SWS 6932: Scientific Writing for Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Students

SYLLABUS

Credit: 1

Instructor: Vimala Nair; Office: 2159 McCarty Hall A; E-mail: vdn@ufl.edu

Time and Room: Thursdays 8:30 – 9:20 AM; Room 2186 McCarty Hall A

Course Objectives:

This course focuses on capacity building to improve the skills of graduate students within the agriculture, environmental and natural resource management areas to prepare dissertation proposals, theses/dissertations, research papers, and conference presentations. The course participants will be encouraged to develop manuscripts based on their own research according to the style and format of the tri-societies – the American Society of Agronomy/Soil Science Society of America/Crop Science Society of America (ASA/SSSA/CSSA).

The course will also cover various other scientific publications: books and book chapters, technical reports, and extension publications. Other aspects covered will include the peer-review process including response to review comments, post-review revision, proof-corrections, and skills required as potential reviewers of manuscripts.

Prerequisites: Students should have completed at least one year of research

Textbooks: Recommended reading, Nair, P.K.R., and V.D. Nair. 2014. Scientific Writing and Communication in Agriculture and Natural Resources. Springer International Publishing, Switzerland. ISBN 978-3-319-03100-2; ISBN 978-3-319-03101-9 (eBook)

Grading:

1. Attendance and class participation – 20 points
2. Assignments on-time submission:
   a. Poster or Oral presentation – 10 points
   b. Dissertation proposal – 10 points
   c. Dissertation proposal peer-review comments – 10 points
   d. Comments on manuscript provided – 10 points
   e. Draft manuscript of student – 10 points
   f. Evaluation of fellow student's draft manuscript – 10 points
   g. Response to reviewer comments (comments on student's evaluation) – 10 points
   h. Submission of final manuscript – 10 points

Grading scheme

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
Points	>90	89–87	86–83	82–80	79–77	76–73	72–70	69–67	66–63	62–60	59–57	<57

Academic Honesty

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 assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. 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 more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/SCCR/honorcodes/honorcode.php.

Software Use:

All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

- *University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575,* **www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/**
  - Counseling Services
  - Groups and Workshops
  - Outreach and Consultation
  - Self-Help Library
  - Training Programs
  - Community Provider Database
- *Career Resource Center,* First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, **www.crc.ufl.edu/**

Services for Students with Disabilities

The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation

0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, **www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/**