

SLUkurs

Syllabus

PFG0036 Scientific Writing, 7.5 credits

Syllabus approved

2009-12-03

Subjects

Biology

Education cycle

Third cycle

Grading scale

Pass / Failed

The requirements for attaining different grades are described in the course assessment criteria which are contained in a supplement to the course syllabus. Current information on assessment criteria shall be made available at the start of the course.

Language

English

Prior knowledge

Admitted to Ph.D. studies. The course will be capped at 16 students. Although not a prerequisite, students who bring a thesis manuscript to work on during this course are likely to benefit most. The manuscript may consist of no more than a title or a full first version at the start of the course, but the necessary data collection and analyses should ideally be completed.

Objective, including learning outcomes

To improve the theoretical knowledge and practical skills associated with writing manuscripts for scientific peer review in international journals.

Content

Major focus will be placed on basic writing skills, particularly on how to write clear and concise sentences, paragraphs and sections. The course will provide the students with a set of tools for the essential text analysis and editing needed to produce a submission ready manuscript. Lectures will also provide detailed instructions on how to structure and format each section of a scientific manuscript (justifying the IMRAD format). The class will integrate theory and practice. Directly after each theory session, students will work on the associated manuscript section via a teaching platform. Weekly assignments will be required in two primary areas: short writings specific to the studied section and analysis of model sentences and paragraphs. Weekly feedback will be provided on the short writings. By the end of the course, students will have individualized editing sheets of their most common problems and a course-created dictionary specific to their fields.

Requirements for examination

Only pass or fail will be given. A pass will require attendance and the completion of course tasks.

Additional information

Teachers

Göran Spong (SLU) and Karyn Sandström, Department of English, UMU (karyn.sandstrom@engelska.umu.se).

Course Objective

To improve communication skills, in particular the theoretical knowledge and practical skills associated with writing manuscripts for scientific peer review in international journals.

Prerequisites

Admitted to Ph.D. studies. The course will be capped at 14 students. Although not a prerequisite, students who bring a manuscript to work on during this course are likely to benefit most. This may consist of no more than a title or a full first version at the start of the course, but the necessary data collection and analyses

should ideally have been completed.

Course outline

Major focus will be placed on basic writing skills, particularly on how to write clear and concise sentences, paragraphs and sections. The course will provide the students with a set of tools for the essential text analysis and editing needed to produce a submission ready manuscript. Writing models and attitude toward writing will be discussed in depth, emphasizing that scientific writing is an acquired skill that can be honed by conscious and structured efforts. Lectures will also provide detailed instructions on how to structure and format each section of a scientific manuscript (justifying the IMRAD format). The class will integrate theory and practice. After each theory session, students are expected to work on the associated manuscript section. We will use online tools for repeated reviewing and editing of each section.

Examination

Only pass or fail will be given. A pass will require attendance and the completion of course tasks.

This course will be offered Fall 2016. Specific dates for lectures TBA.

All other course work will be web based (see below). Additional (non-mandatory) meetings will be held upon request.

Responsible department

Department of Wildlife, Fish, and Environmental Studies