Oregon State University, BioResource Research Interdisciplinary Sciences (BRR)

Winter term, 1 credit

M, 50 minute sessions

Prerequisite: None

Instructor Contact: Wanda Crannell, (541) 737-2999
Agricultural and Life Sciences Building 4039
E-Mail: wanda.crannell@oregonstate.edu

Appointments made in advance; generally available M-F between 8:30 and 2:30.

BRR Director Contact: Kate Field (541) 737-1837
Nash Hall 354
E-Mail: Kate.Field@oregonstate.edu

For any student doing research, to learn to develop and evaluate poster and slide presentations containing scientific data. Students are exposed to a variety of scientific disciplines as they prepare and critique their own and other students' posters and oral presentations. Students improve written and oral communication skills. Letter grade is based on participation, improvement, and the quality of a final poster project and oral presentation. Winter term.

Course Objectives:

To learn, practice, and critique effective scientific presentation skills. Students develop presentation skills that will be essential during their entire professional careers. These skills will improve as students respond to critical feedback, and seek new ways to make scientific information understandable to scientists, peers, and the general public.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:
- Communicate science by means of a scientific poster
- Effectively give an oral scientific presentation
- Understand and critique scientific presentations and posters

Assessment/evaluation of student performance:

There are two projects for this class, a poster and a mini-seminar. The grade on each project will be worth 45% of your grade. You will be evaluated on timeliness, format, quality, effort and clarity for each project. The remaining 10% of your grade is based on your verbal and written participation in class, including in-class mini-assignments and feedback for improvements to others.

Description of Projects

Poster Assignment

Each student will design a poster on his/her research or research area. For those who have just begun the research, you may select a manuscript related to your research and develop a poster from it. Those students who are close to finishing their research should prepare a poster on an aspect of their research. The major components that should be included in the poster are title, authors, address, introduction, materials and methods, results, discussion, and literature cited. Optional components include an abstract and conclusion. You will prepare a draft poster on an 8 1/2" X 11" sheet of paper. The final poster size will be 36" tall X 42-48" wide. Poster drafts and the final poster will be evaluated by students. Each will submit a list of suggestions on how to improve the poster at the end of the review session. The final poster will also be submitted for evaluation for a grade and possible improvements. A more detailed assignment will be handed out in class.
Mini-seminar

Each student will prepare and present an 8-10 minute research seminar presentation followed by 2-5 minute question and answer session. Critique for improvement will be provided by students using written score sheet including evaluation of the following: Organization (Introduction, Hypothesis, Methodology, Results and Conclusion), Delivery (Expression, Use of audio-visual aids, Interaction with audience, Delivery within timeframe), Visual aids (Legible/Neat, Appropriate to subject Matter, Clarified Concepts), Knowledge of Subject Matter (Problem, Proposed Solution, Appropriate Methods, Conclusions supported, Quality of Response to Questions).

Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic and/or activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Review components of a poster; Observe posters in ALS</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Present a rough draft of a poster</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>MLK Holiday (electronic submissions of final poster due by Thursday)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Present posters at BRR poster session.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Slides/overheads</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Oral Presentations</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Oral Presentations</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Oral Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Dead Week</td>
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Students with Disabilities: Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Disability Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 737-4098.

Rules on Civility and Honesty:
The BioResource Research Interdisciplinary Program follows the university rules on civility and honesty. Cheating or plagiarism by students is subject to the disciplinary process outlined in the Student Conduct Regulations. Students are expected to be honest and ethical in their academic work. Academic dishonesty is defined as an intentional act of deception in one of the following areas:
* cheating- use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information or study aids
* fabrication- falsification or invention of any information
* assisting- helping another commit an act of academic dishonesty
* tampering- altering or interfering with evaluation instruments and documents
* plagiarism- representing the words or ideas of another person as one's own

Behaviors disruptive to the learning environment will not be tolerated and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action.

“The goal of Oregon State University is to provide students with the knowledge, skill and wisdom they need to contribute to society. Our rules are formulated to guarantee each student's freedom to learn and to protect the fundamental rights of others. People must treat each other with dignity and respect in order for scholarship to thrive. Behaviors that are disruptive to teaching and learning will not be tolerated, and will be referred to the Student Conduct Program for disciplinary action. Behaviors that create a hostile, offensive or intimidating environment based on gender, race, ethnicity, color, religion, age, disability, marital status or sexual orientation will be referred to the Affirmative Action Office.”

Link to Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct, i.e., cheating policies:
http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stucon/achon.htm