

625-661 Climate Analysis and Modelling

Credit Points:	12.50
Level:	9 (Graduate/Postgraduate)
Dates & Locations:	2009, This subject commences in the following study period/s: Semester 1, - Taught on campus.
Time Commitment:	Contact Hours: 40 hours comprising two weeks of workshop-style lecture and practical activities 10.00am - 4.00pm daily, with breaks as appropriate to conduct. Total Time Commitment: Not available
Prerequisites:	# 625-334 Dynamical Meteorology and Oceanography (or equivalent) (can be taken concurrently) # 625-336 Modern and Future Climate (or equivalent) (can be taken concurrently)
Corequisites:	None
Recommended Background Knowledge:	None
Non Allowed Subjects:	None
Core Participation Requirements:	It is University policy to take all reasonable steps to minimise the impact of disability upon academic study and reasonable steps will be made to enhance a student's participation in the University's programs. Students who feel their disability may impact upon their participation are encouraged to discuss this with the subject coordinator and the Disability Liaison Unit.
Coordinator:	Prof Ian Simmonds
Subject Overview:	The course introduces students to the philosophy and techniques of the quantitative analysis of weather and climate data, and modelling the large-scale atmospheric system. Among the topics to be covered are the maintenance of the general circulation of the atmosphere, a discussion of the global energy balance and momentum balance, and the role of baroclinic eddies and the meridional circulation. The subject will also cover the growth of error in numerical models and its implications for predictability and climate simulation, as well as an introduction to the structure of General Circulation Models (GCMs) and an appraisal of their simulations of climate. Other parts will include an examination of the philosophy of the design and implementation of climate sensitivity experiments with GCMs. Also covered will be an introduction to the statistical foundations for the analysis of observed and simulated data (including spectral methods, Principal Component Analysis, Monte-Carlo testing, non-parametric tests, trend analysis, the t-test). Other topics to be covered will include the climatology of ozone and the ozone hole, and the mechanics and variability of the 'semi-annual oscillation' and the 'southern annular mode' and the relevance of these to climate change.
Objectives:	The objectives of this subject are to provide students with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # up to date knowledge of current research topics in climate analysis and modelling; # experience in critical synthesis and assessment of the current literature; # an appreciation of the strengths and limitations of different approaches to modelling complex data.
Assessment:	Written assignments totalling 3,000 words (70%) and a 15 minute presentation (30%). Assessment is due within six weeks of the completion of intensive lecture modules.
Prescribed Texts:	None.
Recommended Texts:	None.
Breadth Options:	This subject is not available as a breadth subject.

Fees Information:	Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees
Generic Skills:	On completion of this subject students will have gained experience in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"># developing the ability to exercise critical judgement;# rigorous and independent thinking;# adopting a problem-solving approach to complex or ambiguous questions;# high-level written report presentation skills;# oral communication and presentation skills.
Related Majors/Minors/ Specialisations:	R05 RE Master of Science - Earth Sciences