

Scientific Writing
BSPM/SOCR 530, 1 credit, Spring 2013
Wednesdays 1 pm, E5 Plant Science Bldg

Instructors:

Bill Jacobi, C202 Plant Science, william.jacobi@colostate.edu, 491-6927
Paul Ode, C210 Plant Science, paul.ode@colostate.edu, 491-4127
Mark Brick, C113 Plant Science, mark.brick@colostate.edu, 491-6551
Neil Hansen, C138 Plant Science, neil.hansen@colostate.edu, 491-6804

Student Learning Objective: Students will develop the skills necessary to prepare a complete scientific journal article based on findings from their individual research project. Students will follow the basic outline for scientific journal articles applicable to plant, soil, genetic, ecological, entomological, pathological and related sciences. They will gain experience in writing, editing, and literature assessment through evaluations provided by the instructors as well as their peers.

Grading: Grading will be S/U (satisfactory/unsatisfactory) for all students in the class. A satisfactory grade will be earned if the student, (1 turns in each assignment, (2 edits and turns in a completed manuscript suitable for a journal, containing all the following components (title, abstract, introduction, methods, results, tables, figures, discussion, literature cited), and (3 actively participates in group activities including discussions and editing fellow student's writing assignments.

Student Enrollment: Maximum enrollment is 16 (4 per faculty member) and minimum will be 8 students.

Course Material: All handouts are available on RAMCT. Please print out the appropriate handout prior to class. A great resource is a short book on writing that is on line at the library. **A Guide to Scientific Writing** at <http://0-www.springerlink.com/catalog.library.colostate.edu/content/t477q1/>
We will list sections you should review for the topic being covered each week.

Assignments: All assignments should be submitted electronically as a word file to **RAMCT by 8 pm Sunday Night prior to the week the assignment is due.** The instructor and student group members need two days to read them before the class meeting. All pages should be numbered and all text should be double spaced. The font should be Times New Roman – 12 pt. Each student should engage the active participation of their advisor(s) in each assignment so the scientific quality of the writing is being edited by the advisor as we move through the assignments. The instructors will assume that each assignment will be edited by the student's advisor before the final completed manuscript is turned in.

Date	Topic
Jan 23	Course introduction (Jacobi) Choosing a working title and journal (Hansen) Developing an outline (Brick) Assignment 1: Title -Select a title and journal and develop outline (Due Jan 30)
Jan 30	Describing Materials & Methods (Jacobi) Review: journal choice, title and start on outlines Assignment 2: Materials & Methods section (Due Feb 27)
Feb 6	Conducting a literature search. Meet in Morgan Library room 175. (Allison Level) Assignment 3: References: Submit a list of references relevant to your research in a standard, and uniform format (Due Feb 13)

- Feb 13 Review: Outline and reference list (Instructors and student groups)
- Feb 20 Reporting your Results, Figures, Tables and Appendix (Ode)
Assignment 4: Write results and make all tables and figures (Due March 27)
- Feb 27 Review: Methods
- March 6 Ethical considerations: Plagiarism, authorship, proprietary information, how to cite references and acknowledge contributions of others (Hansen)
Review: Methods continued
Assignment 5: Develop your list of authors and those you will acknowledge, and describe any “issues” (e.g., proprietary information) with your project. (Due March 13)
- Mar 13 Writing the Discussion and Conclusions (Brick)
Review: Authors and Acknowledgements
Assignment 6: Write the Discussion and Conclusions sections (Due April 10)
- Mar 20 No class; Spring Break Week
- Mar 27 Writing the Introduction (Hansen)
Review: Results, Figures, and Tables
Assignment 7: Write the Introduction (Due April 17)
- Apr 3 Review: Results, Figure and Tables continued
- Apr 10 Writing an Abstract (Jacobi)
Review: Discussion & Conclusions
Assignment 8: Write the Abstract of your paper (Due April 24)
- Apr 17 Peer review process for scientific papers (Ode)
Review: Introduction
- Apr 24 Review: Abstract and Draft of Manuscript
- May 1 Review: Abstract and Draft of Manuscript
- May 8 Writing for public audiences (Cranshaw)
Assignment 9: Final Version of Manuscript due today

Final Exam Wednesday May 15 at 1 pm in E-5 Plant Science– Each student will discuss their final manuscript and the writing process and the difficulties and successes they had.