

SCIE 300 | Communicating Science January 2012 Class Schedule

The class schedule is subject to minor changes based on how the course progresses, current events, and student feedback.

Week 1: Course introduction and knowing your audience

Wednesday, Jan. 4: Course introduction

The importance of communicating science and introduction to SCIE 300

Friday, Jan. 6: Knowing your audience

Identifying and reaching your intended audience

Week 2: Scientific papers and writing skills

Tuesday, Jan. 10: Structure of a scientific paper

Examine the components of a scientific article; tips for writing a scientific article

Wednesday, Jan. 11: Scientific papers hands-on activity

Read, summarize, and report back the main points of scientific papers

Friday, Jan. 13: Writing skills overview and writing skills 1

Identify common writing issues the course will address; Writing Skills 1: Topic sentences and paragraph structure

Week 3: Presentation skills, writing skills, library skills

Tuesday, Jan. 17: Presentation skills

Eight fundamental elements of giving presentations

Wednesday, Jan. 18: Writing skills 2 OR Library skills

Section 210: Active vs. passive voice (regular location)

Sections 212 and 201: ****Class at Woodward Library!** Research tools, effective database searches, and citation management

Friday, Jan. 20: Writing skills 2 OR Library skills at Woodward Library

Section 212 and 201: Active vs. passive voice

Sections 210: ****Class at Woodward Library!** Research tools, effective database searches, and citation management

Week 4: Presentation skills and individual presentations

Tuesday, Jan. 24: Creating presentation visuals

Wednesday, Jan. 25: Individual presentations (Day 1)

Three-minute oral presentation on a science topic in the news. No visual aids.

Friday, Jan. 27: Individual presentations (Day 2)

Three-minute oral presentation on a science topic in the news. No visual aids.

Week 5: Communicating data visually, communicating numbers

Tuesday, Jan. 31: Graphs and tables

Communicating data, different means of visually representing data

Wednesday, Feb. 1: Visually representing data

Presenting information in tables and graphs

Friday, Feb. 3: Writing skills 3

Numbers and units

Week 6: Citations, plagiarism, and group presentations

Tuesday, Feb. 7: Citing and avoiding plagiarism

Correctly citing other work in your writing and avoiding plagiarism

Wednesday, Feb. 8: Scientific investigation group presentations (Day 1)

Group presentations of scientific investigation projects

Friday, Feb. 10: Scientific investigation group presentations (Day 2)

Group presentations of scientific investigation projects

Week 7: Peer review, self-review, writing skills

Tuesday, Feb. 14: Peer review and self-review

Guidelines on providing peer feedback and revising documents (including your own)

Checklist for giving feedback

Wednesday, Feb. 15: Writing skills 4

Writing clearly and succinctly

Friday, Feb. 17: In-class peer review

Peer review two of your colleagues' paper and provide feedback

READING WEEK

Week 8: Writing journalistically and using descriptions and comparisons

Tuesday, Feb. 28: Structure of a news story and metaphor

The structure of a news story, inverted pyramid, the five Ws; What is newsworthy and how is science news different from other news?

Wednesday, Feb. 29: Writing journalistically

Order of a news story

Comparing coverage in different media

Draft the opening of a short news story based on a scientific article

Friday, Mar. 2: Descriptions and comparisons

Identifying and discussing how description and comparisons are used in popular science articles

Week 9: Communicating uncertainty

Tuesday, Mar. 6: Communicating uncertainty

Commonly held fallacies in probability and their impact on the public, including Meadow's law, the prosecutor's fallacy, faulty conditioning. Uses and abuses of statistical inference, including issues such as inferring causation from correlation, problems with multiple testing, flawed sampling schemes and bad designs.

Wednesday, Mar. 7: Communicating uncertainty

Exploring misunderstandings involving independence, conditional probabilities and risk

Friday, Mar. 9: Communicating uncertainty

Uses and abuses of statistical inference in scientific research

Week 10: Storytelling, sample podcasts and videos, writing skills

Tuesday, Mar. 13: Storytelling

Telling good science stories

Wednesday, Mar. 14: Sample videos

Listen to/watch sample podcasts and videos; critique; collect tips for your own work

Friday, Mar. 16: Writing skills 5

Using quotations and paraphrasing

Week 11: misconceptions in science

Tuesday, Mar. 20: Misconceptions in science

Public misconceptions about science, common fallacies, and why they exist

Wednesday, Mar. 21: Misconceptions activity

Friday, Mar. 23: Writing Skills 6

To be announced

Week 12: Communicating science in other fields, new media issues

Tuesday, Mar. 27: Guest

Discussions with guests from the media public affairs, law, and/or public policy

Wednesday, Mar. 28: Communicating science issues

Specific topic to be announced (e.g. changes in media, other communicating science issues such as science blogging, citizen science)

Friday, Mar. 30: Course review

Science and journalism – similarities and differences

Week 13: Presentation recap and course review

Tuesday, Apr. 3: Science outreach project group presentations (Day 1) Location of your group presentations will be announced in class.

Wednesday, Apr. 4: Science outreach project group presentations (Day 2) In our regular classrooms.