

Writing Academic Papers (C004411)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 4.0

Study time 120 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2023-2024

A (semester 1)

English

Gent

lecture

independent work

Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Haelewaters, Danny

WE11

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

[Master of Science in Teaching in Science and Technology\(main subject Biology\)](#)

crdts

4

offering

A

[Master of Science in Biology](#)

4

A

[Exchange Programme in Biology \(master's level\)](#)

4

A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Academic writing, peer review, scientific writing, storytelling

Position of the course

How do you write a paper that gets read and cited by other researchers? In this course, students who are ready to write their first paper learn to think about scientific writing as storytelling. Every week, teacher and students will engage in group analysis, dissection, and editing of written work, both of previously published papers and own manuscript sections. By the end of the semester, every student should have a manuscript that is ready for submission, or almost so.

Contents

- Scientific papers as stories
- Creating an outline
- Story structure and story elements
- Paragraph structure
- Sentence structure
- Energizing writing
- Approaches to revising

Initial competences

Bachelor degree. Basic writing skills. Competent in English

Final competences

- 1 Knowledge on theory about writing sentences, paragraphs, papers.
- 2 Ability to provide constructive criticism to colleagues (peer review).
- 3 Ability to engage the reader.
- 4 Ability to apply SUCCES and OCAR concepts in writing manuscripts.
- 5 Write a complete manuscript, section by section, throughout the semester.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Group work, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures, group work, in-class discussions:

A typical "class" consists of three parts:

- 1 First, after an introduction or lecture by the instructor, students will analyze written work as a group
- 2 Students will provide oral feedback on parts of a paper they were assigned to prepare
- 3 Students will break into peer groups for exercises, discussion, and feedback

Independent work:

Weekly assignments, which include writing and editing exercises, as well as manuscript milestones (i.e., deadlines for completing certain sections of the student's manuscript)

Peer assessment:

Students will provide written and oral feedback on the work of their peers

Learning materials and price

Lecture slides, PDFs of papers that are assigned for pre-class reading, PDF of selected chapters from "Writing science: How to write papers that get cited and proposals that get funded" (Schimel 2011). Two copies of this book are available in the office of the lecturer for those who prefer reading physical books.

References

- https://www.ugent.be/doctoralschools/en/doctoraltraining/courses/transferableskills/all/syllabus_writing_scientific_papers.pdf
- Gopen GD, Swan JA (1990) The science of scientific writing. *The American Scientist* 78:550–558.
- Knight J (2003) Clear as mud. *Nature* 422:378. <https://doi.org/10.1038/423376a>
- Kozak M, Hartley J (2019). Academic science writing: an inconsiderate genre? *European Science Editing* 45(3):69–71. <https://doi.org/10.20316/ESE.2019.45.19002>
- Mensh B, Kording K (2017) Ten simple rules for structuring papers. *PLoS Computational Biology* 13(9):e1005619. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1005619>
- Schimel J (2012) *Writing Science: How to write papers that get cited and proposals that get funded*. Oxford University Press, New York. 221 pp.

Course content-related study coaching

Weekly office hours by the lecturer (to be determined), in addition to time for questions and interaction during lectures and in-class discussions

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Assignment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Assignment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Peer and/or self assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is not possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Evaluation will be made based on weekly assignments (20%), the final manuscript draft (40%), manuscript peer group reviews in class (15%), and class attendance and participation (25%)

Calculation of the examination mark

- Assignment: 60%
- Peer assessment: 15%
- Participation: 25%