

**BIOSC 1741: VIROLOGY LAB WRITING PRACTICUM**

*Department of Biological Sciences  
University of Pittsburgh*

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<b>Meeting Times</b>	There are no formal meeting times for the class, although there will be several times that the instructor will schedule an individual meeting with each student.
<b>Office Hours</b>	By appointment – send an email to your instructor specifying 2-3 times you can meet and check back for the reply/confirmation of the appointment.
<b>Course Description &amp; Organization</b>	<p>This is a writing practicum for Virology Laboratory, BIOSC 1740. Students will prepare laboratory reports and write essays based on exercises and assignments for the companion course, BIOSC 1740.</p> <p>You will be writing two types of writing assignments:</p> <p><b>(1)</b> Difficulty papers are short (~2 pages), informal papers in which you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critique a section of an assigned journal article</li> <li>• Discuss some difficulty you are having in understanding a section of the journal article</li> <li>• You will also read and comment on your W-classmates’ difficulty papers</li> </ul> <p><b>(2)</b> Scientific reports are formal papers written in a scientific journal style and format.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You will present the experiments and results dealing with the culture-dependent and culture-independent DNA analysis</li> <li>• Some of the scientific reports may be collaborative</li> <li>• There will be peer-editing assignments in which you will edit the scientific report of a classmate, and a classmate will edit your scientific report.</li> <li>• Instructions regarding collaboration and peer-editing will be in separate handouts.</li> </ul>
<b>Course Material and CourseWeb</b>	<p>Reading assignments are from a text available online through Pitt’s library:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Day, Robert A. and Gastel, Barbara. “How to Write and Publish a Scientific Paper.” Eighth edition. Santa Barbara, California: Greenwood. 2016.</p> <p>CourseWeb will be used for announcements, assignment information, and paper submission.</p>
<b>Evaluation and Grades</b>	<p>When possible, a defined rubric will be used in grading your papers. However, writing classes always have more grading subjectivity than classes with exams. You will be provided with descriptions of papers of different qualities to give you a general idea of the criteria used for grading the different assignments. Assignments are weighted differently, with those latter in the semester like scientific reports receiving more weight than early ones like difficulty papers. The range of scores and corresponding letter grade will be the same as that used in BIOSC1740.</p>

**Academic  
Integrity**

**Cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated.** Students suspected of violating the University of Pittsburgh Policy on Academic Integrity, from the February 1974 Senate Committee on Tenure and Academic Freedom reported to the Senate Council, will be required to participate in the outlined procedural process as initiated by the instructor. This may include, but is not limited to, confiscation of the examination of any individual suspected of violating University Policy. Furthermore, no student may bring any unauthorized materials to an exam, including dictionaries and programmable calculators. A minimum sanction of a zero score for the quiz or exam will be imposed.

View the complete policy at [www.cfo.pitt.edu/policies/policy/02/02-03-02.html](http://www.cfo.pitt.edu/policies/policy/02/02-03-02.html).

**Disability  
Resources**

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890/412-624-3346 (Fax), as early as possible in the term. Disability Resources and Services will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

For more information, visit [www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/drsabout](http://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/drsabout).

**Email  
Communication**

Each student is issued a University e-mail address ([username@pitt.edu](mailto:username@pitt.edu)) upon admittance. This e-mail address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an e-mail forwarding service that allows students to read their e-mail via other service providers (e.g., Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their e-mail from their pitt.edu address to another address do so at their own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e-mail address. To forward e-mail sent to your University account, go to <http://accounts.pitt.edu>, log into your account, click on **Edit Forwarding Addresses**, and follow the instructions on the page. Be sure to log out of your account when you have finished.

(For the full E-mail Communication Policy, go to [www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/policy/09/09-10-01.html](http://www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/policy/09/09-10-01.html).)