

Spring, 2014

CHSC 6350 (CRN 27368) Scientific Writing

Credit Hours: 3.0 credit hours graduate CHS/SON program.

Faculty:



H. Sabrina Kao, PhD, RN, Associate Professor
Office: CHS/SON Room 335
Office Hours: 12-1:50PM Thursdays before the class or by appointment.
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This is a in-classroom based course.
Location: classroom building C202
Time: Thursdays 2-4:50PM.

Course Description:

Despite its central importance in our careers, writing for publication is rarely a focus of study. As a result, writing does not become an integrated part of our daily work as researchers and academicians. "Scientific Writing" is designed for students who are just beginning to write for publication, and also for those of you who have already begun to publish. This course will attempt to lessen the mystique associated with writing, and develop your sense of writing for publication as a skill, like any other, that easily improves with structure and practice. For those of you who have already begun to publish, this course will provide you with a safe and supportive environment in which to explore and develop your writing ability.

This course is distinguished from other currently offered writing courses on campus by its particular emphasis on interpreting empirical scientific literature, communicating empirical results, and evaluating quantitative research methods and design. This course was designed to serve the publication needs of graduate students who are working on empirical research projects in the health sciences.

Over the course of the semester you will work on at least one manuscripts, on your own time, writing everyday and recording your progress in the provided logbook. Classes will be used to discuss your progress in small groups, problem-solve with the class, discuss and consider issues regarding effective writing, receive review of your writing from peers, and for learning to critique other's work, as outlined below in the course syllabus.

Course Goals :

This course will help you to:

1. DEVELOP a clear understanding of the contents of each section of a scientific manuscript.
2. DEVELOP the habit of writing every day.
3. DEVELOP a writing style that is precise, concise, clear, and fluid.
4. DEVELOP your skills as a reviewer of others' writing.
5. COMPLETE one manuscript for submission to a professional journal or reviewing committee.

Course Requirements:

1. Write daily and record your writing in your logbook for each day of the semester.
2. Complete all reading and writing assignments.
3. Attend and participate in every class.
4. Complete and submit for publication at least one manuscript. NOTE: With the instructor's permission, the completion and submission of a portion of thesis/dissertation proposal (i.e., introduction, significance or literature review) can substitute for the submission of a manuscript for publication.

Required Texts (you can get it via Amazon or local bookstores; I did not order it from campus bookstore):

1. Alley, M. (1996). *The Craft of Scientific Writing* (3rd ed.). NY: Springer.
Note: The 4th edition will come out after summer 2015, you could choose a used 3rd edition for a cheaper price.
2. American Psychological Association (2009). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.
Note: You may already have APA Manual 6th edition from other course requirement; other electronic quick reference, such as <http://citationmachine.net>; <http://www.apastyle.org/learn/index.aspx>; <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/>. However, websites may have unintentional, minor errors so APA manual is the ultimate APA standard.

Grading:

Your grade in this course will be based on completion of your writing logbook and class activities, class attendance and participation (50%), and completion of at least one manuscript (50%) or with prior approval, a part of thesis/dissertation proposal.

Grading scale	Requirements	%	Content
90-100 A	Logbook	50%	Write everyday; Take and give constructive comments, feedback and/or responses in promoting learning
80-89 B	Class Activities, Class		
70-79 C	Attendance &		
60-69 D	Participation		
<60 F	Completion of one manuscript for a specific journal	50%	Identify an appropriate journal outlet for your manuscript and write the manuscript toward the specific requirement of that journal

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY STATEMENT:

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation as stated in the UTEP handbook of Operating Procedures. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP and/or SON for such action.

In the present day of open accessible information on the internet, be knowledgeable of the use of stated information and provide the appropriate citation. There is a major difference between paraphrasing, use of direct wording (quotes) and plagiarism. Plagiarism is an act of academic dishonesty.

DISABLED STUDENT STATEMENT:

In Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1972 and the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990m, if a student needs an accommodation to meet course requirements, the Office of Disabled Student

Services, located at UTEP, needs to be contacted. If a student has a condition which may affect one's ability to perform successfully in this course, the student is encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the course faculty and/or the Director of Disabled Student Services (915-747-5148) for information about the ADA and the rights one has as a UTEP student with a disability.

Students with disabilities have the right to equal access and opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the course faculty and the Disabled Student Services Office at the University.