

University of Florida
College of Public Health & Health Professions Syllabus
PHC 7902: Scientific Writing for Peer Reviewed Publications for Population Science (1 Credit)

Spring: 2024

Delivery Format: Online Only, Synchronous, via Zoom

Mondays: 5:10 to 7:05 pm

Additional hours of writing, on your own

Instructor Name: Ashley Malin, Ph.D.

Phone Number: (352) 273-5468

Email Address: ashleymalin@ufl.edu

Office Hours: By appointment via Zoom

Preferred Course Communications: email

Prerequisites: Must be enrolled in a graduate program at the University of Florida (unless granted permission)

PURPOSE AND OUTCOME

Course Overview: The goals of this Epidemiology Writing Circle are to:

- 1) Improve students' academic writing style
- 2) Advance students' research progress
- 3) Write, complete, and submit papers – with one as first author
- 4) Be able to edit others' manuscripts, regardless of topic area
- 5) Learn how to make students' science visible and understandable to a range of audiences

Relation to Program Outcomes: Writing is one of the most important skills to learn; publishing is vital for advancing scientific knowledge and for a research career. This course provides students with the opportunity to maximize this skill.

Course Objectives and/or Goals: Upon completion of this course, students will:

- 1) Demonstrate improvements in writing style for scientific articles for publication
- 2) Show an enhanced capacity to critically review scientific literature and make recommendations for improvement
- 3) Draft at least three sections of an article as first author
- 4) Have increased knowledge of research sharing platforms and science communication strategies

Instructional Methods: This course is fully online, and students are expected to attend virtually, with cameras on. Students are also expected to join in discussion and to present their work for the in-class assignments.

Students are expected to actively engage in the course throughout the semester. They are expected to come to class prepared by completing all assignments. Students must be able to be first author, with agreement by the mentor, that they can be first author. They must be able to make substantial progress on the paper by completing at least 3 sections by the end of the semester. This paper cannot be one that is nearly finished, in need of revision (already submitted), or that has someone else as first author. If you need guidance or help finding a data source, please speak with Dr. Malin during the first week of class. If you are not cleared/approved to analyze the data, the course should be taken at a later date.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT

Topical Outline/Course Schedule

Week	Date(s)	Lecture Topic(s) and Assignments for that day	Readings/Preparation for class that day
1	Jan 8	Lecture: Syllabus review and introductions; data sources and paper outlines Assignment: Present your research question (or question you are considering) to the class	Think about your potential research question and what data source you can use to address it; be prepared to discuss this with the class. It is okay if you are still undecided about your research question/data source.
2	Jan 15	Martin Luther King Day- No Class	-
3	Jan 22	Lecture: Writing an introduction section Assignment: Share the outline for your paper	Construct an outline for your paper, including generally what you plan to include in the introduction, methods, results, and discussion in point form and be prepared to discuss with the class
4	Jan 29	Lecture: selecting a journal; paper titles, abstracts, key words Assignment: Share content for your introduction section via Power Point or word document	Review several papers from Dr. Malin (in PubMed) for examples of titles, abstracts and different journal article formats; Read Chapter 6 of <i>The Craft of Scientific Writing 4th Edition</i> , Michael Alley. Be prepared to present your paper introduction
5	Feb 5	Lecture: Writing a methods section Assignment: share an example of a paper title and how you would revise it; share your target journal and paper title with the class	Read 2 papers from Dr. Malin in PubMed and 2 papers in your area for examples of Methods sections. Find a paper title in PubMed that you think can be improved; Be prepared to present this along with your paper title and target journal
6	Feb 12	Lecture: Writing a statistical analysis section Assignment: Share the content of your methods section with the class via Power Point or word document	Read: <i>Research papers 101: The do's and don'ts of scientific writing</i> by Torres-Valladares et al. (2022) Be prepared to present your methods section
7	Feb 19	Lecture: Writing a results section Assignment: Share your statistical analysis section with the class	Read 3 papers within your area for examples of statistical analysis and results sections Be prepared to present your statistical analysis section
8	Feb 26	Lecture: Writing a discussion section Assignment: Share your results section with the class	Read 3 papers from PubMed in your area for examples of discussions Be prepared to present your results section
9	Mar 4	Lecture: Other considerations for manuscript writing and writing your abstract Assignment: Present your discussion section	Review BMC Writing Resources: Writing resources (biomedcentral.com) Review formatting guidelines for your target journal Be prepared to present your discussion section

10	Mar 11	No class-Spring Break	-
11	Mar 18	Lecture/Activity: Peer Learning Circles and Feedback	Read the following: Research in progress blog Peer Mentoring Circles: A strategy for thriving in science (biomedcentral.com)
12	Mar 25	Lecture: Making your science visible Writing on your own	Read: Six steps to increased visibility - How to increase the visibility of your research? - Guides at University of Pittsburgh (libguides.com)
13	Apr 1	Lecture: Science Communication and Media Attention Writing on your own	Read: Quick Guide to Science Communication 0.pdf (brown.edu)
14	Apr 8	Final Presentations	Be prepared to present the final (or near final) version of your manuscript
	April 15	Final Presentations	Be prepared to present the final (or near final) version of your manuscript
15	Before April 29	Submit to Dr. Malin the final product or three sections of your paper	

Course Materials and Technology: Online/No text. Check on CANVAS for information, Zoom link, Readings etc. However, if you want a good book for reference, you can get:
Winning the Publications Game by Tim Albert. CRC Press. 2016

For technical support for this class, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- helpdesk@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>

Additional Academic Resources

[Career Connections Center](#): Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

[Library Support](#): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

[Teaching Center](#): Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

[Writing Studio](#): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.](#)

On-Line Students Complaints: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.](#)

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Assignments: You are expected to participate in class by sharing (on screen) and discussing different sections of your paper each week. You are also asked to offer feedback to others on their material. Please make sure that you have your mentor's approval to write the paper as first author. At the end of the term, students will be expected to present the final version of their paper to the class. Lastly, the final assignment is to email Dr. Malin your completed or near completed first author manuscript.

Grading

Requirement	Due date	Points or % of final grade
In Class Assignments	Each class (as specified)	24% (3% each)
Final Presentations	April 8th	10%
A completed or near completed first author manuscript emailed to Dr. Malin	By end of the semester	60%
Contribute to the discussion of each students' paper	Each class	6%

Point system used (i.e., how do course points translate into letter grades).

Percentage Earned	Letter Grade
93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
Below 60	E

Policy Related to Required Class Attendance: Let Dr. Malin know if you are unable to attend class. Given that the class is being offered online, the expectation is that students will make every effort to attend class even while away.

Please note all faculty are bound by the UF policy for excused absences. Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the Graduate Catalog (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations/#text>). Additional information can be found here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS, ROLES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT

Expectations Regarding Course Behavior: Cameras are expected to be on throughout class.

Communication Guidelines: If the student has a question, they may ask with the chat function or raise their hand, as long as it is respectful.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity. As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: **“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”**

You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For additional information regarding Academic Integrity, please see Student Conduct and Honor Code or the Graduate Student Website for additional details:

<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

<http://gradschool.ufl.edu/students/introduction.html>

Please remember cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

Recording Within the Course:

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Policy Related to Guests Attending Class:

Only registered students are permitted to attend class. However, we recognize that students who are caretakers may face occasional unexpected challenges creating attendance barriers. Therefore, by exception, a department chair or his or her designee (e.g., instructors) may grant a student permission to bring a guest(s) for a total of two class sessions per semester. This is two sessions total across all courses. No further extensions will be granted. Students are responsible for course material regardless of attendance. For additional information, please review the Classroom Guests of Students policy in its entirety. Link to full policy:

<http://facstaff.php.ufl.edu/services/resourceguide/getstarted.htm>

Online Faculty Course Evaluation Process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, it is strongly recommended you register with the Dean of Students Office <http://www.dso.ufl.edu> within the first week of class or as soon as you believe you might be eligible for accommodations. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation of accommodations to you, which you must then give to me as the instructor of the course to receive accommodations. Please do this as soon as possible after you receive the letter. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

Counseling and Student Health

Students sometimes experience stress from academic expectations and/or personal and interpersonal issues that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing issues that have the potential to or are already negatively affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and/or seek help through University resources available to you.

- The **Counseling and Wellness Center** 352-392-1575 offers a variety of support services such as psychological assessment and intervention and assistance for math and test anxiety. Visit their web site for more information: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu>. Online and in person assistance is available.
- **U Matter We Care** website: <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>. If you are feeling overwhelmed or stressed, you can reach out for help through the You Matter We Care website, which is staffed by Dean of Students and Counseling Center personnel.
- The **Student Health Care Center** at Shands is a satellite clinic of the main Student Health Care Center located on Fletcher Drive on campus. Student Health at Shands offers a variety of clinical services. The clinic is located on the second floor of the Dental Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information, contact the clinic at 392-0627 or check out the web site at: <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>
- Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from: Alachua County Crisis Center: (352) 264-6789 <http://www.alachuacounty.us/DEPTS/CSS/CRISISCENTER/Pages/CrisisCenter.aspx>
- **University Police Department:** [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- **UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:** For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.](#)

Do not wait until you reach a crisis to come in and talk with us. We have helped many students through stressful situations impacting their academic performance. You are not alone so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.

Inclusive Learning Environment

Public health and health professions are based on the belief in human dignity and on respect for the individual. As we share our personal beliefs inside or outside of the classroom, it is always with the understanding that we value and respect diversity of background, experience, and opinion, where every individual feels valued. We believe in, and promote, openness and tolerance of differences in ethnicity and culture, and we respect differing personal, spiritual, religious and political values. We further believe that celebrating such diversity enriches the quality of the educational experiences we provide our students and enhances our own personal and professional relationships. We embrace The University of Florida's Non-Discrimination Policy, which reads, "The University shall actively promote equal opportunity policies and practices conforming to laws against discrimination. The University is committed to non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act." If you have questions or concerns about your rights and responsibilities for inclusive learning environment, please see your instructor or refer to the Office of Multicultural & Diversity Affairs website: www.multicultural.ufl.edu