

**Environmental Studies 157 – Writing in the Natural Sciences**  
**Course Syllabus Summer Session 2020**

Instructor: Myra Finkelstein, E-mail: myraf@ucsc.edu

Available for zoom office hours by appointment

**All course materials will be available via Canvas (log in at [canvas.ucsc.edu](https://canvas.ucsc.edu) to access 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 course grade will be based on the following:

40%: Writing assignments

20%: In class activities - participation in synchronistic activities and exercises during lecture

15%: Canvas quizzes (online exercises)

15%: Peer-review assignments

10%: Oral presentation

**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 completing all assignments **on time**, and participating in synchronistic activities and exercises. Excused absences or late assignments will not affect extra credit eligibility.

*I recognize that every student has a different situation and that situations may change during the course. Your mental health is a priority and I am here to help support you become a better writer. If you are unable to complete assignments, attend zoom lectures, or are having other difficulties please just let me know. An advantage of a small summer class is that we can work together to make sure you can achieve your goals and I can modify assignments as needed. Just let me know what you need to so I can help you!*

Class meets at 9am via zoom: <https://ucsc.zoom.us/j/96152950188?pwd=Vk5uWDRNZVRWazNITEs5WFpQSEpZz09>

Meeting ID: 961 5295 0188, Password: writing

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## **Week 1: Introduction and basics of writing for the natural sciences**

July 28<sup>th</sup> in class activities:

- Introduction and course logistics
- Revision, revision, revision
- Introduce writing assignment 1
- Writing with less words, 5pts.
- Martha Brown - Reflections from a professional writer - 11-1130 am, 10pts.

**Writing assignments:**

- Writing assignment 1, due on 7/29, 5pts.
- Revised writing assignment 1, due on 7/31, 5pts.

**Canvas quiz assignments:**

- Editing exercise week 1, due on 7/31, 5pts.

## **Week 2: Writing about science for a general audience**

August 4<sup>th</sup> in class activities:

- Introduce writing assignment 2
- How to be a good peer-reviewer
- Introduce writing assignment 3
- Citation exercise, 5pts.
- Alex Jones introduction to the UCSC reserve- 10-11 am in class activity, 10pts.

**Writing assignments:**

- Writing assignment 2, due 8/4, 5pts.
- Writing assignment 3, due 8/9, 10 pts.

**Peer- review assignments:**

- Peer-review of writing assignment 2, due 8/6, 5pts.

**Canvas quiz assignments:**

- Editing exercise week 2, due 8/7, 5pts.
- Shorten paragraph to 3 sentence summary, due 8/7, 5pts.

**Week 3: - Personalized writing assignment****August 11<sup>th</sup> in class activities:**

- Introduce writing assignment 4
- Check in for personalized writing assignment, 10 pts.

**Writing assignments:**

- Writing assignment 4, due 8/12, 5pts. **Late assignments will not be peer-reviewed**

**Peer- review assignments:**

- Peer review of writing assignment 4, due 8/14, 5pts. **No late peer reviews accepted**

**Canvas quiz assignments:**

- Telling a story, due 8/14, 5pts.
- Telling a story, continued, due 8/14, 5pts.

**Week 4 – Communicating complicated concepts****August 18<sup>th</sup> in class activities:**

- Introduce writing assignment 5
- Doreen Finkelstein guest lecture 10-11am, 10pts.

**Writing assignments:**

- Writing assignment 5, due 8/19, 10pts. **Late assignments will not be peer-reviewed**
- Writing assignment 6, due 8/21, 5pts.

**Peer- review assignments:**

- Peer review of writing assignment 5, due 8/20, 5pts. **No late peer reviews accepted**

**Canvas quiz assignments:**

- Graphing exercise, due 8/21, 5pts.

**Week 5: Presentation of writing assignment of your choice****August 25<sup>th</sup> in class activities:**

- Oral presentation, 10 pts (10% of course grade)

**Writing assignments:**

- Writing assignment 7, due 8/28, 10 pts.

## Important Summer Session Remote 2020 Deadlines:

Session 2:

Drop: Monday, August 3

Request for "W": Friday, August 14

Summer is unique. **You will not be dropped for non-attendance or non-payment.** You must drop yourself. Dropping before the deadline results in a 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](mailto:summer@ucsc.edu).

## DRC Remote 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. Operations continue via remote appointments. If you have questions or concerns about exam accommodations or any other disability-related matter, email the DRC Schedulers at [drc@ucsc.edu](mailto:drc@ucsc.edu) for an appointment.

## Small Group Tutoring

Small Group Tutoring (SGT) supports students academically to advance educational equity by designing inclusive learning environments outside of the classroom. In SGT, you can expect the Tutor to facilitate cooperative group activities designed to have students work together on the course content and develop study skills for the course. SGT is offered at least three times each week for the entire quarter. The Tutor is an undergraduate student who took the class, did well, and is trained to facilitate group sessions to focus on students' needs to succeed in the course. SGT is open to all students enrolled in the class and they must sign up on our online system: TutorTrac. When students sign up for SGT, they are committing to attend every week. For Summer 2020, students can begin signing up for tutoring on **Monday, June 22rd** and tutoring will begin **Wednesday, June 24th**. Students only have to sign up once for tutoring and their appointments will repeat weekly. Sign-ups will close on **Friday, August 14th** for all Summer Session Sign-Ups. This means that after **August 14th**, no new students can sign up for tutoring.

Want SGT to be successful for you? Bring your books, lecture notes, questions, and be open to working collaboratively with your peers. You can sign up using this link: <https://ucsc.go-redrock.com/tracweb40/NoAccess.4sp?errText=insufficient%20credentials%20to%20view%20content>

You can also find the link on our website: <https://lss.ucsc.edu/index.html>

## 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.

**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](http://titleix.ucsc.edu).

The Title IX Office is actively responding to reports and requests for consultation. If you are not currently working with someone in the office and want to make a report/request a consult, you can expect the fastest response by using our [online reporting link](#).

For more information please visit the [Title IX Operations under Covid-19](#) page