

Synoptic Meteorology I: The Principle of “Me Too”

What is meant by “me too?”

The principle of “me too” is meant to guide our discussions throughout the course of the semester, whether these discussions occur as a class, in small student-led groups, or between me and you during office hours. But, what does “me too” mean?

In its simplest form, “me too” means that if you have a question, someone else likely has a similar question – if not the same question altogether! It means that if something isn’t making sense to you, it probably isn’t making sense to someone else. The idea of “me too” is to remind you that you are not alone in your uncertainty – no matter what you may think or be led to believe! It also conveys that the cause of your uncertainty might not be you...it might be me.

Okay, so how does it impact me?

Ideally, knowing that you are not alone will encourage you to ask questions, whether that is in class, during lab, or outside of class during office hours. Think of it this way: there are two ways that I can assess whether the material is clicking with each of you, by me examining you (via labs, quizzes, tests, etc.) or by you asking me questions. It behooves each of you to have that assessment come first *prior* to the material showing up on a course assignment.

Likewise, no question is too simple or too complex to be asked. The Physical-Dynamical-Synoptic course sequence represents the pinnacle of your undergraduate studies; everything else you may do in the field after this course, whether in a job or in graduate school, will build upon the material you learn here. Therefore, not only will your grades benefit from that being the case, but your career prospects will benefit from better understanding the material!

I’m still not convinced...

Let’s add on another layer to the principle of “me too.” I strive to make this (and every) class a judgment-free zone. I do not want you to feel as though I, or your other students, will judge you (implicitly or explicitly) for any question that you may ask. Furthermore, I want to encourage each of you to be understanding of your fellow students; even if they are asking a question to which you think you know the answer, there’s likely to be a time where you are asking a question to which they know the answer! Ultimately, the goal is to break down barriers, real or imagined, that may keep you from asking questions, seeking clarification, and the like.