

UPDATED: 25 January 2022

Course Syllabus

Course Description

This class will focus on developing the skills and mindset to communicate concisely and effectively about your scholarly interests. While emphasis is placed on writing, this class is more about how to frame and discuss your research ideas both on paper and in person.

Course Information

Course Name: Proposal and Article Writing

Course Number: EVPP 692 & 991

Course Instructor: Dr. Scott Glaberman

Course Format: F2F

Course Time: Tuesdays 4:30-6:20 pm

Instructor Contact: sglaberm@gmu.edu

Course Objectives

What you will learn in this class:

- Where to look for scholarly funding
- How to structure a winning grant proposal
- How to frame a high-impact scientific paper (or thesis)
- How to position yourself for career success

What you will produce in this class:

- A compelling 30-second summary of your research interests and goals
- A highly refined research proposal summary in NSF format
- A high-impact, Nature style synopsis of your current research
- An effective 1-2 page resume

Course Grading

This course has a simplified grading scheme based on attendance and completion of assignments. All students start out with an A+. Students are allowed 1 unexcused absence. Additional absences will result in a half grade drop (e.g., A+ to A). Specific assignments are TBD and will be announced by the instructor the week prior. Each missing assignment will also result in a half grade drop. The key to getting a good grade in this class is to show up and participate in assignments.

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Tentative Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Class Exercise	Homework*
1/25	Introduction	Getting to know each other	Choose target journals
2/1	The diversity of funding	Funding discussion	Find potential funding sources
2/8	Writing stories	Paper discussion I	Read target papers
2/15	Story structures	Paper discussion II	Narrow potential funding sources
2/22	Framing a proposal I	Writing discussion	1 st draft proposal
3/1	Framing a proposal II	Proposal review I	2 nd draft proposal
3/8	Framing a proposal III	Proposal review II	3 rd draft proposal
3/22	Article writing I	Writing discussion	1 st draft paper
3/29	Article writing II	Paper review I	2 nd draft paper
4/5	Article writing III	Paper review II	3 rd draft paper
4/12	30-second thesis I	General Discussion	Develop 30-second thesis
4/19	30-second thesis II	30-second thesis practice	Draft 1-2 page resume
4/26	Planning for success	Resume review	Finalize materials
5/03	Course review	Discuss products	Write, Write, Write

* Homework always due in the next class

Scheduled Guest Lectures

Date	Topic	Guest Speaker	Affiliation
TBD	Foundations and philanthropic funds	TBD	TBD
TBD	The NSF review process and crafting effective proposals	TBD	TBD