**Scientific Communication**

**BSC 4842; Section 001; CRN TBD**

**1 credit hour**

**Departments of Biological Sciences and Psychology, College of Science &**

**Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College**

**Florida Atlantic University**

**Semester:** Spring 2019

**Class meetings**: Tuesdays, 4:00 to 5:00 pm

**Location**: SR 283, Jupiter Campus

**Instructor**: Drs. Bolton and Dawson-Scully

 Office: MC 19/RE, Room 109

 Email: mclean.bolton@mpfi.org, ken.dawson-scully@fau.edu

 Phone: 516-799-8514

**Office Hours**: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:00 to 1:00 pm

**Course Description**: This is a course for students interested in scientific research. The students are introduced to various techniques and software important for data processing and presentation of their scientific research data. The students learn to effectively present their research to the general public and to the scientific community in written form such as research proposals, conference presentations, seminars and publications. Instructional methods to be employed will include: lectures, classroom exercises, single and group assignments, discussion, presentations and proposal writing.

**Prerequisite:** Permission of instructor

**Required Textbooks and Supplemental Readings**: 1.) Scientific Papers and Presentations, Martha Davis, Elsevier Academic press, 2nd or later edition 2.) 3rd or later Edition, Style: The Basics of Clarity and Grace, Joseph M Williams (e-version available at Pearson). 3.) Diverse handouts.

**Course Objectives**: To enhance the ability of students to communicate scientific topics and their own research to experts as well as laymen in a concise and clear manner.

**Note of Honors Distinction**: This course is a Max Planck Honors Program (MPHP) course. Max Planck Honors Program courses have been designed as part of a unique collaborative effort between the Schmidt College of Science, the Wilkes Honors College, and the Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience. They offer its students an exclusive and enriching opportunity to develop neuoroscientific knowledge, formulate questions, and communicate their research via oral and written deliveries while learning and engaging with a community of cutting-edge research scholars and Nobel laureates.

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| **FAU MPHP Scientific Communication - Schedule for Spring 2019** |
| **Schedule** | **Topics** | **Assignment/ homework** |
| Week1 | **Introduction &** | **Writing Book review due on 1/25., Talk evaluation and elevator pitch due 1/19, Reading:** The Basics of Clarity and Grace, Joseph M Williams and Scientific Papers and Presentations, Martha Davis, Chapter 1, 19, 20  |
| Week2 | **Elevator pitch & Lecture poster making**  | **Writing Book review due 1/25, Poster draft making, due 2/9, CV & Biosketch and Talk evaluation due 1/26: Reading** Handouts,The Basics of Clarity and Grace, Joseph M Williams and Scientific Papers and Presentations, Martha Davis, Chapter 10-12, 17 |
| Week3 | **Citation, Software & Resolution**  | **Citation assignment due 2/2, Poster draft making due 2/9, Talk evaluation due 2/2, Abstract due 2/2 , Reading:** Handouts,Scientific Papers and Presentations, Martha Davis, Chapter 7-9 |
| Week4 | **Lecture & Intro to grant/proposal writing. NIH vs NSF. Finding funding and applications.** | **Poster draft making due 2/9, Abstract editing and Aim due 2/9, Proposal Writing due 4/6 Reading:** Handouts, The Basics of Clarity and Grace, Joseph M Williams and Scientific Papers and Presentations, Martha Davis, Chapter 2-6 |
| Week5 | **Poster draft discussion** | **Aims editing due 2/16, Poster draft making, Final poster making & printing due 3/16-20, Proposal Writing due 4/6, Reading:** Handouts,Scientific Papers and Presentations, Martha Davis, Chapter 13-16 |
| Week6 | **Lecture- Seminar &Talks** | **Talk preparation due 3/2, Talk preparation, Proposal Writing due 4/6, Reading:** Handouts,Scientific Papers and Presentations, Martha Davis, Chapter. |
| Week7 | **Attend IB retreat**  | **Proposal Writing due 4/6, Talk preparation** |
| Week8 | **Mini-Talks**  | **Proposal Writing due 4/6,**  |
| Week9 | **Spring Break**  | **Proposal Writing due 4/6** |
| Week10 | **Mini-Talks, Poster prep**  | **Proposal Writing due 4/6** |
| Week11 | **NOTE DIFFERNET DAY (not 23. March)/TIMES will be announced: Presenting Poster at Undergraduate Research Day**  | **Proposal Writing due 4/6** |
| Week12 | **Presenting Poster at Undergraduate Research Day NOTE DIFFERNET TIMES** | **Proposal Writing due 4/6** |
| Week13 | **Proposal Due. Lecture- Reviewing Proposal** | **Reviewing proposals due 4/27** |
| Week14 | **Mock review panel meeting** | **Reviewing proposals** |
| Week15 | **Mock review panel meeting** | **Reviewing proposals** |
| Week16 | **Final proposal reviews due.**  |  |

*\*This schedule is subject to change at any time by the instructor, depending on the needs of the class. Changes may be announced online via canvas or verbally in class*.

**Course evaluation method:** Attendance, homework assignments & presentations, class participation, and final proposal paper will determine the final grade with the following weights:

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| Poster & Presentations | 25 |
| Attendance & Participation | 20 |
| Assignments | 20 |
| Proposal | 20 |
| Proposal Review | 15 |

94-100%=A, 90-94%=A-, 86-90%=B+, 82-86%=B, 78-82%=B-, 74-78%=C+, 70-74%=C, 66-70%=C-, 62-66%=D+, 58-62%=D, 54-58%=D-, <54%=F; grades may be curved to adjust to 100%

**Incompletes**: As per University policy, grades of Incomplete (“I”) are reserved for students who are passing a course but have not completed all the required work because of exceptional circumstances. For this class, if a student is unable to complete the required coursework because of a serious illnesses, hospitalization, military service, or death of a family member, the student can request a grade of Incomplete. The awarding of an “I” (Incomplete) will be granted only in exceptional cases; the decision will be made either solely by the instructor or in consultation with the Associate Dean.

**Withdrawal from Class**: It is the responsibility of the student to withdraw from this class, should that status be desired.

**Attendance**: Students are expected to attend all classes and participate in discussions. If a student misses a class, the student is responsible for all material covered during that class and any changes to the course schedule. If a student must miss a class, it is suggested that the student arrange to obtain class notes and announcements from another student.

**FAU Attendance Policy**: Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations or participation in University-approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities. It is the student’s responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student’s final course grade as a direct result of such absence.

**Electronic Devices**: University policy states that “In order to enhance and maintain a productive atmosphere for education, personal communication devices, such as cellular telephones and pagers, are to be disabled in class sessions.” In this class, any use of cell phones or other communication devices is not allowed during active class times. (A ringing or vibrating device is included in the definition of “use of an electronic device”, as is checking email or accessing the web.) If a student uses a communication device during active class time, the student will be required to leave for the remainder for the class period.

**Code of Academic Integrity**: Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see University Regulation 4.001: <https://www.fau.edu/ctl/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf>.

**Accommodations for Disabilities:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) — in Boca Raton, SU 133 (561-297-3880); in Davie, LA 131 (954-236-1222); or in Jupiter, SR 111F (561-799-8585) — and follow all SAS procedures.

**Religious Accommodation:** In accordance with rules of the Florida Board of Education and Florida law, students have the right to reasonable accommodations from the University in order to observe religious practices and beliefs with regard to admissions, registration, class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments.

Students who wish to be excused from course work, class activities, or examinations must notify the instructor in advance of their intention to participate in religious observation and request an excused absence. The instructor will provide a reasonable opportunity to make up such excused absences.