

Course:

Atm 350 Meteorological Datasets and Numerical Computation Spring 2010
Class Number: 14128; Credits: 1

Schedule:

Th 1:15 p.m.–2:35 p.m., ES 333 (Maproom)

Instructor:

Kevin Tyle, ES 235, 442–4578, ktyle@atmos.albany.edu
Office hours: MoWe 2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. and by appointment

Prerequisites:

ATM 211, ATM 315

Grading:

Two In-class exams (10% each); Homework (80%)

Scope of Course:

This course provides an overview to the main types of meteorological datasets used by operational forecasters, researchers, and numerical weather prediction modelers. Students will master a variety of software applications used to display and manipulate these datasets. The course will primarily focus on software developed for UNIX operating systems; therefore, students will learn the basics of the UNIX command shell environment, via an introduction to common UNIX commands, simple shell scripting, and task scheduling. Real-time and historical weather datasets will provide the context for the exploration of both the software applications and the UNIX environment.

The course will be conducted mostly through classroom lectures, supplemented by hand-outs and weekly homework assignments. There will be two thirty-minute in-class quizzes during the semester.

Each student's lowest-marked homework assignment will be dropped and not factored into the final grade. However, neither quiz grade can be dropped. Homework assignments will be available via the course website at the close of each lecture and will be due the following Wednesday at 5:00 PM, unless otherwise directed. For the first 24 hours that the assignment is turned in late, two points will be deducted from the maximum total of ten. Each successive day (including weekends) that the assignment is tardy will entail an additional one point loss. Since assignments will typically be "turned in" electronically, each file will automatically have a timestamp, to avoid any questions of the time the student completed the homework. The instructor reserves the right to make exceptions to the tardiness policy if the situation warrants.

Students are encouraged to log into one of the maproom computers during class in order to interactively follow along with the presented material. Since there are not enough

computers to allow each student to have their own login session, I encourage you to team up into groups of two or three during classtime.

Additionally, you are also encouraged to bring in your personal laptop computers and make use of the maproom's Wifi access point. It is expected though that during class time, computer use will be restricted to ATM350-related material, not private web surfing, social networking, etc.

CELLPHONE/PDA/iTouch/iPhone use is NOT ALLOWED during classtime, nor are students allowed to leave the room to take/make personal phone calls. This will ensure a focused, non-distracting classroom environment.