

Course 530049

Communication Skills for Scientists

Fall–Winter 2008, periods II–III (3 op)



Instructor

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Office Hours: By appointment, or stop on by.

Course schedule

Lecture: Mondays 14–17, Exactum C323

First lecture: Monday, 27 October 2008

Course website

<http://www.atm.helsinki.fi/~dschultz/Teaching/Communication08/>

Preferred prerequisites

None.

Course goal and format

The goal of this course is to improve students' mastery of communicating science in written and oral formats. The format of the course will be part lecture, part discussion, part peer-reviewing exercises, and part student presentations.

Course content

- Writing titles and abstracts
- Parts of a scientific paper
- Effective paragraphs, sentences, and words
- Figures, tables, and equations
- Authorship and coauthorship
- Peer review
- Oral presentations
- Poster presentations

Textbooks

- Reynolds, G., 2008: *Presentation Zen*. New Riders, 229 pp.
- Strunk, W., Jr., and E. B. White, 2000: *The Elements of Style*, 4th ed., Allyn and Bacon, 105 pp.
- Excerpts and lecture notes from my forthcoming book to be published by the American Meteorological Society in autumn 2009: *Eloquent Science: A Practical Guide to Becoming a Better Writer, Speaker, and Scientist*.

Homework and Grading

For the course credit you receive, you should expect to spend up to 5 hours a week outside of the class period. There will be regular class assignments: writing exercises, short presentations, peer-reviewing. These assignments will amount to 50% of the course grade. There will also be a final class presentation, amounting to 25% of the course grade. Class participation will amount to 25% of the course grade.

Exams

There will be no exams.

Policies

Late assignments will be penalized 10% each calendar day the assignment is late. If you must miss class, then make sure you submit your assignment beforehand. *You cannot miss five or more class periods*. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in failure of the course.

Additional resources

Numerous scientific communication web sites are available online. I can also provide additional books that may be of use to you, depending on your specific needs. Please ask.