Course Name: Scientific Writing and Ethics

Course Number: IB 514

Course Credits: 3 credits; class meets for one two-hour session each week but an additional 6-8 hours of work each week outside of class will be required depending on the scope of the writing project.

Prerequisites: Graduate standing

Course Description: Participants will write a scientific paper based on their own research and submit it for publication. Topics to be covered include writing skills (e.g., making a good argument, choice of a journal, reviewing the literature) and ethical issues (e.g., citation, plagiarism, disclosure, data archiving, and acknowledgment).

Course content:

Week 1. Brainstorming with your advisor about a possible writing topic

Week 2. Work plan, revised abstract and outline of article

Week 3. Figures and tables for your manuscript
Week 4. Draft of results & discussion section(s)
Week 5. Final selection of target journal and draft of introduction and methods sections
Week 6. First draft
Week 7. Peer review of writing partner’s first draft
Week 8. Second draft based on writing partner’s input on first draft and revision strategies learned in class
Week 9. Library of references and properly formatted bibliography
Week 10. Final paper

Course Specific Measurable Student Learning Outcomes: Participants who complete this course will

- Recognize the components of a scientific paper.
- Review and criticize components written by other participants in the course.
- Recognize ethical issues that arise in those components.
- Prepare the components of their scientific article.
- Revise those components in light of suggestions offered by other course participants.
- Compile those components into a coherent article and submit that article to a scientific journal for publication.
Evaluation of Student Performance:

Individual Writing Assignments (50%): Each of 10 writing assignment is worth 5% of your total grade for the course. The writing assignments are INDIVIDUAL WORK and designed to help you develop a manuscript that is ready to be submitted for publication by the end of the course. You must submit your writing assignments electronically via the Blackboard course website, not via email. All assignments must be submitted electronically prior to the beginning of class on Friday of the week that they are due. A 10% penalty (of the total possible points) will be deducted from late assignments for every day or partial day that the assignment is late. Late assignments will not be accepted after 3 days.

Final Paper (20%). Each student is required to write a manuscript that is suitable for publication in a peer-reviewed journal by the end of the course. Although you should solicit input from your co-authors (including your advisor), THE WRITING MUST BE YOUR OWN. All final projects must be submitted electronically prior to the beginning of class on the last week of the quarter.

Attendance and In-Class Participation (30%). To receive credit for this portion of the course, you are expected to come to each class with hard copies of your writing assignment to engage actively in the class and working-group discussions.


Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities: Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by Disability Access Services (DAS). If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval please contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098 or at http://ds.oregonstate.edu. DAS notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations.

Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct:
http://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/sites/studentlife.oregonstate.edu/files/code_of_student_conduct.pdf