

METR 4491/5491: Weather Briefing (Spring 2014)

Instructor: Prof. Steven Cavallo
Class meetings: MW 1-1:45pm in NWC 5600
Office: NWC 5349
Office hours: M-F 9am-5pm
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Course goals and description

This one-credit-hour course for meteorology majors aims to help students learn to prepare and present a daily weather briefing. Briefings will demonstrate the ability to synthesize weather information on all scales, prepare a forecast and communicate this clearly and succinctly to an audience. Guidelines for weather briefings will be provided, and will be taught throughout the semester. Weather briefings should be a discussion that encourages audience participation, debate, and questions.

Required course materials

None. Briefings can primarily be web-based, and relevant web links will be provided throughout the semester.

Class format

Monday's class time will be reserved for registered students to practice weather briefings. Each student will be required to prepare and lead at least one Monday weather briefing; the date of this presentation will be pre-assigned. Students will likely have the opportunity to present more than one weather briefing. Since a course goal is to improve oral communication skills, students will be asked to provide written critiques of weather briefings given by both themselves and other students.

Wednesday's class time will generally be used for students to observe guest weather briefings. These will be open for anyone in the National Weather Center to attend or participate. Although registered students are not required to lead a weather briefing during a Wednesday class time, attendance is required. These weather briefings are intended to provide students with useful examples of professional weather briefings. Graduate students have the option to lead a Wednesday briefing with the permission of the instructor, which will replace their required Monday briefings.

Grading

This is a pass/fail course (S/U). The **MINIMUM** conditions for passing are listed on the following page. You may lead more weather briefings if there is availability.

Minimum requirements for satisfactory (S) credit:

If you are enrolled in METR 4491:	If you are enrolled in METR 5491:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 group¹ Monday briefing with a graduate² student • 1 individual Monday briefing or with a group⁴ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 group¹ Monday briefing with an undergraduate² student • 1 individual Monday briefing <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 individual Wednesday briefing⁵
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No more than 2 absences (Monday and Wednesday class times). Arriving more than 10 minutes late for class will be counted as an absence. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation by providing written critiques to the presenter of all Monday weather briefings using the Oral Presentation Rubric handout as a guide⁶. 	

¹ No more than 2 students per group.

² Based on availability of a graduate student.

³ Based on availability of an undergraduate student.

⁴ In most circumstances, an individual briefing will be required. Group briefings are only permitted if there is no availability to give an individual briefing.

⁵ Must have approval by instructor.

⁶ You are excused from providing a critique if you are absent.