

**Scientific Writing**  
**BSPM/SOCR 530, 1 credit, Spring 2013**  
Wednesdays 1 pm, E5 Plant Science Bldg

**Instructors:**

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**Student Learning Objective:** Students will develop the skills necessary to prepare a complete scientific journal article based on findings from their individual research project. Students will follow the basic outline for scientific journal articles applicable to plant, soil, genetic, ecological, entomological, pathological and related sciences. They will gain experience in writing, editing, and literature assessment through evaluations provided by the instructors as well as their peers.

**Grading:** Grading will be S/U (satisfactory/unsatisfactory) for all students in the class. A satisfactory grade will be earned if the student, (1 turns in each assignment, (2 edits and turns in a completed manuscript suitable for a journal, containing all the following components (title, abstract, introduction, methods, results, tables, figures, discussion, literature cited), and (3 actively participates in group activities including discussions and editing fellow student's writing assignments.

**Student Enrollment:** Maximum enrollment is 16 (4 per faculty member) and minimum will be 8 students.

**Course Material:** All handouts are available on RAMCT. Please print out the appropriate handout prior to class. A great resource is a short book on writing that is on line at the library. **A Guide to Scientific Writing** at <http://0-www.springerlink.com/catalog.library.colostate.edu/content/t477q1/>  
We will list sections you should review for the topic being covered each week.

**Assignments:** All assignments should be submitted electronically as a word file to **RAMCT by 8 pm Sunday Night prior to the week the assignment is due.** The instructor and student group members need two days to read them before the class meeting. All pages should be numbered and all text should be double spaced. The font should be Times New Roman – 12 pt. Each student should engage the active participation of their advisor(s) in each assignment so the scientific quality of the writing is being edited by the advisor as we move through the assignments. The instructors will assume that each assignment will be edited by the student's advisor before the final completed manuscript is turned in.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Jan 23	Course introduction (Jacobi) Choosing a working title and journal (Hansen) Developing an outline (Brick) <b>Assignment 1: Title</b> -Select a title and journal and develop outline (Due Jan 30)
Jan 30	Describing Materials & Methods (Jacobi) Review: journal choice, title and start on outlines <b>Assignment 2:</b> Materials & Methods section (Due Feb 27)
Feb 6	Conducting a literature search. Meet in Morgan Library room 175. (Allison Level) <b>Assignment 3: References:</b> Submit a list of references relevant to your research in a standard, and uniform format (Due Feb 13)

- Feb 13            Review: Outline and reference list (Instructors and student groups)
- Feb 20            Reporting your Results, Figures, Tables and Appendix (Ode)  
**Assignment 4:** Write results and make all tables and figures (Due March 27)
- Feb 27            Review: Methods
- March 6           Ethical considerations: Plagiarism, authorship, proprietary information, how to cite references  
and acknowledge contributions of others (Hansen)  
Review: Methods continued  
**Assignment 5:** Develop your list of authors and those you will acknowledge, and describe  
any “issues” (e.g., proprietary information) with your project. (Due March 13)
- Mar 13            Writing the Discussion and Conclusions (Brick)  
Review: Authors and Acknowledgements  
**Assignment 6:** Write the Discussion and Conclusions sections (Due April 10)
- Mar 20            No class; Spring Break Week
- Mar 27            Writing the Introduction (Hansen)  
Review: Results, Figures, and Tables  
**Assignment 7:** Write the Introduction (Due April 17)
- Apr 3             Review: Results, Figure and Tables continued
- Apr 10            Writing an Abstract (Jacobi)  
Review: Discussion & Conclusions  
**Assignment 8:** Write the Abstract of your paper (Due April 24)
- Apr 17            Peer review process for scientific papers (Ode)  
Review: Introduction
- Apr 24            Review: Abstract and Draft of Manuscript
- May 1             Review: Abstract and Draft of Manuscript
- May 8             Writing for public audiences (Cranshaw)  
**Assignment 9: Final Version of Manuscript due today**

**Final Exam** Wednesday May 15 at 1 pm in E-5 Plant Science– Each student will discuss their final manuscript and the writing process and the difficulties and successes they had.