UCLouvain

2025

Iclim2280

Operational meteorology

The version you're consulting is not final. This course description may change. The final version will be published on 1st June.

8.00 credits		Q2
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Language :	English			
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve			
Prerequisites	 1) Previous knowledge : This course starts from a basic knowledge of meteorological processes. The following chapters of the text book ' Meteorology Today' - C.D. Ahrens are useful study material : • Chapter 1 : The earth and its atmosphere • Chapter 2 : Energy • Chapter 5 : Atmospheric moisture • Chapter 6 : Condensation • Chapter 7 : Stability and cloud development • Chapter 8 : Precipitation • Chapter 9 : The atmosphere in motion • Chapter 11 : Wind • Chapter 13 : Midlatitude cyclones 2) Language :The course is given in English, so a good level in listening English as a satisfactory leve in written and spoken English is required. 			
Main themes	•			
Learning outcomes	 At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to : Firstly, this module is dedicated to the interpretation and the analysis of surface and upper meteorological maps. Secondly, the goal of this module is to acquire several valuable techniques and working methods for the forecasting of the main parameters and/or weather phenomena like wind and temperature, the formation of fog and the forecasting of clouds and precipitation. At the end of the module, the students should be able to :ldentify and explain the different elements found on a surface map Perform an analysis of the atmosphere on the main standard levels ; recognize the main atmospheric patterns and follow their developments Understand and apply correctly the forecasting temperature (Tmin,Tmax,Tgrass,'), wind (speed, direction, gusts,'), clouds and precipitation (type, amount,') and the formation and formation/dissipation of fog 			
Evaluation methods	A presentation of a case study (weight is 40% of the total score). A written exam (weight is 60% of the total score) will consist of two parts : - theory (30%) - practice ' open book (30%)			
Content	 a. <u>Revision basic meteorology</u> Wind, jet stream, thermodynamics, clouds, air masses, frontal systems, pressure centres, b. <u>Analysis meteorological maps</u> Analysis of surface maps, upper maps (500 hPa, 700 hPa, 850 hPa, 925 hPa, ') and additional maps (temperature, humidity, thetaw, ') c. <u>Wind & temperature forecasting</u> Wind forecasting (direction, speed, gusts, ') Heating and cooling in the atmosphere Temperature forecasting (maximum temperature, minimum temperature, ') Exercises d. <u>Clouds & precipitation forecasting</u> Profile of clouds 			

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	Stratiform clouds				
	Convective clouds				
	· Exercise				
	e. Fog forecasting				
	Fog identification and forecasting techniques				
	Fog identification on satellite images				
	· Exercises f. <u>Practice</u>				
	Meteorological briefings				
	Case studies				
Other infos	The cours is given in English during 3 full weeks at the "Wing Meteo" based at the Beauvechain military camp. Free accommodation and cheap catering are available at the base. The instructors are members of the pemanent staff of the Wing Meteo. The cours generally takes place in April or May, according to a schedule communicated by the UCLouvain spokeperson early in the course of the first quadrimester.				
Faculty or entity in charge	GEOG				

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)							
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes			
Master [120] in Geography : Climatology	CLIM2M	8		٩			