ATM 209 “Weather Workshop”
Fall 2015 – Class # 6350 – 12:35-1:55 PM, Wed., ES-333
Instructor: Ross Lazear
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Office hours:
2:45-3:45 PM, Mondays and Thursdays

Class webpage: http://www.atmos.albany.edu/facstaff/ralazear/ATM209

Topics covered:
Surface weather data plotting
METAR code
Thermodynamic charts (“Skew-T” diagrams)
Moisture variables
RAOB code (Radiosonde observations)
Cloud types
Any interesting current weather...

Prerequisites:
You are required to be enrolled in, or have already taken ATM 210 and its prerequisites (MAT 112, PHY 140) in order to take this class.

Objectives and Grading:
This weather workshop is intended to complement your coursework in ATM 210, as well as provide training for ATM 211 next semester. Most of the work will be done in class. However, you will be expected to finish any workshop assignments not completed in class, and “self-check” your work. Be sure to check the course website for updates.

Because there is no homework to be turned in each week, attendance is mandatory. 25% of your grade (25 points) will be based on attendance:

Unexcused absence #1: -5 points
Unexcused absence #2: -15 points
Unexcused absence #3: -25 points

Absences are excused if you make sure to let me know of your legitimate, impending absence anytime well before class.

The remaining 75% of your grade (75 points) is based on three quizzes (25 points each) on the following dates:

Quiz #1: Wednesday, September 16
Quiz #2: Wednesday, October 28
Quiz #3: Wednesday, December 9
Thus, your total grade in this class will be out of 100 possible points. Unexcused absences will undoubtedly hurt your grade, so be sure to come to class!

**Materials needed:**
There is no textbook required for ATM 209, though there will be a number of important handouts that will not only assist you in this class, but in ATM 211, 311, and beyond. After a few weeks, you'll be required to purchase a laminated Skew-T (~$6) and wet-erase markers (~$6).

*** Most importantly, have fun, and be ready to learn. Bring questions and comments to class, and stop by my office hours (or make an appointment to meet with me) if you have additional questions about class, upcoming quizzes, or meteorology and our department in general! The best way to reach me is by e-mail, but feel free to stop by anytime.