This presentation is designed to mimic a traditional conference presentation of research results.* More specific guidelines and evaluation rubrics are available on the course website.

Develop a Resume: Each student will be required to develop a professional resume that states their short and long-term career goals and effectively highlights their education, work, and service experience.

Develop a Personal Statement: Each student will be required to develop a personal statement that outlines their motivation for studying meteorology and how they plan to achieve their short and long-term career goals. Statements should be clear, concise (less than 250 words), and effective.

Evaluation:

The grading scale will be calculated using the following point distribution and standard percentile scale:

		Percent	Grade
Attendance and Participation	50	90 – 100	A
Career Goals Presentation	25	80 – 89	B
Atmospheric Topic Presentation	25	70 – 79	C
Resume	25	60 – 69	D
Personal Statement	25	00 – 59	F
Scientific Paper Presentation	50		
Total Points	200		

Tentative Class Schedule:

Week	Date		Subject
1	Mon	1/13	**No Class – AMS Annual Meeting**
2	Mon	1/20	**No Class – MLK Day**
3	Mon	1/27	Introduction to the Course
4	Mon	2/03	Overview of Careers in Meteorology
5	Mon	2/10	**Presentations of Career Goals**
6	Mon	2/17	Overview of Graduate Schools
7	Mon	2/24	***On-Campus Resources – guest speaker from Career Center***
8	Mon	3/03	**No Class – Spring Break**
9	Mon	3/10	Job Applications/Interviews – Making yourself a top candidate!
10	Mon	3/17	Graduate School Applications – Making yourself a top candidate!
11	Mon	3/24	**Presentations of an Atmospheric Topic**
12	Mon	3/31	***Graduate School – current/former graduate students***
13	Mon	4/07	Peer Critique of Resumes
14	Mon	4/14	Peer Critique of Personal Statements
15	Mon	4/21	Effective Scientific Presentations
16	Mon	4/28	Scientific Paper Presentation Development
17	Mon	5/05	**Presentations of a Scientific Paper (8:00 – 10:30 am)**