

**Master Syllabus**  
***Department of Geography***

**GEOG 410: Broadcast Meteorology**

**Course Description**

Survey of the weathercasting industry. Topics include history of weathercasting, professional broadcast seals of approval, public weather information needs, and reporting of severe weather. (3 credit hours).

**Course Objectives**

The objective of the course is to prepare students for possible work in broadcast meteorology. Specific aims of the course are to enable students to (1) explain (both orally and in written form) meteorological phenomena in basic terms understandable by a general non-scientific audience, (2) provide a forum to students to practice and receive feedback to improve those skills.

**Course Rationale**

Students will develop an ability to explain complex meteorological phenomena to a general audience. Students will deepen their knowledge of meteorology as they work to understand concepts at a deep enough level where they can explain them to others. Students will also improve oral and written communication skills through classroom and homework assignments. Finally, students interested in pursuing careers in television and radio will learn about and prepare for such opportunities. Geography 410 is an elective for both Geography- Option IV: Meteorology and Climatology tracks. This course may also fill elective requirements for those seeking qualification for the title "meteorologist" by the American Meteorological Society (AMS) and/or seeking employment by the National Weather Service under the Federal Civil Service guidelines (GS-1340).

**Course Content and Format**

Students will be presented material in a lecture-style format that will include multimedia presentations. Students will also have regular opportunities to present the weather and receive feedback from the instructor and peers. The following shows an example of a potential outline of topics for this course, with time allotment for each topic at the discretion of the instructor:

1. Course Introduction
2. History of Television Weathercasting
3. Duties and Responsibilities of Broadcast Meteorologists

4. Seals, Agents, and Other Aspects of Broadcast Meteorology
5. Creating and Producing a Weather Presentation
6. Scientific Communication to a General Audience
7. Dealing with the Media

### **Textbook Suggestions**

1. None

### **Methods for Evaluating Student Performance:**

Forms of written evaluation might include examinations, quizzes, homework questions, and writing assignments. Other evaluations would include critiques of video and audio broadcasts and classroom presentations.

### **Evaluation of the Course**

Student evaluation of the course using university (and departmental) course evaluation forms.