

WeatherWatcher Living-Learning Community Academic Course
Weather, Climate and Television I
11:670:111, Fall 2022
Tuesday, 12:10 – 1:30 pm
Classroom: ENRS Building, Room 223 (Cook campus)

Instructors

Frank Bridges – fbridges@rutgers.edu, Office Hours: By appointment
with
Steven Decker – decker@envsci.rutgers.edu, 848-932-5750

Course Description and Objectives

This course is designed to provide a theoretical foundation of television broadcasting and meteorology to supplement the hands-on television experience gained from the WeatherWatcher Living-Learning Community. By examining the history and characteristics of television, critical analyses of news and weather-related programming and special topics pertaining to meteorology, students will gain a rounded understanding of the medium and its impact on the fields of meteorology and broadcasting.

Classes will consist of guest lecturers from the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, as well as from companies outside of Rutgers. Discussions of topical and relevant news relating to television production, industries and technologies relating to meteorology and broadcasting will also be included in the weekly classes.

Frank Bridges has Ph.D. in Media Studies and will oversee the course. He will work with Meteorology Professor Steven Decker, who will attend each lecture and fully participate in the discussions, giving his perspective based on his experience as a meteorologist. They will also arrange for guest lectures from television weathercasters from the New York/Philadelphia region and will also make presentations in the classes.

Learning Goals

Upon completion of this class, students will be able to:

- Exhibit critical thinking when confronting new information.
- Construct speeches in a logical format.
- Deliver speeches extemporaneously.

Requirements

Attendance

Students are required to attend the weekly class as part of the WeatherWatcher Living-Learning Community. If you are unable to attend a class, please notify the instructor as soon as possible. An online notification of absence is available; please use this method to inform the instructor.

Readings

It is the student's responsibility to stay up to date with all class assignments and assigned readings. Readings will consist of selected theoretical and research texts relating to the week's topic and will be available on the course Canvas website under the "Files." Please come to class prepared to discuss the readings. Readings for guest lecturers will be announced later in the semester.

Assignments

Response Papers

Students will complete one response paper per week (2 pages double spaced), addressing a topic from the readings or class discussion. This response paper will not be a summary; instead, you will select one aspect of the readings or class discussion to critically evaluate. In the evaluation, you will compare the strengths, weaknesses, and applicability of the topic and your experiences in broadcasting and meteorology. **Upload the papers to the proper Assignment on Canvas by 11:59 PM the Sunday before class.**

Speech Assignments

The first speech we will do is an Introduction Speech introducing a fellow student to the class. These will not be graded. The Final Speech will be on any topic that would inform us about a topic regarding or involving meteorology. An outline discussion and review will be conducted to properly prepare students for the final step, the in-class speech presentation. Visual aids and proper attire are requirement for this speech.

Grading

The final grades for the course will be determined by the following:

- Class participation and attendance: 20%
- Weekly response papers/In-class activities: 40%
- Final speech: 40%

The following are the standard grades and criteria:

90-100, A: work fulfills terms of assignment, shows excellence, creativity, original thought
86-89, B+: work fulfills terms of assignment, some excellence, creativity, original thought
80-85, B: work fulfills terms of assignment, less evidence of excellent, creativity, original thought
76-79, C+: work fulfills terms of assignment, shows very limited evidence of original thought
70-75, C: work fulfills terms of assignment
65-69, D: failure to fulfill terms of assignment
0-64, F: failing and incomplete work

There will be no extra-credit assignments.

Student Conduct and Academic Integrity

Students are also responsible for adhering to the policies of this course and of Rutgers University, which includes the Code of Student Conduct. Please see <http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~polcomp/judaff/docs/UCSC.pdf> for more information.

What is expected of you:

- Check your email every day.
- Read every assignment in the text before class and come prepared to discuss it and ask questions about it.
- Participate in class discussions. But be respectful of your listeners and give everyone time to talk.
- Listen attentively and respectfully to whoever is talking in class, be it the professor or a fellow student. (This means no texting or web browsing.)
- Attend every class. Arrive on time. You cannot pass the course if you have an unexcused absence.
- Be curious.
- Be skeptical. Demand evidence before you believe something.
- Enjoy the class, and if you are not, express your concerns and work to change things.
- Work three hours outside of class for every hour in a class.
- Many decisions are based on your values. But be sure be aware of your values and to state them when appropriate.

Policy on Academic Integrity (including cheating, fabrication, and plagiarism). A detailed explanation of these policies can be found at <http://ctaar.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>. Failure to comply with the policies of this course and of the university will result in disciplinary action.

Academic integrity includes:

- Develop and write all your own assignments
- Show in detail where the materials and sources you use in your papers come from
- Do not fabricate information or citations in your work
- Do not facilitate academic dishonesty for another students by allowing your own work to be submitted by others.

Do not plagiarize. Do not copy anything word for word without putting it in quotes and referencing it. Do not copy any idea without referencing it. Do not copy anything from the Internet and submit it as your own work. Every sentence or paragraph in your paper will fall into one of three categories: 1) Direct quote from an article you read; 2) Idea from article you read, expressed in your own words; or 3) Your own idea. In the case of 1 or 2, it is necessary to reference the article from which the quote or idea came. If it is a quote (1), it must appear in quotation marks. Try to use your own words to express your ideas. For more information on plagiarism, visit the Rutgers Writing Program at <http://wp.rutgers.edu/courses/plagiarism>.

If you are doubtful about any issue related to plagiarism or scholastic dishonesty, please discuss it with the instructor.

Class Schedule

This schedule is subject to change at any time. In the event the schedule changes the instructor(s) will try and provide advanced notice.

Date	Topic	What's due?
Sept. 6	Welcome and Intro	N/A
Sept. 13	Assessing communicative settings for constraints and opportunities	Reading: Chapter 1 "Becoming a Public Speaker" Upload: Response paper.
Sept. 20	Dr. Decker presents What is Normal?	Reading: Arguez and Vose (2012) Upload: Response paper.
Sept. 27	Communication Theories and Persuasive Framing Perspectives	Reading: Chapter 16 ("Using Language to Style the Speech") In class we will assign "Speeches of Introduction." Upload: Response paper.
Oct. 4	Public Speaking for On-Air Talent: Methods of delivery, Voice in Delivery, Body in delivery	Reading: 18 ("Voice in Delivery") Upload: Response paper
Oct. 11	Dr. Decker presents Forecasting as a Social Science	Reading: Fine, "Writing On the Winds" Upload in: Response paper
Oct. 18	Guest Speaker: Jane Minar from FOX Weather	N/A
Oct. 25	Newscasters & Weatherpersons	Reading: Wilson, "Television Weathercasters As Potentially Prominent Science Communicators." Upload: Response paper. Present: Speeches of Introduction.
Nov. 1	Thinking About the Journalistic Setting of Weather Broadcasting	Readings: Media Essentials – Chapter 12 – The Culture of Journalism: Values, Ethics, and Democracy Upload: Response paper.
Nov. 8	Dr. Decker presents What is Probability?	Reading: de Elía and Laprise (2005) Upload: Response paper.
Nov. 15	Guest Speaker: Lauren Casey from Climate Central	N/A
Nov. 22	No Class	Happy Thanksgiving!
Nov. 29	New Media and Meteorology: Convergence & Online Communication	Readings: Media Essentials – Chapter 9 – Internet and New Media Upload: Response paper.
Dec. 6	Dr. Decker presents Styles of Weathercasting	Reading: Chapter 4, "Weather On The Air" Upload in: Response paper
Dec. 13	Final Speech Presentations	Final Speech Presentations