Scientific Writing and Communication in Agriculture and Natural Resources
FOR6934 & SWS6932, 2 Credits
Summer A (May 08 to June 16) 2017

Tue and Thu, Period 2 (9:30–10:45) and Period 3 (11:00–12:15)
222 NZ (Newins-Ziegler) Hall

Instructors:

P. K. Nair, School of Forest Resources and Conservation (pknair@ufl.edu; 352-846-0880)
Vimala Nair, Soil and Water Sciences Department (vdn@ufl.edu; 352-294-3137)

Syllabus

Course Objective

To help graduate students write their scientific papers, theses/dissertations, and prepare conference presentations

Enrollment Eligibility

Graduate students with at least one year of graduate-school enrollment, and with preliminary data from their research.

Course Format

Class-room lectures, discussions, and student presentations; Hands-on exercises on preparation of Abstracts and Tables, oral and poster presentations; Library-use familiarization

Course Content

1. **Introduction**

   Scientific Writing: A brief overview of developments, Types of scientific publications, Journal articles and location-specific research

2. **Organization of a Research Paper: The IMRAD Format**

3. **Tables and Figures**

   Importance of tables and figures, Table vs. figure, Table headings and Figure captions, How to construct tables and figures, Data presentation guidelines

4. **Numbers, Units, Dates, Abbreviations, Nomenclature, Math/Stat Expressions**

5. **Oral Presentations**

6. **Poster Presentations**

7. **Words**

   Gender and pronouns, Modifiers, Idioms, Jargon, Nouns from verbs, Collectives, Spelling, Similar words with different meanings

8. **Sentences**

   Active and passive voice, Tense, Parallel structure, Double negatives, Complex sentences, Wordiness, Transition, Punctuation marks

9. **Preparing the Manuscript**

10. **Dealing with the Journal**

    Selecting a journal, Submitting the manuscript, Peer review, Communications from the journal, Proof correction

    When a paper is not accepted

Textbook: 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)

Grades and Criteria

Attendance and class participation: 20 marks

Exercises (4): 80 marks

Total = 100

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

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Attendance and Make-Up Work
Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at:
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx.

Online Course Evaluation Process
Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open for students to complete during the last two or three weeks of the semester; students will be notified of the specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results.

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

- U Matter We Care, **www.umatter.ufl.edu/**
- *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/**

Student Complaints
Residential Course: https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf