Course Syllabus – COMM 450

Course Information

Course Number: COMM 450 FA20
Course Name: The Science of Writing Science
Term: FA 2020
Start Date: 09/08/2020
End Date: 12/11/2020
Credits: 3.0

Meeting Days / Times

Tuesdays and Fridays, 1:00-2:30pm PT / 4:00-5:30pm ET
(See Calendar in Canvas for the most up-to-date schedule.)

Location

Online via Zoom

Course Managers

Role	Last Name	First Name	Email Address
Instructor	Teyton	Luc	lteyton@scripps.edu
TA	Sabandal	Martin	jsabanda@scripps.edu

Course Description

This course is intended for students to acquire the necessary skills to be proficient in writing communication. All aspects of writing will be addressed from communication with the administration and your peers, to writing manuscripts and grants. Most of the classes will be interactive and participatory. A short 20-minute introduction will be necessary for some of the classes. Everybody will progress in this required skill of the scientist.

Program Learning Outcomes

By the end of the program, students will have accomplished these objectives:
PLO1: Critique peer-reviewed publications
PLO2: Understand approaches and methodologies needed for complex scientific questions
PLO3: Knowledgeable of a wide array of technical research skills used in drug discovery
PLO4: Possess strong communication skills

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:
CLO1: Understand that writing is an indispensable skill in science.
CLO2: Learn the basic principle to communicate their science in a written form.
CLO3: Master the iterative process of writing and editing.
CLO4: Acquire the written communication skills necessary to communicate with their peers, the local, NIH, and organisms' administrations.

Background Preparation (Prerequisites)

N/A

Course Materials

Useful to Consult: Heard (2016). *The scientist's guide to writing: How to write more easily and effectively throughout your scientific career*. ISBN: 978-0691170220.
Useful to Consult: Schimel (2011). *Writing science: How to write papers that get cited and proposals that get funded*. ISBN: 978-0199760244.

Course Requirements

Each of the four sections will have a homework assignment consisting of a short write-up.

- Section #1: Introduction to writing
- Section #2: Other matters
- Section #3: Writing a scientific paper
- Section #4: Writing a grant

Attendance Statement

Students are expected to attend all classes. Students who are unable to attend class must seek permission for an excused absence from the course director or teaching assistant. Unapproved absences or late attendance for three or more classes may result in a lower grade or an "incomplete" for the course. If a student has to miss a class, he or she should arrange to get notes from a fellow student and is strongly encouraged to meet with the teaching assistant to obtain the missed material.

Scientific and Professional Ethics

The work you do in this course must be your own. Feel free to build on, react to, criticize, and analyze the ideas of others but, when you do, make it known whose ideas you are working with. You must explicitly acknowledge when your work builds on someone else's ideas, including ideas of classmates, professors, and authors you read. If you ever have questions about drawing the line between others' work and your own, ask the course professor who will

give you clear guidance. Exams must be completed independently. Any collaboration on answers to exams, unless expressly permitted, may result in an automatic failing grade and possible expulsion from the Graduate Program.

Technology Requirements and Support

For issues related to Canvas, please contact the Graduate Office by email at: gradprgm@scripps.edu or by phone at: 858-784-8469.

Course Grading

Grading is in accordance with the academic policies of the Skaggs Graduate School. The breakdown of grading is as follows:

- Homework for sections 1 and 2: 30%
- Homework for sections 3 and 4: 70%

Letter Grade	Percent	GPA	Description
A	93-100	4.00	Outstanding achievement. Student performance demonstrates full command of the course subject matter and evinces a high level of originality and/or creativity that far surpasses course expectations.
A-	90-92	3.67	Excellent achievement. Student performance demonstrates thorough knowledge of the course subject matter and exceeds course expectations by completing all requirements in a superior manner.
B+	87-89	3.33	Very good work. Student performance demonstrates above-average comprehension of the course subject matter and exceeds course expectations on all tasks as defined in the course syllabus. There is notable insight and originality.
B	83-86	3.00	Satisfactory work. Student performance meets designated course expectations and demonstrates understanding of the course subject matter at an acceptable level.
B-	80-82	2.67	Marginal work. Student performance demonstrates incomplete understanding of course subject matter. There is limited perception and originality.
C+	77-79	2.33	Unsatisfactory work. Student performance demonstrates incomplete and inadequate understanding of course subject matter. There is severely limited or no perception or originality. Course will not count toward degree.

C	73-76	2.00	Unsatisfactory work. Student performance demonstrates incomplete and inadequate understanding of course subject matter. There is severely limited or no perception or originality. Course will not count toward degree.
P	73-100	0.00	Satisfactory work. Student performance demonstrated complete and adequate understanding of course subject matter. Course will count toward degree.
F	0-72	0.00	Unacceptable work/Failure. Student performance is unacceptably low level of knowledge and understanding of course subject matter. Course will not count toward degree. Student may continue in program only with permission of the Dean.
I		0.00	Incomplete is assigned when work is of passing quality but is incomplete for a pre-approved reason. Once an incomplete grade is assigned, it remains on student's permanent record until a grade is awarded.
W		0.00	Withdrew from the course with Dean's permission beyond the second week of the term.

- All courses will be recorded and maintained in the student's permanent academic record; only courses that apply towards the degree will appear on the academic transcript. Non-credit or audited courses will not appear on the transcript.
- 4 core courses taken for a letter grade (pass = B- or higher for a core course)
- 2 elective courses taken pass/fail (pass = A, B, C for an elective)

Because students are encouraged to take electives outside their area of expertise, a "C" letter grade is passing.

Course Schedule:

Date	Details
Mon Sep 7, 2020	Labor Day (No Class)
Tue Sep 8, 2020	Introduction to Writing I: Generalities, Science vs. Literature, One of the Tools of Communication
Fri Sep 11, 2020	Graduate Student Symposium (No Class)
Tue Sep 15, 2020	Introduction to Writing II: Generalities, The Non-scientific Letters of Science, Time Management and Procrastination
Fri Sep 18, 2020	Introduction to Writing III: Generalities, The Letter of Support, The Submission Letter, The Collaboration Letter
Tue Sep 22, 2020	Writing for Non-scientific Audiences
Fri Sep 25, 2020	Reading and Editing
Tue Sep 29, 2020	Building a Manuscript I
Fri Oct 2, 2020	Building a Manuscript II
Tue Oct 6, 2020	Referencing Manuscripts
Fri Oct 9, 2020	Answering Reviews
Tue Oct 13, 2020	Building a Short Grant I
Fri Oct 16, 2020	Building a Short Grant II
Tue Oct 20, 2020	Building a Short Grant III
Fri Oct 23, 2020	Resubmitting a Short Grant
Tue Oct 27, 2020	Building a Long Grant I
Fri Oct 30, 2020	Building a Long Grant II
Tue Nov 3, 2020	Building a Long Grant III
Fri Nov 6, 2020	Building a Long Grant IV
Tue Nov 10, 2020	Resubmitting a Long Grant
Fri Nov 13, 2020	Subcontracts and Consortium Grants I
Tue Nov 17, 2020	Subcontracts and Consortium Grants II
Thu Nov 26, 2020	Thanksgiving Holiday (No Class)
Fri Nov 27, 2020	Thanksgiving Holiday (No Class)