1-2013

WILD 564.01: Scientific Writing for Publication

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Recommended Citation
Krausman, Paul R., "WILD 564.01: Scientific Writing for Publication" (2013). Syllabi. 961.
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SYLLABUS for WBIOS64, Scientific Writing for Publication
Spring Semester 2012

Instructor: P.R. Krausman
308 Forestry
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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

31 Jan
Graduate student/professor relationships or surviving graduate school and graduate committees

7 Feb
Scientific writing:
What is a scientific paper?
How to prepare a title
How to list authors
Authorship
How to list addresses

14 Feb
Scientific writing:
How to prepare the abstract

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

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
      Yankauer, A. 1990. Who are the peer reviewers and how much do they review? JAMA 263:1338-1340.

3 Apr
***SPRING BREAK***

10 Apr
Ethics in the publication process – pitfalls and how to avoid them
17 Apr  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