

**Universidad de Puerto Rico  
Río Piedras Campus  
Faculty of Humanities  
Department of English  
Undergraduate Program**

**English 3236:** Scientific Writing

**Academic Year:** 2020/2021 Semester II: January – May 2021

**Professor:** Maritza Cardona (cardona.maritza42@gmail.com)

**Credit Hours:** 45 hours/3 credits

**Office Hours:** Monday and Wednesday 10:00 am – 11:30 am

**\*This is an online course**

**\*\*The online course will be held both synchronously and asynchronously. This means that there will be specific days in which the class will be held online via video conferences in Google Meets or Big Blue Button at the time of the class. Additionally, on days in which there is no video conference online, students will still have assigned material and assignments given via Moodle, videos, emails, and online forums which must be completed by their due dates.**

**\*\*\*As this is an online course, you need to make sure to dedicate the appropriate time for this and all your other courses. No exceptions or extended due dates will be offered.**

**Course Description:** A wide range of scientific readings is used as the basis for descriptive and analytic reports and theoretical essays and articles. Recommended as part as the second year of English for students in natural Sciences and then other science oriented programs.

This course will provide students experience in reading, writing, and presenting scientific research. The course is designed so that students will take control and responsibility for their own learning needs and outcome. This is not a lecture course; Students will dedicate time to reading and learning content outside class time period the goals of the course include composition skills for a variety of type of scientific writing, and improve critical reading, writing, and self-editing skills.

**Technology needed:**

You must have a technological device in which you can watch videos, listen to audio, record, and a writing software. It should also support the Moodle platform offered by the University of Puerto Rico.

**Course Objectives:**

By the end of the course students will be able to:

1. Present complex scientific ideas with a precise, clear, and brief style of writing.
2. Recognize, analyze, and practice different types of writing used for the dissemination of scientific knowledge.
3. Discuss ethical dimensions of science or scientific writing, including plagiarism and intellectual property.
4. Identify and describe the sections of scientific articles, and gain experience writing and editing these sections.
5. Understand the needs of various audiences, readerships, and how these needs affect the style, vocabulary, and content of writing.
6. Exhibit competence in the mechanics of writing, including appropriate formatting, structure, and citations.
7. Expand your information literacy (primary and secondary sources) for finding, evaluating, integrating and synthesizing ethically the necessary information and visuals for the completion of a project, including working with scientists and using scientific exhibits (graphs, charts, images etc.) to supplement text.

**Book:** *On Writing Well*. William Zinsser.

**Methods of Evaluation:**

- Active participation in forum.
- Attendance
- Oral presentation
- Projects

- Final

**Strategies:**

- Writing workshops
- On line research
- Readings
- On line presentations
- Critiques of writing examples
- Editing

**Attendance and Punctuality:**

Your attendance will be based on your participation in the forums and your work. If you do not participate within the allotted time given, you will be counted as absent in that particular class. After 3 absences students will have their final grade lowered by one letter grade. After 5 absences the student will get an F as a final grade. It is your responsibility to catch up after missing classes.

**Assignments:**

Your participation and discussion grade will be based on written responses to the viewing and reading assignments.

**Class Environment:**

Creating a space that makes all students comfortable expressing their thoughts and ideas is critical to that end; each student is responsible for exercising tolerance and respect for a wide variety of ideas and healthy intellectual disagreement.

**Midterm and Final Paper:**

Guidelines for the midterm and final paper will be given nearing the time of the projects.

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas as your own. It is a real problem and will be taken seriously. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade and even suspension or expulsion. If you

plan on citing or referencing, please do so properly and according to the MLA (Modern Language Association) guidelines.

**Integridad Académica:** La Universidad de Puerto Rico promueve los más altos estándares de integridad académica y científica. El Artículo 6.2 del Reglamento General de Estudiantes de la UPR (Certificación Núm. 13, 2009-2010, de la Junta de Síndicos) establece que “la deshonestidad académica incluye, pero no se limita a: acciones fraudulentas, la obtención de notas o grados académicos valiéndose de falsas o fraudulentas simulaciones, copiar total o parcialmente la labor académica de otra persona, plagiar total o parcialmente el trabajo de otra persona, copiar total o parcialmente las respuestas de otra persona a las preguntas de un examen, haciendo o consiguiendo que otro tome en su nombre cualquier prueba o examen oral o escrito, así como la ayuda o facilitación para que otra persona incurra en la referida conducta”. Cualquiera de estas acciones estará sujeta a sanciones disciplinarias en conformidad con el procedimiento disciplinario establecido en el Reglamento General de Estudiantes de la UPR vigente.

**Gender and Sexual Identity Discrimination Policy:**

The University of Puerto Rico prohibits discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in any of its forms, including that of sexual harassment. According to the Institutional Policy Against Sexual Harassment at the University of Puerto Rico, Certification Num. 130, 2014-2015 from the Board of Governors, any student subjected to acts constituting sexual harassment, must turn to the Office of the Student Ombudsperson, the Office of the Dean of Students, and/or the Coordinator of the Office of Compliance with Title IX for an orientation and/or a formal complaint.

**Rights of Students with Disabilities:**

The University of Puerto Rico complies with all state and federal laws and regulations related to discrimination including “The American Disabilities Act” (ADA) and Law #51 from the Puerto Rico Commonwealth (Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico). Every student has the right to request and receive reasonable accommodation and Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS). Those students with special needs that require some type of particular assistance or accommodation shall explicitly communicate it directly to the professor. Students who are

receiving VRS services shall communicate that to the professor at the beginning of the semester to facilitate appropriate planning and the necessary equipment according to the Persons with Disabilities Affairs Office (Oficina de servicio a estudiantes con impedimentos [OSEI]), administered by the Dean of Students Office. Any other student requiring assistance or special accommodation shall also communicate directly with the professor. Reasonable accommodations requests or services do not exempt the student from complying and fulfilling academic and course related requirements and responsibilities. Differential evaluation will be provided to students with special needs who have been duly certified by OAPI. (See Circular Núm. 9 de 2002–2003.)