

ATMS 464
Scientific Writing
Fall 2013

Professor : Dr. Chris Hennon
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Office Hours : MW 10:30 – 11:30, R 11:00-12:00 and by appointment

Course Description

It is difficult enough to master the nuances of language when one is writing general papers for a class, job, or other purpose. It is an additional challenge to write an effective scientific paper; one in which you must effectively communicate complicated ideas and results to an audience who will not possess the same amount of knowledge and understanding.

The goal of this class is to teach you foundational strategies for scientific writing. This class will give you the building blocks you will need to write well and communicate your ideas and theses in a clear, concise, and fluid fashion. We will learn about rules and templates specific to the atmospheric sciences, including writing articles in journals.

Another goal of this class is to introduce effective ways of researching for your paper, from finding articles and books online to visiting your friendly neighborhood library. You will learn how to perform a literature review, parsing through many articles to find those most relevant to the question(s) at hand. This class satisfies a writing intensive (WI) and informational literacy (IL) intensive requirement.

Class Information

Call Number : 60016
Days and Time : T R 9:25 am – 10:40 am
Building / Room : RRO 238 (Robinson Hall)

Textbook : *Eloquent Science: A practical guide to becoming a better Writer, Speaker, and Atmospheric Scientist* by David M. Schultz (required)
ISBN: 978-1-878220-91-2

Website : Moodle (<http://learnonline.unca.edu>)
Prerequisites : Junior or Senior standing

Learning Outcomes

This course is designated as a Writing and Information Literacy (WI and IL) intensive course. You are required to complete 3 WI and 2 IL courses before graduation. The learning objectives for IL courses can be found here:

<http://ils.unca.edu/information-literacy-intensives-0>

The learning objectives for WI courses can be found here:

<http://ils.unca.edu/writing-intensives-0>

Finally, as an Atmospheric Science offering, this course contributes to our departmental student learning outcomes, which can be found here:

<http://www.atms.unca.edu/slos.shtml>

I encourage you to read the entire student learning outcomes to familiarize yourself with the learning outcomes this course was designed to fulfill.

Grading Information

For this class, you will be evaluated in three areas: a series of 6 writing assignments, peer review quality, and a poster/presentation. I reserve the right to change the number of each category and their value during the semester. You will be notified in class of any changes.

Writing/Research Assignments (6 x 100 points each = 600 points)

Six (6) writing/research assignments will be given out during the semester. They will provide ways for you to put into practice what you have been learning in the text and during class. Each appropriate writing exercise will be evaluated by your peer group and then revised. On some exercises you will have the opportunity to create a third draft of your writing. Each exercise is worth 100 points total. Details on how assignments will be evaluated will be discussed in class.

Peer Review (4 x 50 points each = 200 points)

For four (4) of the writing assignments, peer review activities will be conducted during class. Each of you will be required to participate in the process and be evaluated on the review that you submit to the author. More details will be provided in class.

Final Poster / Presentation (200 points)

You will create a poster and make a presentation. These are meant to simulate what you may present at a scientific meeting. Presentations will occur during the final exam time.

Incomplete Grades (I)

The issuance of an Incomplete (I) grade at the conclusion of the semester is reserved for only the most serious and justifiable circumstances. Do **not** assume that you will receive an Incomplete grade. In general, at least 75% of the course work must already have been completed in order for me to even consider the issuance of an Incomplete. Any unexcused absence(s) and a large amount of excused absences does not in itself qualify you for an Incomplete grade.

Grading Scale

There are 1000 points available in this class. Your final grade will be based on the following scale (no grading "curve", or adjustments, will be made in this class):

925 – 1000 points	A
900 – 924 points	A-
875 – 899 points	B+
825 – 874 points	B
800 – 824 points	B-
775 – 799 points	C+
725 – 774 points	C

700 – 724 points	C-
675 – 699 points	D+
600 – 674 points	D
< 600 points	F

Make Up Policy

Since the schedule of assignments will generally be established well ahead of their due date, you are expected to submit your writing drafts (either electronically or paper) by the due dates. Moodle will not allow late submission of assignments.

If you miss the online deadline, I may accept an assignment up to 24 hours late with a 33% penalty. *Assignments more than 24 hours late will not be accepted under any circumstances.* If you put assignments in my office mailbox, please find another faculty member to date/time stamp it. My mailbox is outside of my office in room 236 RRO.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

University of North Carolina at Asheville is committed to making courses, programs and activities accessible to persons with documented disabilities. Students requiring reasonable accommodations must register with the Disability Services Office by providing supporting documentation. All information provided will remain confidential. For more information please contact the Disability Services Office at [\(828\)232-5050](tel:8282325050) or disabilityservices@unca.edu or visit them in the OneStop Student Services Center.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

As a writing course, we have to be especially vigilant to avoid plagiarism. Although we will spend some time in class learning about it, it is useful to define it here as “the appropriation and use of someone else’s ideas or words as one’s own”. Violations, intentional or not, will not be tolerated. You are responsible for giving credit to the source of any idea, phrase, term, definition, or pattern of organization you use in your own work. Ignorance is not an excuse.

If you use any form of cheating and/or plagiarism on an exam or assignment, you will be subject to procedures outlined in section 8.3 of the UNCA Faculty Handbook. Possible outcomes include receiving a zero for the exam or assignment, dismissal from the course, and/or suspension/dismissal from the university. If there is any doubt in your mind, **ASK ME**.

Writing Center Support

The University Writing Center (UWC) offers support to writers in one-on-one sessions, which last anywhere from 10 to 50 minutes depending on your needs. The UWC helps writers brainstorm, find a topic, incorporate and document sources, organize drafts, develop revision strategies, and more. If you visit the UWC, bring a copy of your assignment, any drafting or notes you may have, as well as any sources you are working with. Make an appointment by visiting the UWC website at writingcenter.unca.edu and clicking on the "Schedule an Appointment" link. You may also drop in during open hours.