

BIOSC 2057, SCIENCE COMMUNICATION: PAPERS

Fall of 2015

Instructors:

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	Office hours:

Class Meetings:

Mondays from 10-11:50am,
Langley Hall A214.

Class Schedule:

08/31/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The purpose and structure of a scientific paper. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Aims and requirements * Formats: research report and review article * Field and lay audience * Peer review process * Manuscript structure * Bibliography * Plagiarism - The review process. - Abstract 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cover page of your paper. Include title, authors, key words, subtitle. - Draft an abstract for your paper (300 word limit). - Start work on Materials and Methods. - Optional: Zeiger book: Section 1 and Section 2. Chapters 5, 10, 11.
09/14/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Peer review discussion of titles and abstracts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Why were the studies done? * What are their objectives? * How were the studies done? * What results were obtained? * Significance of the results? - Figures and figure legends. - Results. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare 3-4 figures with legends for discussion on 09/21. - Write a brief results section for each figure. - Optional: Zeiger book: Chapter 6.
09/28/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Peer review discussion of figures, legends and short results section. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Are the results relevant to a specific question? * Does the manuscript include methodology, conditions and findings in control and treatment samples? * Is statistical analysis present? * Is the description of direction and magnitude of changes clearly presented? * Is the data format consistent? * Are the figures and tables labeled consistently and consecutively? - Structuring the Introduction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Write an Introduction for your paper. This will be discussed 09/28. - Continue to generate figures and legends. - Optional: Zeiger book: Chapter 4.
10/13/15: Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Peer review discussion of Introductions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * What is the key question in the field? What needs to be answered and why is the problem important? * What is the main question of the manuscript? * What is the solution proposed in the manuscript? * What do we get to learn? - Discuss any new figures, legends, and results. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Write a Discussion for your paper for discussion on 10/05. - Optional: Zeiger book: Chapter 7.

	- Structuring the Discussion.	
10/26/15	- Peer review of Discussions. * Did the results provide answers and explanations to a testable hypothesis? * If the results differed from previously shown data, how it is resolved? * What are the hypotheses that are supported, rejected or can not be evaluated with confidence? * We the findings discussed in the context of other data and models? * What did we learn? * Where will we go next? - Cover letter, - Acknowledgements, - References.	-Write a cover letter and Acknowledgments section. -Complete Materials and Methods. -Optional: Zeiger book: Chapters 8 and 9.
11/09/15	- Peer review of Materials and Methods. * Is the specific description of a sample (organism), treatment, conditions of data collection and measurements present? * How were data presented: mean vs median, SEM vs SD etc. * Which statistical tests were performed? * Which value of p was used to judge statistical significance? -Editing, revising, rewording, and more revising.	- Complete draft manuscript.
11/23/15	- Discussion of final drafts. - Exciting conclusion.	- Peer review manuscripts. - Write a review for your assigned manuscripts.
12/07/15	- Turn in peer reviews of manuscripts.	

Grading:

Good grade depends on a timely submission of manuscripts for peer review (10%), high quality of manuscripts (40%), active participation in peer review process (25%) and active participation in the in-class discussion (25%).

University policies:

- 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. 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.

- 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.

- Each student is issued a University e-mail address (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.

- Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of Turnitin.com page service is subject to the Usage Policy and Privacy Pledge posted on the Turnitin.com site.