

**Psychology G6100
Communicating Science
Spring 2012**

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Office - 317 Schermerhorn
Office Hours - Wed 2 - 4 PM

Time: 6 - 8 PM Wednesdays
Place: 405 Schermerhorn

Course Description

Scientific progress depends on understanding each other, both in writing and in discussion/oral presentation. Today's scientists are required to communicate their ideas, studies and findings with clarity and excitement. Good communication skills need practice and mentorship to develop fully. This course formalizes that practice and supervision by having each student write one grant or paper and/or work on an oral presentation of their own scientific ideas and data with the class.

We will begin by discussing good writing and presentation skills (see reading list below). I will present strengths and mistakes of writing and oral presentation. We will spend the rest of our time together working on student oral presentations and workshopping students documents (usually 20 minute talks, grants and data papers), depending on the needs of the group members. In this way, students will make a concentrated effort to develop/improve their scientific communication skills.

Recommended Reading List and Weekly Syllabus

Books:

1. The Elements of Style, Strunk and White
2. Communicating Science, Vernon Booth
3. The Economist Style Guide
4. Clear and to the point: 8 psychological principles for compelling Powerpoint presentations, Stephen Kosslyn.

Week 1 - Jan 18

Introduction, organization and discussion of good writing and the attributes of clear oral presentations
Choosing writing/presentation topics
Scheduling talks and document workshops

Week 2 - Jan 25

Practice talk - Katie
Document - Chris

Week 3 - Feb 1

Practice talk - Chris
Document - Austen

Week 4 - Feb 8

Practice talk - Liza
Document - Scott

Week 5 - Feb 15

Practice talks - Rebecca
Austen (talk or document)

Week 6 - Feb 22

No meeting

Week 7 - Feb 29

Practice talks - Nancy and Leora

Week 8 - Mar 7

Practice talk - Caroline
Document - Samaher

Week 9 - Mar 14

Spring break

Week 10 - Mar 21

Practice talks - Matt and Scott

Week 11 - Mar 28

Practice talks - feedback
Workshops documents
Sarah will be out of town

Week 12 - Apr 4

Practice talks - Hershey and Jeff

Week 13 - Apr 11

Practice talks - feedback
Workshops documents
Sarah will be out of town

Week 14 - Apr 18

Practice talks - feedback
Workshops documents

Week 15 - Apr 25

Practice talks - feedback
Workshops documents

Grading

Students will be graded on their writing and presentation skills, participation and improvement.