Scientific writing and presentations
Fall 2013

CONS608G / MEES608G / BIOL608R
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Office hours: by appointment

Course meeting: Thurs. 3:00-4:30pm, BPS 1208

Course overview: This seminar is a space for friendly peer reviews. We will exchange abstracts and share presentations and provide one another with constructive feedback. Additionally, we will do in-class writing exercises and discuss the qualities of good writing and presentations. Through practice and iterative revisions, your writing and presentations will improve markedly!

Course objectives:
For students to be able to write a scientific abstract and scientific presentations for submission at an academic conference.


Grading:
30% Attendance
50% 5 Assignments (Abstracts 1, Abstract 2, Poster, Graphs, PPT presentation)
20% Feedback provided to your peers – this will be peer evaluated

Schedule and deadlines:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignment – due in class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(0)</td>
<td>9/5</td>
<td>Jewish new year – NO CLASS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9/12</td>
<td>What makes good writing?</td>
<td>BEFORE CLASS: Schimel Ch. 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>9/19</td>
<td>Writing abstracts</td>
<td>Schimel Ch. 2-3</td>
<td>Abstracts 1: data paper, review paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9/26</td>
<td>Writing about your own work</td>
<td>Schimel Ch. 4-6</td>
<td>Abstract 2: your own work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>10/3</td>
<td>Re-writing your own work</td>
<td>Schimel Ch. 7-9</td>
<td>Revise Abstract 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>10/10</td>
<td>Palatable posters</td>
<td>Schimel 10-12</td>
<td>Poster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>10/17</td>
<td>Revising posters</td>
<td>Schimel</td>
<td>Revise poster</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Abstracts 1:

From the provided reading list, choose: 1) a review paper, 2) a data paper. Do not read the paper’s abstract before doing the assignment! After reading papers except the abstract, write your own abstracts to summarize each the paper. Word limit: 250 words per article. You may read the abstract after you finish writing if you like.

### Abstract 2:

Write an abstract that describes a piece of scholarly work that you have done or are doing. If you are not currently working on anything, select something that you worked hard on in the past, such as an undergraduate thesis project or major research paper. Summarize the work in a 250 word abstract. Your target is an international conference (i.e. a broad audience within your field).
Helpful writing acronyms

S: Simple
U: Unexpected
C: Concrete
C: Credible
E: Emotional
S: Stories

Narrative

OCAR:
O: Opening
C: Challenge
A: Action
R: Resolution

ABCDE:
A: Action
B: Background
D: Development
C: Climax
E: Ending

LDR:
L: Lead
D: Development
R: Resolution