

Environmental Studies 157 – Writing in the Natural Sciences

Course Syllabus Summer Session II 2019

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Office Hours: 1230-130pm Tuesday & Thursday (or by appointment)

All course materials and assignments will be available via Canvas (log in at canvas.ucsc.edu to access Canvas).

Contact me if you encounter difficulty with access or using Canvas.

No text required but here are some books that might be helpful as resources and from which we are using some material:

Writing Science How to write papers that get cited and proposals that get funded by Joshua Schimel (2012 Oxford University Press)

A Short Guide to Writing about Biology by Jan A. Pechenik (1987, Little Brown and Company)

The Master Commutator's Handbook by Teresa Erickson and Tim Ward (2015 Changemakers Books)

Grading: Your overall course grade will be based on the following: In class participation: 30%, seven written homework assignments 45%, peer-review assignments 15%, Oral presentation 10%

Late assignments: Non-excused late assignments will receive an automatic 5% deduction on the total possible score with an additional 1% deduction for each additional day late.

Extra-credit: Students will be able to earn extra credit equal to 2% of their final grade for attending all classes **on time**, participating in class exercises, attending lectures, and having no late assignments.

Science writing requires substantial peer-review and revision. Participation and peer-review points will be deducted from any student not supportive and constructive in their feedback – both written and verbally.

Week 1:

July 30th: Introduction & course logistics, overview of the basics of scientific writing, in class exercise: writing a good abstract.

Writing assignment 1: Four paragraph summary of journal article.

August 1st: Peer reviewing: expectations and exercise, peer review of writing assignment 1, exercise on writing clearly and concisely

Writing assignment 2: convert 4 paragraph summary into one paragraph abstract (scientific) and one paragraph summary (general)

Science writer guest lecture: Kim Smuga-Otto

Week 2:

August 6th: Goal of personalized writing assignment and overview of natural reserve exercise and writing assignment 3.

Field exercise: conservation issues on the UCSC natural reserve with Alex Jones – walk to reserve at 930 am.

Writing assignment 3: three paragraph pitch of project to address conservation issue on UCSC reserve.

August 8th: Library research exercise and tips for finding sources, revising your writing, oral presentation overview and expectations, check-in about writing assignment 3, assign personalized writing assignment

Week 3:

August 13th: Peer-review of writing assignment 3, personalized writing assignment (work in groups and with me)

Writing assignment 4: outline and one paragraph summary of personalized writing assignment.

August 15th: peer-review of outline and one paragraph summary of personalized written assignment 4 (due by 5pm Aug 15th), check in about personalized writing assignment

Guest lecture Doreen Finkelstein – communicating complicated concepts

Writing assignment 5: complete draft of personalized writing assignment

Week 4:

August 20th: communicating science to a general audience, in class exercise, check in about personalized writing assignment

Writing assignment 6: updated draft of personalized writing assignment

August 22nd: translate personalized writing assignment to 3-4 sentence pitch to a foundation (general audience) due end of class (work in groups), oral presentations (work in groups)

Week 5:

August 27th: peer review of oral presentations (need to have draft slides ready), check in about personalized writing assignment

Writing assignment 7: final draft of personalized writing assignment

August 29th: oral presentations (5 minutes each) on personalized writing assignment

Important 2019 deadlines and resources:

Session 2:

Drop: Monday, August 5

Request for "W": Friday, August 16

Neither Summer Session nor instructors drop students for non-attendance or non-payment. Students must drop themselves. Dropping results in full tuition reversal/refund. Withdraw posts a W for the grade and full tuition is charged (no refund).

For all dates and deadlines, including 'change of grade option' (P/NP) and grades due, here is the summer academic calendar: <https://summer.ucsc.edu/studentlife/index.html>

For questions about dropping, requesting a W grade for a course, or withdrawing from the summer quarter, email summer@ucsc.edu.

Support Resources:

Disabilities Resource Center and Learning Support Services and CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services) are open and active all summer. Please let me know if you need help accessing any of these support services.

Academic Advising:

Academic advising is offered all summer; hours will vary by college. Students can contact their colleges to find out when advising is being offered or visiting advising.ucsc.edu.

DRC Accommodations:

The Disability Resources Center reduces barriers to inclusion and full participation for students with disabilities by providing support to individually determine reasonable academic accommodations. If you have questions or concerns about exam accommodations or any other disability-related matter, please contact the DRC office, located in Hahn 125 or at 831-459-2089 or drc@ucsc.edu.

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic integrity is the cornerstone of a university education. Academic dishonesty diminishes the university as an institution and all members of the university community. It tarnishes the value of a UCSC degree. All members of the UCSC community have an explicit responsibility to foster an environment of trust, honesty, fairness, respect, and responsibility. All members of the university community are expected to present as their original work only that which is truly their own. All members of the community are expected to report observed instances of cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty in order to ensure that the integrity of scholarship is valued and preserved at UCSC.

In the event a student is found in violation of the UCSC Academic Integrity policy, he or she may face both academic sanctions imposed by the instructor of record and disciplinary sanctions imposed either by the provost of his or her college or the Academic Tribunal convened to hear the case. Violations of the Academic Integrity policy can result in dismissal from the university and a permanent notation on a student's transcript. For the full policy and disciplinary procedures on academic dishonesty, students and instructors should refer to the [Academic Integrity page](#) at the Division of Undergraduate Education.

Please also refer to posted document on canvas "Avoiding Plagiarism"

Title IX:

The university cherishes the free and open exchange of ideas and enlargement of knowledge. To maintain this freedom and openness requires objectivity, mutual trust, and confidence; it requires the absence of coercion, intimidation, or exploitation. The principal responsibility for maintaining these conditions must rest upon those members of the university community who exercise most authority and leadership: faculty, managers, and supervisors. The university has therefore instituted a number of measures designed to protect its community from sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, and other related prohibited conduct. [Information about the Title IX Office](#), the [online reporting link](#), applicable campus [resources](#), reporting responsibilities, the [UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment](#) and the UC Santa Cruz Procedures for Reporting and Responding to Reports of Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment can be found at titleix.ucsc.edu.

The Title IX/Sexual Harassment Office is located at 105 Kerr Hall. In addition to the [online reporting option](#), you can contact the Title IX Office by calling 831-459-2462.