

WeatherWatcher Living-Learning Community Academic Course
Weather, Climate and Television II
11:670:112, Spring 2020
F 10:55am-12:15pm
Classroom: ENRS Building, Room 323 (Cook campus)

Instructor: Frank Bridges
Office Hours: By appointment, SC&I (College Avenue Campus)
Email: fbridges@rutgers.edu
with Steven Decker, decker@envsci.rutgers.edu, 848-932-5750

Course Description and Objectives

This course is designed to provide a theoretical foundation of television broadcasting and meteorology to supplement the hands-on television experience gained from the WeatherWatcher Living-Learning Community. By examining the history and characteristics of television, critical analyses of news and weather-related programming and special topics pertaining to meteorology, students will gain a rounded understanding of the medium and its impact on the field of meteorology and broadcasting.

Classes will consist of guest lecturers from the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, as well as from companies outside of Rutgers. Discussions of topical and relevant news relating to television production, industries and technologies relating to meteorology and broadcasting will also be included in the weekly classes.

Frank Bridges is an expert in Communication Studies, and will be in charge of the course each semester. He will work with Meteorology Professor Steven Decker, who will attend each lecture and fully participate in the discussions, giving his perspective based on his experience as a meteorologist. They will also arrange for guest lectures from television weathercasters from the New York/Philadelphia region, and will also make presentations in the classes.

Learning Goals

Upon completion of this class, students will be able to:

1. Exhibit critical thinking when confronting new information.
2. Construct speeches in a logical format.
3. Deliver speeches extemporaneously.

Requirements

Attendance

Students are required to attend the weekly class as part of the WeatherWatcher Living-Learning Community. If you are unable to attend a class, please notify the instructor as soon as possible. An online notification of absence is available; please use this method to inform the instructor.

Readings

It is the student's responsibility to stay up-to-date with all class assignments and assigned readings.

Readings will consist of selected theoretical and research texts relating to the week's topic, and will be available on the course Sakai website (sakai.rutgers.edu) under the "Resources" section. Please come to class prepared to discuss the readings. Readings for guest lecturers will be announced later in the semester.

Assignments

Response Papers:

Students will complete one response paper per week (1-2 pages double spaced), addressing a topic from the readings or class discussion. This response paper will not be a summary; instead, you will select one aspect of the readings or class discussion to critically evaluate. In the evaluation, you will compare the strengths and weaknesses of the topic and your experiences in broadcasting and meteorology.

The response papers are to be uploaded to the appropriate Assignments on Sakai by noon on Thursdays AND make sure your last name is the **START of the file name. Your response needs to be a Word document or a PDF.**

Speech Assignment:

In our third week of class, we will discuss what it means to effectively deliver a speech along with the constructs of creating a speech. The following week, students will be asked to select a topic that they would like to inform us about, a topic regarding or involving meteorology. An outline discussion and review will be conducted to properly prepare students for the final step, the in-class speech presentation. Visual aids and proper attire are requirement for this speech.

Grading

The final grades for the course will be determined by the following:

Class participation and attendance: 20%

Weekly response papers: 40%

Speech: 40%

The following are the standard grades and criteria:

90-100, A: work fulfills terms of assignment, shows excellence, creativity, original thought

86-89, B+: work fulfills terms of assignment, some excellence, creativity, original thought

80-85, B: work fulfills terms of assignment, less evidence of excellent, creativity, original thought

76-79, C+: work fulfills terms of assignment, shows very limited evidence of original thought

70-75, C: work fulfills terms of assignment

65-69, D: failure to fulfill terms of assignment

64 and below, F: failing and incomplete work

There will be no extra credit assignments.

Student Conduct and Academic Integrity

Students are also responsible for adhering to the policies of this course and of Rutgers University, which includes the Code of Student Conduct. Please see <http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~polcomp/judaff/docs/UCSC.pdf> for more information.

What is expected of you:

1. Check your email every day.
2. Read every assignment in the text before class, and come prepared to discuss it and ask questions about it.
3. Participate in class discussions. But be respectful of your listeners and give everyone time to talk.
4. Listen attentively and respectfully to whomever is talking in class, be it the professor or a fellow student. (This means no texting or web browsing.)
5. Attend every class. Arrive on time. You cannot pass the course if you have an unexcused absence.
6. Be curious.
7. Be skeptical. Demand evidence before you believe something.
8. Enjoy the class, and if you are not, express your concerns and work to change things.
9. Work three hours outside of class for every hour in a class.
10. Many decisions are based on your values. But be sure be aware of your values and to state them when appropriate.

Policy on Academic Integrity (including cheating, fabrication, and plagiarism). A detailed explanation of these policies can be found at <http://ctaar.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>. Failure to comply with the policies of this course and of the university will result in disciplinary action.

Academic integrity includes:

1. Develop and write all your own assignments
2. Show in detail where the materials and sources you use in your papers come from
3. Do not fabricate information or citations in your work
4. Do not facilitate academic dishonesty for another students by allowing your own work to be submitted by others.

Do not plagiarize. Do not copy anything word for word without putting it in quotes and referencing it. Do not copy any idea without referencing it. Do not copy anything from the Internet and submit it as your own work. Every sentence or paragraph in your paper will fall into one of three categories: 1) Direct quote from an article you read; 2) Idea from article you read, expressed in your own words; or 3) Your own idea. In the case of 1 or 2, it is necessary to reference the article from which the quote or idea came. If it is a quote (1), it must appear in quotation marks. Try to use your own words to express your ideas. For more information on plagiarism, visit the Rutgers Writing Program at <http://wp.rutgers.edu/courses/plagiarism>.

If you are doubtful about any issue related to plagiarism or scholastic dishonestly, please discuss it with the instructor.

Class Schedule

This schedule is subject to change at any time. In the event the schedule changes the instructor(s) will try and provide advanced notice.

Date	Topic	What's due?
Jan. 24	Welcome and Intro	
Jan. 31	New Media and Meteorology: Convergence & Online Communication	Reading: Kelly, "Opportunities for 21st Century Meteorology" Upload in: Response paper
Feb. 7	Dr. Decker presents Forecasting as a Social Science	Reading: Fine, Chapter 4 Upload in: Response paper
Feb. 14	On-Air Talent: Myths and Misconceptions	Readings: Potter, "He's Not A Weatherman But He Plays One On TV" Upload in: Response paper
Feb. 21	Dr. Decker presents Communicating Forecast Uncertainty	Reading: Broad et al., "Misinterpretations of the 'Cone of Uncertainty' in Florida During the 2004 Hurricane Season" Upload in: Response paper
Feb. 28	Social Media to Communicate About the Weather	Reading: AMS, "Best Practices for Publicly Sharing Weather Information Via Social Media" Upload in: Response paper
March 6	Dr. Decker presents Communicating Climate Change	Reading: Joslyn and Demnitz, "Communicating Climate Change: Probabilistic Expressions and Concrete Events" Upload in: Response paper
March 13 & 20	No class	Spring Break!
March 27	Meteorology and the Entertainment Industry	Reading: Campbell, "Environmental Catastrophe Risk As Factual Entertainment" Upload in: Response paper
April 3	Guest Speaker: TBD	N/A
April 10	Final Speech Presentations	Final Speech Presentations
April 17	Dr. Decker presents Styles of Weathercasting	Reading: Chapter 4, "Weather On The Air" Upload in: Response paper
April 24	Guest Speaker: Alex Calamia, WLTX, Columbia, SC	N/A
May 1	Weather Watchers Living-Learning Community End of the Year Celebration Lunch	N/A