Fall 2008 – AOS 452 Laboratory Syllabus

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Office Hours: Monday 12:00 – 1:30 or by appointment

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Tentative Lab Schedule:

September	2	Surface analysis
	4	Upper air analysis
	9	Meteorological data decoding and forecast preparation
	11	GEMPAK I: Surface and sounding programs
	16	*Short lab day – Group analysis/case study assignment handed out*
	18	*Short lab day* – GEMPAK II: Gridded data programs
	23	*Extended lab period* – GEMPAK II ***(Andrea and Prof. Martin will be***
	25	*Extended lab period* – HTML ***at the Cyclone Workshop this week)***
	30	GEMPAK III: C-shell scripts and four-panel plots
		(Gridded data for case study assignment handed out)
October	2	GEMPAK IV: Hints and Tricks
	7	GEMPAK V: Automated plot generation
	9	GARP
	14	Vertical cross-sections
	16	Vertical cross-sections cont.
	21	Diagnosis of vertical motion
	23	Work on group case study
	28	Work on group case study
	30	Work on group case study
November	**4**	***Group case study presentations***
	6	Meteorograms
	11	Vis5D I
	13	Vis5D II
	18	Work on individual case study
	20	Work on individual case study
	25	Work on individual case study
	27	**Thanksgiving!**
December	2	Work on individual case study
	4	***Individual case study presentations***
	9	***Individual case study presentations***
	11	***Individual case study presentations***

Grading

The laboratory portion of your grade consists of the following components:

Lab Exercises	65%
Forecasting Write-ups	25%
Weather Discussions	10%

Forecasting Write-ups

Participation in the WXChallenge, (a national collegiate forecasting contest) is a key component of this course. As stated in the lecture syllabus from Prof. Martin, your approach, to the WXChallenge will have some bearing on your grade. **Your approach will be evaluated through the completion of forecast preparation worksheets and "worst forecast" summaries.** You will need to fill out a forecast preparation sheet with short descriptions of major synoptic features and forecast challenges, model output, and forecast verification each day you make a forecast. At the end of each two-week forecast period, you will then submit a "worst forecast" summary explaining errors that led to your biggest forecast "bust" for the given location. The summary should be about 2 pages in length (double-spaced) and exhibit proper usage of grammar, spelling, and punctuation. The grade breakdown for this component of lab is as follows:

Completeness of forecast preparation worksheets	20%
Summary content	70%
Proper English usage in "worst forecast" summary	10%

More specific guidelines will be issued soon. *Forecasting begins Monday Sept. 29th.*

Late Assignment Policy

I expect homework to be handed in on the given due date. However, I understand that occasionally unforeseen circumstances (e.g., illness, family emergency, computer crash, etc.) may hinder your ability to meet the due date. Thus, **you have two "late days" that you may use over the course of the semester.** You may turn in one assignment two days late, or two assignments one day late each, without being penalized. (Going from Friday to Monday counts as one day instead of three.) Let me know ASAP when you think that you will use any late days.

<u>Upon using up your two late days, a late assignment will incur a 10-percentage point drop for each day it is late.</u>