

Class Syllabus: CLIM 991 Climate Dynamics Seminar

Spring 2026, Wednesdays 1:30pm, Innovation 131

Instructor: Barry A. Klinger,

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Office hours: email for appointment.

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. Summary should be in outline/bullet format, and give substantive information, including **motivation**, **question** to be answered by research in talk, **methodology**, and **results**. If talk is not about individual research project, information that is included can include different points than this, as appropriate. Seminars are generally aimed at professionals and therefore a student may not understand everything in the seminar, but the notes should show that you learned something from the speaker.

2. Appropriate Seminars

All students are **expected to attend** the regular AOES Climate Dynamics seminars, in-person if possible for seminars held in-person. If you have a problem attending any seminars in-person, please inform the instructor.

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.

Note that all students in the MS and PhD programs are expected to attend most AOES Climate seminars, including thesis defenses, every semester, regardless of whether they are in CLIM 991 that semester.

3. Report Format and Due Dates

- **Due dates:** 1 week after seminar
- Submit document in Canvas: docx (preferred) or txt file
- Aim for seminar/page
- Include where/when/who/seminar-title and description
- Example of preferred file naming convention:
 - Student Jagadish Shukla report on Ed Lorenz talk: sumLorenzShukla.docx

George Mason University Policies

(Updated Fall 2025)

Please read the GMU guidelines at

<https://stearnscenter.gmu.edu/home/gmu-common-course-policies/>

for information about

- Academic Standards
- Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
- FERPA and Use of GMU Emails
- Title IX Resources and Required Reporting,