**Neuroscience 1801**

**Neuroscience Writing Practicum – Spring 2020, Term 2204**

**Class #17701**

**Instructor:** Lisa McIlvried, PhD **Email:** [lam303@pitt.edu](mailto:lam303@pitt.edu)

**Office Hours:** By appointment  **Office:** A206 Langley Hall

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**Course Description:** This course will outline how to research and write a scientific literature review. Students will be able to: Research a broad scientific topic, record research, summarize findings, and draw conclusions based on the scientific evidence, review peer’s work, write and revise drafts for final submission to Turnitin.com.

**Course Text:** *Writing Papers in the Biological Sciences, ≥5th Edition* by McMillan (required)

**Additional Help:** Pitt writing center: <http://www.english.pitt.edu/writingcenter/>

**Courseweb:** CourseWeb **(**Blackboard) will be used in conjunction with this course (http://courseweb.pitt.edu). Please check CourseWeb for announcements, readings, discussions, and group assignments.

**Attendance and assignments:** We will be having both in class and online participation with discussions and peer reviews. For classes, if you are unable to attend, please contact me BEFOREHAND, with *at least one week’s notice* for excused absences (ie, University event or interview). Assignments will still be due on time. All assignments will be turned in online through CourseWeb. If you are unable to turn in an assignment due to an emergency (ie, health crisis requiring medical attention), you will need to provide documentation (a doctor’s note) and turn in assignments (documents, peer reviews) ASAP as instructed. Unexcused absences and not turning in assignments or peer reviews will result in loss of points for that assignment.

**Course Assessment:**

There will be a total of 1000 points assigned throughout the semester (see Schedule below). Grading rubrics for the scientific reader and final paper are provided at the end of the syllabus. Assignments turned in late may be subject to a ½ letter grade deduction for every 24hrs that it is late.

**﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿Grading Scale:**

Letter Grade Percentage Range Letter Grade Percentage Range

A+ 98-100 C+ 78-79

A 93-97 C 73-77

A- 90-92 C- 70-72

B+ 88-89 D 60-69

B 83-87 F Below 60

B- 80-82

**Schedule:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Date** | **Class** | **Assignment due** | **Points** |
| 1 | 1/7 | Intro to course |  |  |
| 2 | 1/14 | How to find & read | read "How to Write a Scientific Review" by Pautasso |  |
|  |  | literature | read "The Science of Scientific Writing" by Gopen & Swan |  |
|  |  |  | start thinking of topic |  |
| 3 | 1/21 | How to cite references | read Ch1 of WPBS |  |
|  |  |  | read reviews, popular science articles on your topic |  |
|  |  |  | email scientific reader |  |
|  |  |  | post topic idea/research question to discussion board | 20 |
| 4 | 1/28 | How to approach/ organize | read Ch5 of WPBS |  |
|  |  | format your lit review; | scientific reader due (Fw email) | 20 |
|  |  | Giving peer feedback | find/list 10+ literature sources (8+ primary research articles) | 20 |
|  |  |  | write summaries of 3 of your primary research articles | 30 |
| 5 | 2/4 | group discussions | read Ch6 of WPBS |  |
|  |  |  | outline draft due | 50 |
| 6 | 2/11 | online | intro drafts due | 50 |
| 7 | 2/18 | online | peer reviews of intro | 30 |
| 8 | 2/25 | online | half of body draft due | 35 |
| 9 | 3/3 | online | full body draft due | 35 |
| 10 | 3/10 | no class- Spring Break |  |  |
| 11 | 3/17 | online | conclusions draft due | 50 |
| 12 | 3/24 | online | peer reviews of body and conclusions due | 60 |
| 13 | 3/31 | email reader draft, 'cc' me | full draft due for scientific reader | 100 |
| 14 | 4/7 | no class |  |  |
| 15 | 4/14 | no class | revise draft from scientific reader |  |
| finals | 4/21 | no class | final paper due | 500 |
|  |  |  |  | 1000 |

**Turnitin.com:** Your final literature review paper will be submitted to Turnitin.com through CourseWeb. Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of Turnitin.com page service is subject to the Usage Policy and Privacy Pledge posted on the Turnitin.com site.

**Literature review paper format:** Your final paper must include:

* Be written in the format of a standard literature review in the biosciences, including: title page, introduction, body, conclusions, acknowledgements, and references.
* 10 or more pages of text (***NOT*** including title page or references or any tables/figures)
* Double-spaced in Times New Roman 12-point font with margins no larger than one inch.
* Be written at a level that is appropriate for publishable manuscripts in the biosciences
* Be scientifically accurate and use appropriate scientific language

**Document submissions:** Please submit as word documents, so that peer reviews can be made using the Track Changes function. Also, use the following format when emailing or posting your documents:

Lastname\_Firstname\_LitRev\_Xdraft duedate (e.g. Golgi\_Camillo\_LitRev\_Intro 2-23-1873)

And the following when posting your peer review documents (please post as a reply to the original submission):

Lastname\_Firstname\_Peerreview\_Xdraft-[Initials of person you are reviewing] duedate

(e.g. McIlvried\_Lisa\_Peerreview\_Intro-CG 8-26-2019)

**Academic integrity:**

Students are required to adhere to the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences academic integrity standards. See <http://www.as.pitt.edu/undergraduate/expectations/index.html> for details.

**Disabilities and Special Needs:**

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both me and Disability Resources and Services, 216 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890 or 412-383-7355 (TTY) as early as possible in the term. Please go to the Student Affairs website at http://www.drs.pitt.edu/ for more information.

**Email:** Each student is issued a University e-mail address ([username@pitt.edu](mailto:username@pitt.edu)) upon admittance. This e-mail address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an e-mail forwarding service that allows students to read their e-mail via other service providers (e.g., Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their e-mail from their [pitt.edu](http://pitt.edu/) address to another address do so at their own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e-mail address. To forward e-mail sent to your University account, go to [http://accounts.pitt.edu](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Faccounts.pitt.edu%2F&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cc6e857a9b35b4fe8491208d6091d8f94%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C636706419892970666&sdata=zlkEs0xjme%2BQ1EBZpAtA1O3Upne9Dx65%2Fqv2%2FMD%2FBA4%3D&reserved=0), log into your account, click on *Edit Forwarding Addresses*, and follow the instructions on the page. Be sure to log out of your account when you have finished. (For the full E-mail Communication Policy, go to[www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/policy/09/09-10-01.html](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.bc.pitt.edu%2Fpolicies%2Fpolicy%2F09%2F09-10-01.html&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cc6e857a9b35b4fe8491208d6091d8f94%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C636706419892980680&sdata=YTw6TDt3nqsuOjxutjOEjew1wpQ2amuvsE5zd8fsf5E%3D&reserved=0).)

**Scientific Reviewer Rubric:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 90-100 | 75-90 | 60-75 | <60 | **Score** |
| **Scientific Reviewer** | The content of the paper is scientifically accurate and uses appropriate scientific language | The content of the paper is scientifically accurate but does not use scientific language. | The content of the paper is not scientifically accurate but uses appro. scientific language. | Contains multiple scientific errors and does not use scientific language. |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **50** | **40** | **30** | **20** | **Score** |
| **WRITING** | | | | | |
| **Introduction** | Aim and scope are repeated, and topic is introduced, rationale clearly explained | Aim and scope are repeated, and topic is introduced, rationale not explained | Aim and scope are not repeated, and topic is introduced, rationale is explained | Aim and scope are not repeated, and topic is introduced, rationale not explained |  |
| **Body/Theme** | Well organized, demonstrates logical sequencing, and structure. | Well organized, difficult to follow sequencing or structure. | Weakly organized with no logical flow or structure | No organization, sequencing or structure |  |
| **Conclusions** | Detailed conclusions are reached from the evidence offered. | Conclusions are reached from the evidence offered. | Some conclusions from the evidence offered. | No conclusions or illogical based on evidence offered. |  |
| **SOURCES** | | | | | |
| **Use and format of references** | Information is cited consistently, appropriately, and with correct format. | Information is cited inconsistently, but with proper format. | Information is cited but has errors or improper format. | Information not cited. |  |
| **Number and type of references** | Information presented comes from at least 10 separate, peer-reviewed, primary research journal articles | Information presented comes from at least 8 peer-reviewed, primary research journal articles | Information presented comes from at least 6 peer-reviewed primary journal articles | Information presented comes from at least 4 or fewer peer-reviewed primary journal articles |  |
| **PRESENTATION** | | | | | |
| **Title Page** | Includes title, author, course, and date. | Only contains 3 of the 4 requirements. | Only contains 2 of the 4 requirements | Only contains 1 of the 4 requirements |  |
| **Acknowledgments** | Thanked those who helped! |  |  |  |  |
| **Length** | Adheres to 10-page minimum criteria. | Does not meet 10-page criteria by ½ page or less | Does not meet 10-page criteria by ½ page to 1 page. | Does not meet 10-page criteria by more than 1 page. |  |
| **Grammar** | 2 or fewer grammatical errors. | 3-4 grammatical errors | 4-5 grammatical errors. | 6 or more grammatical errors. |  |
| **Format/Structure** | 0-1 formatting errors: font, spacing, headers, use of fig/tables | 2 formatting errors | 3 formatting errors | 4 or more formatting errors |  |
| **TOTAL** |  | | | | **\_\_ /500** |
| **TURNITIN.COM** | **Our final draft must be submitted to TURNITIN.COM no later than  4pm December 9, 2019 with a matching score of 15% or lower to be graded.** | | | |  |