

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

English 3236: Scientific Writing (In Person)

Academic Year: 2022/2023 Semester II: January – May 2023

Professor: Maritza Cardona (maritza.cardonaortiz@upr.edu)

Credit Hours: 45 hours/3 credits

Office Hours: By email

PLAN DE CONTINGENCIA EN CASO DE UNA EMERGENCIA

En caso de surgir una emergencia o interrupción de clases, el profesor continuará ofreciendo el curso utilizando la modalidad a distancia o en línea, según establecidas en este prontuario oficial. De acuerdo a la información oficial y las directrices institucionales, el profesor realizará esfuerzos para comunicarse con los estudiantes vía correo electrónico institucional u otros medios alternos disponibles para coordinar la continuidad del ofrecimiento.

If an emergency or an interruption of courses occurs, course offerings will take place with the support of distance learning modalities, as established in the official syllabus. In compliance with official communications and institutional guidelines, the professor will make efforts to communicate with students via institutional email or other available communication outlets to coordinate the continuity of course work.

** 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.

***There is a lot of reading and writing involved in this course. As you enroll in this class, you must be aware that you need to make sure to dedicate the appropriate time to critically read, to research, and to write critical and analytical essays. All classes are equally important. 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.

<https://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/cfp/2022/12/18/the-supernatural-and-witchcraft-in-belief-practice-and-depiction-conference>

<https://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/cfp/2022/03/16/recovering-the-vampire>

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:

Scientific Writing = Thinking in Words by David Lisndsay

<https://www.marilia.unesp.br/Home/Instituicao/Docentes/RosangelaCaldas/topicosdesenvolvimentodoensaiocientifico/book---scientific-writing.pdf>

Purdue Online Writing Lab:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html

Schedule:

August 17-22: Introduction to course

August 24: Diagnostic essay

August 29: Reading techniques

August 31: Plagiarism

Sept 7: Ethics in scientific writing and abuse of authorship

Sep 12: Pre-writing techniques

Sep 14: Research and reliable sources

Sept 19-21 APA format and annotated bibliographies

Sept 26-28: Hypothesis

Oct 3-12: Introduction

Oct 17-24: Methodology

Oct 26-Nov 2: Results

Nov 7-9: Personal Statement

Nov 14-23: Data Analysis

Nov 28: Conclusion and Appendix

Methods of Evaluation:

Active involvement in class

Attendance
Oral presentation
Drafts
Final Investigation

Strategies:

Writing workshops
On line research
Readings
presentations
Editing

Grading:

100-90% A
89-80% B
79-70% C
69-60% D
59- 0% F

Attendance and Punctuality:

The official UPR attendance policy permits three (3) absences. After 3 absences students will have their final grade lowered by one letter grade. Being tardy 3 times counts as an absence. After 5 unexcused absences the student will get an F in class. If you are absent, remember that it is your responsibility to catch up after missing classes. If the student arrives late and attendance was already passed, it is the student's responsibility to make sure that the instructor switched their status from absent to late.

Assignments:

Homework must be turned in by the date and time assigned. Any works sent late via email without making an arrangement with the professor will not be accepted. If you try to submit an assignment in Moodle within the allotted deadline time but the platform does not allow you to do

so, email the assignment immediately to the instructor with a screenshot (in which the date, time, and failure message on the platform) so that it can still be accepted. Excuses such as: “I was very busy/had to hand in something for another class,” “I was working late” will not be accepted as reasons to not hand in your assignments on time.

Emailing the Professor:

Make sure to indicate the course and section you belong to

Feel free to contact the instructor if you have any doubts regarding class subjects or assignments. Do not send emails with only attachments and no explanation or message. Not only is it rude, but the instructor does not know what you are sending. Additionally, name your attachments in a way the instructor will be able to identify them. Lastly, if the student and the instructor come to an arrangement to email an assignment at a later date, the student must explain the arrangement in the email message to avoid any misunderstandings.

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.

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 can 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.

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.)

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. Para velar por la integridad y seguridad de los datos de los usuarios, todo curso híbrido y en línea deberá ofrecerse mediante la plataforma institucional de gestión de aprendizaje, la cual utiliza protocolos seguros de conexión y autenticación. El sistema autentica la identidad del usuario utilizando el nombre del usuario y contraseña asignados en su cuenta institucional. El usuario es responsable de mantener segura, proteger, y no compartir su contraseña con otra persona.

Bibliography

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