Geography 404: Weather Analysis and Forecasting  
University of Idaho  
1 unit P/NP  
Fall 2010  
Lecture: McClure 206; W 3:30–4:20

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Course Description:
Application of physical meteorological principles to real-time weather analysis and forecasting. Students will learn tools and methods of synoptic-scale weather processes and gain a basic understanding of atmospheric dynamics, and apply this knowledge to use and interpret observational and remotely sensed data and develop predictions using Numerical Weather Prediction models. Students will present weekly weather briefings and compete in a forecasting competition.

Learning Objectives

The primary goal of this course is for students to be able to learn and apply principles of meteorology to real time weather situations as well as to be able to communicate science to their peers. To reach the goal, students will:

- Analyze meteorological observations
- Use and interpret Numerical weather models
- Apply basic concepts of synoptic meteorology to forecasting
- Communicate their forecasts in a comprehensive weather briefing

Prerequisites: GEOG 301 is recommended, but not required.

Course Logistics

Textbooks


Assessment

Grades in this class are pass/no pass. Students will be graded on participation and ability to improve their comprehension of weather analysis and forecasting during the semester. Students must attend at least 12 class periods and complete all required briefings. Grades will not reflect student’s ability to correctly
forecast or their ranking in the forecasting challenge. More information about the forecast challenge will be discussed in more detail during the first few weeks of class.

Course Web Page: Most of the materials for this class will be disseminated through the course website at http://webpages.uidaho.edu/jabatzoglou/CLASSES/WAF/index.html

University Policy

Disability Support Services Reasonable Accommodations Statement: Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please notify the instructor during the first week of class of any accommodation(s) needed for the course. Late notification may mean that requested accommodations might not be available. All accommodations must be approved through Disability Support Services located in the Idaho Commons Building, Room 333. See http://www.students.uidaho.edu/taap for additional detail.

Academic Integrity: Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at the University of Idaho, and the University’s Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Writing assignments in this course are designed to assess your knowledge of course topics and your ability to express it in written form, meaning that while you may work together on homework and classwork assignments, the work you hand in must be written in your own words. In addition, while tempting, plagiarism, particularly of the Internet variety (i.e., cutting and pasting with your pal Google), is certainly not acceptable. UI is a learning institution with the goal to develop freethinking students who can analyze new concepts and develop their own ideas and opinions. In order to discourage plagiarism, the course will adopt a zero tolerance approach. This means that if you are caught plagiarizing or cheating, you will receive absolutely no credit for that work and possibly a failing grade for the course. Furthermore, you will be formally reported to the Dean of Students for appropriate disciplinary action. The University of Idaho's policy on cheating is described in Article II--Academic Honesty of the http://www.webs.uidaho.edu/fsh/2300.html.

Cell phones and Laptop computers: Students are asked to please turn their cell phones off or put them on vibrate mode during class. Laptop computers may be used in the lab during forecasting sessions only. Repeated offenses that disrupt the course and do not stop when requested by the instructor will be referred to the Judicial Affairs Officer of the University.