

**University of Puerto Rico
Rio Piedras Campus
College of Humanities
English Department
Fall 2017-2018**

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 11:30-2:30 pm

INGL 3236 Scientific Writing

Credit hours: 3

English course catalog description: A wide range of scientific readings is used as the basis for descriptive and analytic reports and theoretical essays.

Recommended as part of the second year of English for students in natural sciences and in other science-oriented programs.

Additional information: This course will provide students experience in reading, writing, and presenting scientific research. The course is designed so that students will take control of and responsibility for their own learning needs and outcomes. This is not a lecture course; students will dedicate time to reading and learning content outside class time and completing exercises both in class and as assigned homework with structured guidance from the professor. There will be significant time dedicated to revision and review (including peer-review) of scientific writing. Classes will be interactive and students will be given ample opportunity to work individually, in small groups and whole class situations. The goals of the course include composition skills for a variety of types of scientific writing, and improved critical reading, writing, and self-editing skills. Students will additionally review basic composition skills and apply them to writing for a scientific audience.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course students will:

- present complex scientific ideas with a precise, clear, and brief style of writing
- recognize, analyze, and practice different types of writing used for the dissemination of scientific knowledge
- work in a group to create and revise text, respond effectively to peers' work in progress, and participate in collaborative learning to produce and present scientific writing
- gain experience in the technological tools that enhance group work and presentations
- discuss ethical dimensions of science or scientific writing, including plagiarism and intellectual property
- identify and describe the sections of scientific articles; and gain experience writing and editing these sections
- understand the needs of various audiences/readerships and how these needs affect the style, vocabulary, and content of writing

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- exhibit competence in the mechanics of writing, including appropriate formatting, structuring and citation

Instructional Strategies:

Class meetings will consist of: collaborative work on, analysis and discussion of assignments; seminar and presentation; writing workshops; online research, readings and web-based presentations; class critiques of writing examples; in-class writing assignments; and student presentations. Video(s), online assignment(s) and off-campus activities will be incorporated as needed and available, and with advanced notification. Students will be assigned readings related to specific skills and features of scientific writing that are required before class. These required readings and assigned exercises are essential to course and individual learning objectives.

Evaluation Strategies

Students will be informed in advance of the expectations and evaluation criteria for all assignments. An overview of the weighting of assessment is as follows:

| | |
|---|-----|
| Scientific writing | 50% |
| Class attendance, participation and preparation | 30% |
| Scientific presentations | 20% |

These will be evaluated through ten equally weighted elements:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Writing: Ethics Essay | 10% |
| Writing: Annotated Bibliography | 10% |
| Individual Audio Presentation | 10% |
| Writing: Group Research Paper | 10% |
| Group Research Presentation | 10% |
| Writing: Poster | 10% |
| Writing: Sections of an Application | 10% |
| Participation and peer editing | 10% |
| Preparation and comments on reading | 10% |

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Class attendance (including punctuality) 10%

Total: 100%

Important Notice:

In accordance with legal requirements (*Ley 51*) and the recommendation of the Dean of Students Office (*Oficina de Asuntos para las Personas con Impedimentos* or *OAPI*), students who are clients of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation should contact the professor at the beginning of the semester in order to make arrangements for reasonable accommodations and/or for any necessary auxiliary equipment. Other students with special needs who require any kind of assistance or reasonable accommodations should also discuss this with the professor. Alternative evaluation methods may be provided for students with special needs.

Overall, the University of Puerto Rico maintains the following grading scale, which will be considered at all times in the evaluation of each student's academic performance:

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| A - Excellent | 100 – 90% |
| B - Very Good | 89 – 80% |
| C - Average | 79 – 70% |
| D - Deficient | 69 – 60% |
| F - Failure | 59% and below |

Expectations:

- **You will be treated as a mature student, responsible for your own learning progress, conduct, attendance, work and materials.**
- **You can expect to learn in this class in direct proportion to the effort you put into it.**
- Attendance and punctuality are of paramount importance. Repeated absence and/or lateness will have a negative impact on your grade. Repeated unexcused absences will result in a lowered grade. Frequent unexcused absences may result in a fail. Whatever the reason, you are responsible for making up any missed work. If you are three times tardy this is equivalent to

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one absence and a maximum of only four absences of 1h 20 min sessions are acceptable if you are responsible with making up work. If you have five absences (even if they are legitimate/excused) then you will be advised to drop the class and retake it later.

- **PLEASE DO NOT COME IN THE CLASSROOM IF YOU ARE MORE THAN 20 MINUTES LATE.**
- Failure to take an assessment on its scheduled date may result in zero. Any work handed in late will result in a reduction of the grade received, and work that is more than one week late will not be accepted without an authorized excuse (e.g. medical reason).
- You must have an active Gmail account, Internet access, and enroll on the Moodle course platform to complete reading assignments and evaluations.
- You will be using electronic equipment (e.g. laptops, tablets, smartphones) for class purposes such as collaborating on exercises, reading, and looking up material in online resources. You will be expected to manage this equipment responsibly for academic purposes only during class time.
- You will be expected to access, read, upload and collaborate on material that is available online outside of class time. You may do this from home or make use of the technology and free Internet access on campus.
- Students are expected to carefully study the assigned material before class and actively participate and respectfully listen to their classmate's opinions in class time.
- Any student suspected of academic dishonesty will have the opportunity to speak with the professor but may be subject to alternative assessment in order to verify knowledge of the material being assessed. There will be disciplinary sanctions if any student is found to be involved in academic dishonesty.
- If you have any individual concerns or questions you should speak with the professor during class time, via email, or during office hours.

Course Materials:

Lindsay, D. (2011). *Scientific writing = thinking in words*. Collingwood, Australia: CSIRO Publishing. Available online
Zinsser, W. (2001). *On writing well*. New York: Harper Collins Publishers. Available online

Additional class readings (see bibliography) will be made available via a document share platform, as a scan, handout, and/or placed on reserve in the Richardson Seminar Room (1st floor, Pedreira 108). Additional reference materials such as academic journals, dictionaries and translation materials can be accessed free online or in the reference section of different libraries on campus.

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