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## WILD 564.01: Scientific Writing for Publication

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WILD  
SYLLABUS for ~~WBIO~~ 564, Scientific Writing for Publication  
Spring Semester 2012

Instructor: P.R. Krausman  
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Schedule: One meeting each week; 0940-1130, Tuesday, 311B Forestry.

Readings and assignments: As presented. Readings can be accessed at the Mansfield Library under the heading "Course Reserve Materials" (<http://eres.lib.umt.edu/eres>). The password is "krausman".

Objectives: This class is designed to teach students how to effectively communicate scientific information in writing; how to use these skills to evaluate the work of others; and how to develop research proposals, grants, and prepare scientific papers for publication.

Students completing this course will:

1. be familiar with the importance of, and the responsibility for, scientific reporting;
2. be familiar with the publication and peer-review process;
3. practice and show improvement in written communication including organization, clarity, paper citation, abstract presentation, and development of tables, and figures;
4. use communication and analytical skills to evaluate and edit written materials developed by class members, other professionals, or those already published and;
5. develop and write a research proposal or research article.

Notes: University policies on drops, adds, changes of grade option, or change to audit status will be strictly enforced in this course. These policies are described in the UM Catalog. Students should specifically note that after the 30th day of the semester, such changes are NOT automatically approved. They may be requested by petition, but the petition MUST be accompanied by documentation of extenuating circumstances. Requests to drop a course or change the grade basis to benefit a student's grade point average will not be approved.

*All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University.*

*All students should be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online.*

## Proposed Class Schedule

- 24 Jan** Introduction and expectations  
Read: Volpe, E. P. 1984. The shame of science education. *American Zoologist* 24:433-441.
- 31 Jan** Graduate student/professor relationships or surviving graduate school and graduate committees  
Fisher, R. A., and S. L. King. 1998. Suggestions for new and aspiring graduate students in wildlife science. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 26:41-50.  
Read: Binkley, D. 1988. Some advice for graduate advisors. *Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America* 69:10-13.  
Lawton, J. 1992. (Modest) advice for graduate students. *Oikos* 65: 361-362.  
Stearns, S.C. 1987. Some modest advice for graduate students. *Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America* 68:145-150.  
Huey, R.B. 1987. Reply to Stearns: Some analytical advice for graduate students. *Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America* 68:150-153.  
Witz, B.W. 1994. Some pragmatic advice to graduate students: a hybridization of Stearns, Huey, and Binkley. *Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America* 75:176-177.
- 7 Feb** Scientific writing:  
What is a scientific paper?  
How to prepare a title  
How to list authors  
Authorship  
How to list addresses  
Read: Mack, R.N. 1986. Writing with precision, clarity, and economy. *Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America* 67:31-35.
- 14 Feb** Scientific writing:  
How to prepare the abstract  
Read: Dickson, J.G., R.N. Conner, and K.T. Adair. 1978. Guidelines for authorship of scientific articles. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 6:260-261.
- 21 Feb** Scientific writing:  
Writing the introduction  
Writing the study area  
Writing the methods  
Writing the results

- 28 Feb** Go to Montana Chapter TWS Meeting  
 Scientific writing:  
     The publication process  
 Read: Edmondson, Y.H. 1984. Editorial comment: the natural history of a  
     manuscript. *Limnology Oceanography* 29:1145-1148.
- 6 Mar** Scientific writing:  
     Writing the discussion  
     Preparing and writing acknowledgments  
     Citing the literature  
     How to design effective tables  
     How to prepare effective illustrations
- 13 Mar** Scientific writing:  
     Manuscript preparation  
     Manuscript submission and journal selection  
     Oral presentations – pitfalls and how to avoid them  
     The review process
- 20 Mar** Scientific writing:  
     Writing review papers  
     Writing a book review  
     Writing book chapters  
     Writing rebuttals
- 27 Mar** Scientific Writing:  
     Being an effective reviewer  
 Read: Burnham, J.C. 1990. The evolution of editorial peer review. *JAMA* -  
     263:1323-1329  
     Yankauer, A. 1990. Who are the peer reviewers and how much do they  
     review? *JAMA* 263:1338-1340.  
     Lock, S., and J. Smith. 1990. What do peer reviewers do? *JAMA*  
     263:341-343  
     Bissonette, J.A. 1988. Peer review: some suggestions from other  
     disciplines. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 16:458-462.
- 3 Apr** \*\*\*SPRING BREAK\*\*\*
- 10 Apr** Ethics in the publication process – pitfalls and how to avoid them  
 Read: Stewart, W.W., and N. Feder. 1987. The integrity of the scientific  
     literature. *Nature* 325:207-214.  
     Loehle, C. 1987. Why women scientists publish less than men. *Bulletin*  
     of the Ecological Society of America 68:495-496.  
     Thomas, J.W., and D.H. Pletscher. 2002. The “lynx affair” – professional  
     credibility on the line. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 30:1281-1286

- 17Apr** Grantsmanship
- 24 Apr** Jargon and abbreviations, vitas, writing letters of recommendation (and requesting the same) and questions about reviews
- 1 May** Advice and questions about revisions and humor in publications