

11:670:434 Weather Analysis and Forecasting II: Mesoscale Meteorology  
Course Syllabus  
Spring 2018

Instructor: Dr. Steven G. Decker  
ENR 227  
decker@envsci.rutgers.edu  
(848) 932-5750  
Office Hours: W 1:30–3 (or by appt.)

TAs: Phillip Yeh  
ENR 212  
phillip.yeh2017@rutgers.edu  
Office Hours: T 1–2, W 11–12

Textbooks: Required- Markowski and Richardson: *Mesoscale Meteorology in Midlatitudes*  
Supplemental-Lackmann: *Midlatitude Synoptic Meteorology (L)*

Grading:

Exams	2 @ 10% each	20%	(Feb. 22 and April 5, ENR 223) <sup>1</sup>
Final Exam (comprehensive)		15%	(Friday, May 4, 8 AM, ENR 223)
Lab Exercises		50%	
Weather Discussions		15%	

Class periods will often proceed as follows:

2:15–2:35 Weather Discussion (Graded as before: 75% performance; 25% participation)  
2:40–3:30 Lecture  
3:40–5:15 Lab Time

There will be days with an expanded lab and no lecture. I'll announce these days via Sakai.

### Learning Goals

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

1. Conduct a weather discussion and make a seven-day national and local weather forecast, describing the weather that will occur and the mesoscale and synoptic weather systems that will be responsible.
2. Exhibit critical thinking when confronting new information.
3. Apply the mathematical and physical foundations of meteorology and climatology to solve problems using analytical and computational methods.

### NBFG and WxChallenge

We will continue to participate in the NBFG and WxChallenge. Participation in these contests is **mandatory**. However, you need not worry about forecast worksheets and bust summaries.

- For each contest, if you beat Phillip **or** me, you earn one bonus percentage point on your final grade.
- For each contest, if you beat Phillip **and** me, you earn three bonus percentage points on your final grade.
- If you win your division for a WxChallenge city, you will earn one bonus percentage point on your final grade.
- If you win the NBFG Tournament Challenge, you will earn one bonus percentage point on your final grade.
- I'll sum your absences from the contests, and for every missed forecast after four, you will lose one percentage point on your final grade.

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<sup>1</sup> If you object to an exam date, let me know by the end of this week!

The Friday lunchtime weather discussions are no longer part of the course. However, any student (or team of two) wishing to lead a discussion on a Friday may do so and receive half a bonus percentage point on your final grade. You may only do this once.

### Overview

Throughout the semester, we will focus on three main topics:

- Winter weather
- Mesoscale circulations
- Convective weather

At the end of the course, you will be able to diagnose and predict complex meteorological scenarios involving any (or all!) of these themes. Hard work and dedication will be required!

### Late Assignment Policy

I expect homework to be handed in on the given due date. However, I understand that unforeseen circumstances (e.g., illness, family emergency, computer crash, etc.) may hinder your ability to meet the due date. Thus, **you have two “late days” that you may use over the course of the semester.** You may turn in one assignment two days late, or two assignments one day late each, without being penalized. (Going from Friday to Monday counts as one day instead of three.)

Upon using up your two late days, a late assignment will incur a 10-percentage point drop for each day it is late.

## Syllabus

<u>Date</u>	<u>Read</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Wx Disc Round</u>
1/16	1.1–1.2	Definition of Mesoscale	0
1/18	L9.2–3	Precipitation Type	0
1/23	13.2, (L8)	Freezing Rain Climatology	0
1/25		Forecasting of Heavy Snow	1
1/30		No Lecture*	1
2/1		Assessing Conditions for an East Coast Cyclone	1
2/6	3.2–3.4	Mesoscale Snow Bands: Conditional Symmetric Instability	1
2/8	4.5, (L9.4)	Mesoscale Snow Bands: Lake Effect Snow	1
2/13	2.4, 5.4	Mesoscale Circulations Forced by Diabatic Heating	2
2/15	6.1–6.6	Internal Gravity Waves and Forecast Verification	2
2/20	11.1–12.4	Mesoscale Circulations Forced by Terrain	2
2/22 <sup>†</sup>		EXAM I	
2/27	13.1, 13.3–4	Terrain Blocking	2
3/1	L10.6, 11.3.2	Ensemble Forecasting and QPF	2
3/6	2.1, 2.3.3	No Lecture*	2
3/8	2.5–2.6, 3.1	Assessing Instability – Skew-Ts	3
3/13		NO CLASS	
3/15		NO CLASS	
3/20	2.7, 8.1	Assessing Vertical Wind Shear – Hodographs	3
3/22	5.2–5.3	Mesoscale Boundaries and Mesoanalysis	3
3/27	8.2–8.4.2	Stormscale Variation – Storm Types	3
3/29	7.1–7.2	Synoptic Patterns Favorable for Severe Weather	3
4/3	A.1.1–3.2	Radar Interpretation for Severe Wx Prediction	4
4/5 <sup>†</sup>		EXAM II	
4/10	8.4.3–5, 10.1	Tornadogenesis	4
4/12	10.2–10.3	SPC Overview	4
4/17	4.6–4.7	The Urban Boundary Layer and Low-Level Jets	4
4/19	9.1–9.5	Mesoscale Convective Systems	4
4/24		No Lecture*	4
4/26	10.4	Flash Flooding	0
5/4 <sup>†</sup>		FINAL EXAM (8 AM)	

\* Days marked as having no lecture could occur earlier or later than scheduled depending on weather conditions.

† Meet in ENR 223.