## Valdosta State University Department of Biology BIOL6010: Science Writing & Communication Course Syllabus, Spring 2024

**Instructor:** Dr. Erin Grabarczyk

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In-person office hours: Tuesday 3:15-4:45PM, Thursday 3:15-4:45PM, or by appointment.

Virtual office hours: Monday 8AM-10AM on TEAMS, or by appointment.

**Lecture:** TR 5-6:15 PM, BSC 2202 **Lab/Recitation:** M 5-7:50 PM, BSC 1043

**Course overview:** A workshop and project-oriented course in scientific writing and communication. The primary focus is on drafting a thesis in the style of a peer-reviewed journal article. Enrolling students must have a research project or proposal advanced enough to be written up as part of the course activity, and must be willing to share drafts with classmates. Class and lab/recitation sessions will consist of a combination of traditional lecture and active learning. In addition to writing their thesis, students will be exposed to other skills necessary for writing success, such as using a citation manager, production of publication-ready figures in R Program Software, self-editing techniques, and addressing revision requests.

**Prerequisites for BIOL6010:** Admission to the Biology graduate program.

## **Class Policies**

- Classroom etiquette: Please be on time. Please turn off your cell phone. If you are disrupting the class, I will ask
  you to leave. Be respectful of yourself, your classmates, and your instructor.
- Constructive criticism: We are all here to learn how to be better writers and Science communicators. There is no expectation that your work is perfect. Our goal is to collectively improve our skills, which is a process that will continue throughout your entire career! Therefore, peer editing and criticipal be based on . Please inform me immediately if at any point during the class you become uncomfortable with feedback from peers or you observe behaviors that make you uncomfortable.
- Ask questions:

willing to take as much time as necessary to help you understand a concept, but you have to ask!

- Late work: Once during the semester you may turn in late work for full credit. I will give you 48 hours to submit
  your work, no questions asked. Your assignment needs to be emailed to me, turned into my mailbox in the
  biology office, or submitted on BlazeVIEW. After your one late work turn-in, late assignments will not be
  accepted.
- Email: Use your VSU account for e-mail4(i)-Tm0 g0 G[()] TJETŒMC /Span <</MCID 34/Lang (en-US)>BDC q0.00000912 0 612 792E

• Cheating: You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the policies and procedures in the Undergraduate Catalogs that pertain to Academic Honesty. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. [The policies can be found at http://valdosta.edu under Student Code of Conduct.] If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. You will be given the opportunity to review the charge(s). If you believe you are not responsible, you will have the opportunity for a hearing. You should consult with your instructor if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test. All forms of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to collusion, fabrication, cheating and plagiarism are worthy of punishment according to the policy set forth by Valdosta State University. This includes doing your own work on lab assignments. While you are allowed to brainstorm with each other, it is expected that your answers are your own. I will not tolerate any form of cheating. This includes using Al to write your thesis!

**Students with disabilities:** Students with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office for assistance in determining and implementing reasonable accommodations. The Access Office is located in University Center Room 4136 Entrance 5. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V), 229-375-5871. For

## Schedule:

	Week	Lecture*	Lab/Recitation*	Assignment*
1	Jan 8	1. How to write a lot	Goal setting	12-
1	Jan 8	1. How to write a lot 2. Why do we write?	Goal setting	12-

Resources (this list is not comprehensive).

- \*\*\* Lab/recitation and lecture content and activities will be based off of the following resources.
- \*Other great resources.
- \* \* \* Stylish Academic Writing by Helen Sword.
- \* \* \* Thriving as a Graduate Writer by Rachael Cayley.
- \*\*\* Writing Science. How to write papers that get cited and proposals that get funded by Joshua Schimel.
- \*\*\*Writing Science in Plain English by Anne E. Greene.
- \*\*\* How to Write a Lot by Paul SIvia.
  - a Scientist by Randy Olson.
- \*\*\* The Narrative Gym for Science Graduate Students by Randy Olson.
- \*\*\* Writing Your Journal Article in Twelve Weeks: A Guide to Academic Publishing Success by Wendy Belcher.

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- \*\*\*Fundamentals of Data Visualization by Claus O. Wilke
- \* On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft by Stephen King.
- \* If I Understood You, Would I have This Look On My Face? By Alan Alda.
- \* Houston, We Have a Narrative by Randy Olson.
- \*The Sense of Style by Stephen Pinker.
- \*They Say/ I Say by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein.
- \* How to Write and Publish a Scientific Paper by Barbara Gastel and Robert A. Day.
- \* blog: scientistseessquirrel.wordpress.com
- \*blog: explorationsofstyle.com