

CSBL 5077
Scientific Writing
Fall 2017

CLASS DAYS and TIME: Mon, Wed 1.00 pm to 1.50 pm

CLASSROOM: TBD

COURSE FACULTY: Rita Ghosh; Karl Rodriguez, Ratna K Vadlamudi

OFFICE LOCATION and HOURS: By appointment

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READ THIS DOCUMENT CAREFULLY - YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS CONTENTS.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course will provide students with the opportunity to develop skills in scientific writing and the presentation of research results. It will emphasize learning-by-doing-and-re-doing. Students will be required to write something every week. The capstone project for students will be to write a grant proposal and defend it in front of the class. One hour per week will be devoted to lecture and critique of published work; the other hour will consist of critique and revision of student writing by other students, as well as by the course director. Topics to be covered include: (1) fundamentals of writing clearly, (2) principles of revision, (3) effective presentation of data, (4) fundamentals of oral presentation, (5) writing/presenting to the appropriate audience, (6) developing hypothesis and specific aims, (7) writing significance/innovation sections, (8) choosing appropriate methods for experimental approach, and (9) accepting and offering constructive critiques of one's own and others' writing

Pre-requisites – None

Semester credit hours – 2 credit hours will be awarded for successful completion of the course

By the end of this course, each student should be able to:

- To read and determine gaps in the scientific knowledge of their particular field of interest
- To formulate a hypothesis, develop specific aims to test their hypothesis
- To formulate an experimental plan to address the specific aims of the proposal.
- To write a six page NIH-format pre-doctoral grant proposal
- To create a PowerPoint presentation and give a ten-minute oral overview of their proposal.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

The main teaching modalities used in this course include:

- 1) Didactic lectures**
- 2) In class discussion/writing activities**
- 3) Student Oral presentations/discussions**

Materials – None

Computer Access – Students will bring computers to work in class and for oral presentation

Reading Assignments – As listed on the class schedule

ATTENDANCE

Students are required to attend all the classes as detailed in class schedule. 2 points deducted for every unexcused absence. Please see the grading policy.

TEXTBOOKS

Required: NA

Recommended: The grant Application Writer's Hand Book; Stephen W Russell and David C. Morrison; WWW. GrantCentral.com

GRADING POLICIES AND EXAMINATION PROCEDURES

Final Proposal: 50 points

Timely submission of written assignments: 20 points*

Class participation: 10 points

Oral presentation: 10 points

Attendance: 10 points**

*1 point deducted for each late assignment submission. 1 point/day deducted for late submission of final proposal

**2 point deducted for every unexcused absence

Grading System

Include a grading scale used to determine final grades, see example below

A = 90-100% B = 80-89% C = 70-79% F = < 69%

REQUESTS FOR ACCOMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES

In accordance with policy 4.2.3, **Request for Accommodation Under the ADA and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA)**, any student requesting accommodation must submit the appropriate request for accommodation under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA, form 100). to his/her appropriate Associate Dean of their School and a copy to the ADA Coordinator. Additional information may be obtained at <http://uthscsa.edu/eoo/request/>.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PROFESSIONALISM

Any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty is subject to discipline as prescribed by the UT System Rules and Regulations of the Board of Regents. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an exam for another person, signing attendance sheets for another student, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such an act. Additional information may be obtained at <http://catalog.uthscsa.edu/generalinformation/generalacademicpolicies/academicdishonestypolicy/>

TITLE IX AT UTHSCSA

Title IX Defined:

Title of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in education. It reads “no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio’s Commitment:

University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio (UTHSCSA) is committed to maintaining a learning environment that is free from discriminatory conduct based on gender. As required by Title IX, UTHSCSA does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education programs and activities, and it encourages any student, faculty, or staff member who thinks that he or she has been subjected to sex discrimination, sexual harassment (including sexual violence) or sexual misconduct to immediately report the incident to the Title IX Director.

In an emergency, victims of sexual abuse should call 911. For non-emergencies, they may contact UPD at 210-567-2800. Additional information may be obtained at <http://students.uthscsa.edu/titleix/>

EMAIL POLICY

Every student is issued a University e-mail address and account at the time of enrollment. As a matter of University Policy, communications between students and faculty that occur using the student’s University e-mail address is considered official business. Therefore, students are expected to check their university email inboxes on a regular basis so that any announcements, instructions, or information regarding this course will be received in a timely way. Missed communications due to inadequate monitoring of incoming emails on the University’s email server will never be a valid excuse for unsatisfactory academic progress

USE OF RECORDING DEVICES

Recording of lectures and other learning activities in this course by any means (e.g., video, audio, etc.) is only permitted if approved by the instructor or required for compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Computers, tablets use is allowed only for participating in classroom activities (e.g., viewing slides presented in lecture or reading assignments or articles etc). Activities unrelated to course objectives such as using phone or texting are not allowed.

At the end of the syllabus include a detailed class schedule (see example below), which includes class dates, topic or title of lessons, reading or assignment due dates, test dates, and other important events such as holidays, etc. It is a good idea to clearly identify the class schedule as TENTATIVE, depending upon the progress of the class.

Tentative Schedule

Will be available before the start of the fall semester.