

## SCIENCE COMMUNICATIONS – BIOSC 2055 (Predoc Fellowships and Grants)

Tia-Lynn Ashman & Jeffrey Brodsky

Fall Term, 2015: Tuesdays, 1 PM – 2:50 PM, 219B Langley Hall

- September 1           What are the key elements of a successful grant proposal?  
*We will discuss the key elements that are found in successful grant Proposals—brief readings will be provided beforehand*
- September 8           “The Pitch”—Give the background and justify the importance  
*in 5 minutes* of a proposed research project.  
*Verbally present the proposal: Why is it important to study this problem?*
- September 8           National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program  
Information Session featuring Dr. Susan Finger, CMU Professor of Civil  
and Environmental Engineering  
5 PM to 6:30 PM in the Cathedral of Learning (Room 1228)
- September 15           A refined pitch: What is (are) the hypothesis(es)?  
*Verbally present your fleshed-out, better developed pitch, and  
succinctly state your hypothesis/hypotheses*  
(A written report/outline will include your overall hypothesis, goal  
and hypotheses for each aim)

**DUE in dropbox on September 14 by midnight**

- September 22\*           Present a written outline of the experimental design: For each Specific  
Aim/Goal, state the revised hypothesis and--in brief--the experimental  
plan and controls.  
*Make the connection! Do the experiments test the hypothesis?  
How will the results allow you to accept or reject the hypotheses?*

**DUE in dropbox on September 21 by midnight**

- September 29           The Broader Impact section  
*Discuss key elements of successful Broader Impact sections*

- ON YOUR OWN*  
(but by October 6)           Friendly review session—peer review of a draft of the full  
written proposal (the written draft will also be provided to the  
instructors via dropbox.)  
*Proposals and comments will be shared amongst groups of students*

**Revised, final proposal DUE in dropbox on October 9 by midnight**

October 13 Final Critique Session  
A mock panel review: Instructor and student-led critiques of other students' proposals (who will not be present)  
*Each student will receive a summary critique of their proposal*

**Two written/printed out reviews are DUE in class on October 13**

October 20 Discussion and Q&A session with past, successful NSF grant recipients  
Personal Statement section & Broader Impact

October 26 Applications are due at NSF

[http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=nsf15597](http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf15597)

*\*Discipline-specific break-out sessions: MCDB 219A Langley Hall; E&E, 219B Langley Hall*

**Course Grading Breakdown:**

40% class participation  
40% written proposal  
20% written reviews of 2 peer proposals

**Course Grading Policy:**

Class participation includes contributing to discussions and in-class presentations.

Proposals will be assessed and points (40% of the grade) will be assigned equally based on five criteria: (1) research motivation, (2) hypotheses, (3) appropriateness of experiments, (4) qualifications of the PI, and (5) broader impacts.

Reviews will be assessed and points will be assigned (20% of the grade) based on a balanced, critical, and thorough evaluation of intellectual merit and broader impacts.

Late work will receive only partial credit, prorated on a daily basis (10% deduction per day)

*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, 216 William Pitt Union, 4126487890/4123837355 (FTY), as early as possible in the term. Disability Resources and Services will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.*

**Email Communication Policy:** *Each student is issued a University email address ([username@pitt.edu](mailto:username@pitt.edu)) upon admittance. This email address may be used by the University for*

*official communication with students. Students are expected to read email 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 email forwarding service that allows students to read their email via other service providers (e, g., Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their email 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 email address. To forward email sent to your University account, go to <http://accounts.pitt.edu/logintoyouraccount.click> on Edit Forwarding Addresses, and follow the instructions on the page. Be sure to log out of your account when you have finished.*

**Academic Integrity Policy:** *Students in this course will be expected to comply with the University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity: Student Obligations. Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. This may include the confiscation of an examination of any individual suspected of violating University Policy. A minimum sanction of a zero score for the quiz, exam or paper will be imposed.*