

ATMS 464: Scientific Writing

Fall 2023

RRO 238 (Robinson Hall)

MW 9:30 – 10:45 am

Professor: Dr. Elaine S. Godfrey

Contact: egodfrey@unca.edu (best, use anytime)

828.251.6617 (during business hours 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. only)

Course website: Moodle (<http://learnonline.unca.edu>)

Virtual office hours: Through Google Meet on Thursdays 11 a.m.–12 p.m. or other times by appointment. Check Moodle for the Google Meet link.

Prerequisites: ATMS 103 or 113, and Junior standing or permission of instructor

Fulfillment requirements: This course satisfies the writing intensive requirement for majors in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences.

Questions and concerns: I will be active on Google Meet Thursday mornings 11 a.m.–12 p.m. and you can simply drop in. Please feel free to email me if you have questions or concerns at any other time. You may also call me during regular business hours or schedule a separate appointment with me for a virtual meeting. Please do not hesitate to contact me to ask any questions about this class or others. I am here for you and to help you succeed in the Atmospheric Sciences program!

Purpose: Familiarize students with scientific journals, the scientific writing and publishing process, and other forms of scientific writing and empower students to critically read and create scientific papers and presentations.

Course goals and learning outcomes:

- Become familiar with scientific writing and the publishing process
- Create a well-written research paper and a professional presentation

Course Topics

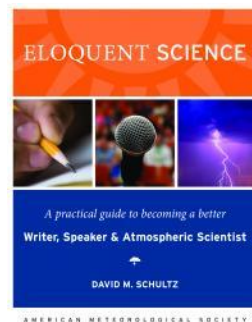
- Scientific writing overview
- Research paper format, AMS style
- Peer review
- Elements of excellent writing
- Research writing, literature review
- Research presentations
- Other forms of scientific writing
- Literature search, research strategies, and critical reading
- Citations, references, plagiarism

Expectations: I expect you to give me your *best* effort and work, and I will do the same for you.

Course Materials:

Required 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](https://www.amazon.com/dp/9781878220912)

Recommended book: [*Scientific Writing and Communication: Papers, Proposals, and Presentations*](#) by Angelika H. Hofmann
ISBN-13: 978-0190063283



Important Dates/Class Schedule

21 August:	First day of class
27 August:	Last day to register/add/drop full-semester classes online
4 September:	Labor Day (no class)
9 October:	Fall break (no class)
20 October:	Last day to withdraw/audit full semester classes
22 November:	Thanksgiving break (no class)
4 December:	Last day of class
5 December:	Final Paper Due by 11:59 pm
6 December:	Reading/Study Day (no class)
11 December:	Final in-class presentation, 8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Grading

- Attendance & participation: 15%
- Writing assignments: 40%
- Final project:
 - Scientific paper: 30%
 - Oral/poster presentation: 15%

Grades will be based on the following scale:

A	≥ 92.0%	C	72.0 – 77.9%
A-	90.0 – 91.9%	C-	70.0 – 71.9%
B+	88.0 – 89.9%	D+	68.0 – 69.9%
B	82.0 – 87.9%	D	60.0 – 67.9%
B-	80.0 – 81.9%	F	< 60.0%
C+	78.0 – 79.9%		

Final grades are not negotiable, although I reserve the right to curve the final grades upward at my discretion. If you have a concern about any other grade, please see me no later than 14 days from the date your grade was returned to you.

All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date specified. Late papers submitted within 24 hours will receive a -50% penalty. Papers submitted after 24 hours will not be graded.

Class attendance and participation

Our class will be much more informative, constructive, and enjoyable for each of us if everyone participates daily in our discussions. I've designed each meeting to carefully build your skills and knowledge base necessary to complete your final project and give you essential tools for a successful career. Therefore, attendance and participation comprise 15% of your final grade.

It is common knowledge that students who attend class in-person (instead of virtually) tend to have higher grade outcomes. However, common illnesses and new variants of the COVID-19 virus still circulate and I want this classroom to be a safe and healthy place for everyone. Please always demonstrate respect for yourself, your classmates, your professor, and their families/friends. If you have been exposed to COVID-19, flu, RSV, etc. (i.e., someone you've been around within the last three days tested positive or displayed obvious symptoms), tested positive yourself within

the past five days, or have any symptoms (fever, runny nose/congestion, sore throat, lethargy, etc.) *please do NOT come to class*. I can livestream this course via Zoom with sufficient notice (email the day before class or call my office if it's the morning of class). If you have concerns about your voice being transmitted or recorded via Zoom to your classmates, please let me know today. There will be *NO PENALTY* for participating remotely to promote safety! 😊

I may wear a mask in class to protect you, myself and my family, including my elderly parents and young children. If you have trouble understanding me in class, please speak up immediately.

No matter your career path, you will undoubtedly review the writing of others. Therefore, part of your participation grade will include peer-reviewing one another's papers in class. Official scientific paper reviews make up a major part of the publishing process for scientific discoveries.

Writing assignments

This is a writing course and I will give numerous writing assignments throughout the semester to guide and prepare you to create your final project: a formal presentation and scientific paper. These assignments will constitute the bulk of your course grade. You must submit assignments through Moodle. Some assignments may require submission as Google documents.

We will peer-review some assignments in class. On these days, please submit electronic copies of your assignment before class, print two copies of your assignment, and bring a laptop to class if you have one.

Final project:

This semester, you will have the opportunity to conduct your own research on a meteorological or climatological topic that is of particular interest to you. I will provide you with data sets, specific instructions, and links to journal articles. We will begin work on this semester-long project at the beginning of the semester and step carefully through the research, writing, and presentation process.

In lieu of a final exam, we will hold a research conference on the morning of 11 December 2023 from 8:00 a.m.– 10:30 a.m. You may choose to create either a PowerPoint slide show to present to the class in a 12-minute conference-style format with three additional minutes for questions or a large-format poster to present to the class (see examples in the hallway). We will invite the entire department to join us.

You will turn in a peer-reviewed research paper before the research conference. This paper will take the form of an American Meteorological Society scientific journal article and will summarize the research project you completed during the semester.

Plagiarism

DO NOT copy, cheat, or claim any portion of someone else's work, phrases, or ideas as your own. This includes the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to produce or assist content without authorization and proper attribution. The university and I take cheating very seriously and any instances will be reported accordingly. Possible outcomes include a zero on the assignment, failing the course, or suspension/expulsion from UNC Asheville. If you're uncertain about anything, please come to me. I'm here to help you!

Student Resources

UNC Asheville Writing Center

The Writing Center warmly welcomes all UNC Asheville students, staff, faculty, and members of the community to the writing hub of campus. The Writing Center supports writers through one-on-one consultations with student writing consultants for any writing project, regardless of where you are in your writing process. The Writing Center is currently offering both remote and in-person writing consultations Monday through Friday and on Sundays.

Taken from: <https://writingcenter.unca.edu/>

Office of Accessibility

The University of North Carolina at Asheville values the diversity of our student body as a strength and a critical component of our dynamic community. Students with disabilities or temporary injuries/conditions may require accommodations due to barriers in the structure of facilities, course design, technology used for curricular purposes, or other campus resources. Students who experience a barrier to full access to this class should let the professor know, and/or make an appointment to meet with the Office of Academic Accessibility as soon as possible. To make an appointment, call 828.232.5050 or email academicaccess@unca.edu. Learn more about the process of registering and the services available through the Office of Academic Accessibility at accessibility.unca.edu.

While students may disclose disability at any point in the semester, students who receive Letters of Accommodation are strongly encouraged to request, obtain and present these to their professors as early in the semester as possible so that accommodations can be made in a timely manner. It is the student's responsibility to follow this process each semester.

Taken from <https://accessibility.unca.edu/resources-for-syllabi/syllabus-statements-about-office-of-academic-accessibility/>

Mental Health

As a student, you may experience a range of challenges that can interfere with learning, such as stressful life events, experiences of anxiety and/or depression, self-harm, substance use, and/or unusual difficulty with ordinary life activities. The increased stress of school can also make existing mental health struggles more difficult to manage. Support is available and treatment can help. Learn more about the confidential mental health services UNC Asheville provides to support student success at <https://www.unca.edu/life/health-counseling/>.

The Health and Counseling Center is located at 118 W.T. Weaver Boulevard. Appointments can be made by calling 828-251-6520. A UNC Asheville counselor is available on call after 5 p.m. and on weekends; the counselor on call can be accessed by calling the UNCA Campus Police dispatcher at 828-251-6710. Additionally, available after hours and on weekends, call the Bulldog Health Link at 1-888-267-3675, where you can get immediate support for mental health, medical consultation, concern for a friend, and/or community resources. In case of an emergency, you can also call RHA's Mental Health Mobile Crisis Unit at 1-888-573-1006.

Taken from: <https://accessibility.unca.edu/resources-for-syllabi/syllabus-statement-regarding-trigger-warnings/>

This syllabus is subject to change. Changes will be conveyed to students during a class meeting and posted to the Moodle course page.