

Seminar for Seniors

1. **Instructor:** Prof. David B. Mechem, 864-5707, dmechem@ku.edu, Lindley 117

2. **Office Hours:** Tuesday and Thursday 9:30-11:00 or by appointment

3. **Class time and place:** Monday 4:00-5:15 in Lindley 405

4. Course description

The course objective is for each student to prepare a 45-50 minute seminar on any atmospheric science topic the student chooses. For most students, the seminar will entail a literature review of a their topic of interest, which amounts to a critical summary of the important research on that problem. Your seminar topic should be framed such that it addresses a relevant question in atmospheric science. If you have been involved in undergraduate research in atmospheric science, you may present those results, though your seminar should contain a significant literature review component relevant to the research you have done. Talks or seminars given in other classes may be acceptable, though again they must contain the required literature review. The due date for the title and short abstract is 9/10, but I strongly urge you to discuss prospective topics with me beforehand. Take advantage of office hours and email!

Your intended audience will be your fellow seniors, so you should be speaking at their level. On the day of your seminar, you need to distribute to your fellow students and instructor a list of the references used in your talk. Your references must be drawn from the refereed literature, with any exceptions requiring my approval.

Active class participation is strongly encouraged. With seminars of 45-50 minutes in length, plenty of time will be available afterward for questions. Students in the audience should think critically about the subject matter and are welcome to ask questions of the speaker.

Projected presentations (using PowerPoint, Keynote, or PDFs) have become nearly ubiquitous in professional settings. I recommend you go this route, but you are not required to. If you require special equipment for your talk, please see me at least a week in advance of your seminar.

5. Attendance policy

Students must attend the presentations of their fellow students as well as guest seminars presented throughout the semester. In the event of an excused absence (generally arranged for in advance), a student can make up a class by attending the department colloquium or similar department presentation.

6. Grading policy

Turning in a quality title and abstract, and presenting a thorough, well organized talk at the level of your fellow students will earn an "A." Each absence not made up in the manner described above will result in a letter reduction in grade.

7. Significant dates

- 8/20 First day of class
- 9/10 Presentation title and one paragraph abstract due; Instructor seminar
- 9/17 Probable faculty seminar
- 9/24 Probable faculty seminar
- 10/1 Student seminar
- 10/8 Student seminar
- 10/22 Student seminar
- 10/29 Student seminar
- 11/5 Student seminar
- 11/12 Student seminar

The instructor reserves the right to modify these dates, based on ultimate class enrollment and availability of external speakers.

8. Academic integrity

Students should be familiar with the statement on academic integrity at <http://www.vpps.ku.edu/academic.shtml>. Taking credit for work that is not your own, whether in the form of cheating or plagiarism, will not be tolerated. A student discovered cheating or plagiarizing will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including receiving an “F” for the course and having a letter sent to the student’s school or college explaining that the grade was given for academic misconduct.

9. Disability accommodation policy

The KU office of Disability Resources coordinates accommodations and services for all students who are eligible. If you have a disability for which you wish to request accommodations and have not contacted DR, please do so as soon as possible. Their office is located in 22 Strong Hall; their phone number is 785-864-2620 (V/TTY). Information about their services can be found at <http://disability.ku.edu>. Please also contact me privately in regard to your needs in this course.

10. Intellectual property

Course materials prepared by the instructor, together with the content of all lectures and review sessions presented by the instructor are the property of the instructor. Video and audio recording of lectures and review sessions without the consent of the instructor is prohibited. On request, the instructor will usually grant permission for students to audio tape lectures, on the condition that these audio tapes are only used as a study aid by the individual making the recording and are not modified or distributed in any way.