

# Class Syllabus: CLIM 991 Climate Dynamics Seminar

Spring 2025, Wednesdays 1:30pm, Innovation 134

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## Regular AOES Seminars

The class does not meet regularly as such. AOES Climate Dynamics seminars are open to the public and attended by many faculty and students not in CLIM 991. They usually, but not exclusively, meet at scheduled class time, Wed 1:30. The AOES seminar schedule can be reached via the “seminars” button on <https://aoes.gmu.edu>. I expect some seminars will be in-person and some will be via Zoom.

## Class Requirements

### 1. Seminar Reports

Students must attend 12 seminars on topics related to climate dynamics and submit the name, date, location, and presenter of each seminar. To get an A, a student should include a brief (1/2 to 1 page single space) summary of each seminar. Report does not need to be a comprehensive description: I would prefer an understandable description of a few points from the seminar to a dense rephrasing of the abstract. Seminars are generally aimed at professionals and therefore a student may not understand everything in the seminar, but the description should show that you learned something from the speaker.

### 2. Presentations

Students may also **give one 20 minute one presentation** at the Climate Dynamics **Current Climate Conversations (CCC)** which will occur up a few times a semester on dates/times TBD. Each additional 15 minutes of presentation can be used to substitute for a seminar report credit. If a student put a lot of work into a report I may increase the number of report credits it equals.

There is great variation in the amount of audience participation in CCC, so be prepared for silence, rapid-fire questions and comments, and anything in between.

Tell instructor what topic you are planning to discuss before researching. **CCC items are supposed to be about news:** something happening in weather and/or climate recently, such as a storm, a drought, ENSO event, etc. Discouraged: “random topic in climate that interests me”. The ideal topic is less technical than a research seminar, may include items from the popular press, but should contain some scientific information.

Collaboration among presenters is welcome; credit will be divided among presenters. Presenters can prepare with slides, pre-chosen web pages, or both. Many useful links for the climate discussions can be found at <http://mason.gmu.edu/~bklinger/climlinks.html>.

### 3. Appropriate Seminars

All students are **expected to attend** the regular AOES Climate Dynamics seminars, in-person if possible for seminars held in-person.

Up to 4 reports may be from other seminars at GMU, other institutions, or conferences. These can include discussions such as journal club or Current Climate Conversations (if student isn't a speaker) and short presentations (such as at conferences), if bundled: 45-60 minutes of presentations (e.g., 3 fifteen-minute seminars) counts as "one seminar". Up to 2 seminars may be from between end of previous semester and start of current semester. Valid seminar topics for reports include atmospheric science, hydrology, physical or chemical oceanography, paleoclimate and of course climate dynamics. Ask instructor if you are unsure about a specific seminar.

### 4. Report Format and Due Dates

Reports are due in 3 bundles of 4 reports

- **Due dates:** Fridays, 7 Mar, 11 Apr, 2 May ([Winter 12, Spring 4, 7](#))
- email me PDF, .docx, or .txt
- One seminar/page with where/when/who/seminar-title and description
- Example of preferred file naming convention:
  - student Ed Lorenz's reports # 5 to 8: lorenz5-8.pdf.

## Some Important Mason Policies

Updated Spring 2024

### ***Electronic Communications***

Students must use their MasonLive email account to receive important University information, including communications related to this class.

### ***Disability Accommodations & Other Academic Assistance***

Under the administration of University Life, Disability Services implements and coordinates reasonable accommodations and disability-related services that afford equal access to university programs and activities. If you have a disability or other condition that may affect academic performance you should: 1) contact **Office of Disability Services** to determine and document the accommodations you need; and 2) talk with me to discuss your accommodation needs.

Office of Disability Services: <https://ds.gmu.edu/>

Office of Learning Services: <https://learningservices.gmu.edu/>

### ***Academic Integrity***

Mason has an **Honor Code**: Student Members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work. See link below for full description of the Honor Code and its enforcement.

Plagiarism means using the exact words, opinions, or factual information from another person without giving the person credit. Writers give credit through accepted documentation styles, such as parenthetical citation, footnotes, or endnotes. Paraphrased material must also be cited, using MLA or APA format. A simple listing of books or articles is not sufficient. If you have any doubts about what constitutes plagiarism, please see me.

Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions.

Office of Academic Integrity: <http://oai.gmu.edu/>

Honor Code: <https://oai.gmu.edu/full-honor-code-document/>

### ***Mason Diversity and Non-Discrimination***

George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty and staff.

An emphasis upon diversity and inclusion throughout the campus community is essential to achieve these goals. Diversity is broadly defined to include such characteristics as, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Diversity also entails different viewpoints, philosophies, and perspectives.

George Mason University is committed to providing equal opportunity and an educational and work environment free from any discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, military status (including veteran status), sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, pregnancy status or genetic information.

George Mason University is committed to a campus that is free of sexual misconduct and other acts of interpersonal violence. We encourage students and employees who believe that they have been sexually harassed, sexually assaulted or subjected to sexual or interpersonal misconduct to seek assistance and support.

Faculty members are designated as “Non-Confidential Employees,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, complicity, and retaliation to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, resources include Student Support and Advocacy Center (<https://ssac.gmu.edu>), and Counseling and Psychological Services (<https://caps.gmu.edu/>). You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730, or emailing [titleix@gmu.edu](mailto:titleix@gmu.edu).

Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: <https://diversity.gmu.edu/>  
[Mason Diversity Statement](#).  
[Non-Discrimination Policy](#)  
[Policy on Sexual Misconduct & Interpersonal Violence](#)