

Mondays, 5:30 - 7:20 p.m. in York Hall 3010

This course can help you to become more skillful with several different methods of communicating scientific information (well, really ANY kind of information, but we will focus on scientific information because as biology majors you will be taking a lot of science courses).

Here is an approximate syllabus:

Date	Topic	Assignment to complete before this meeting
October 1	Introduction to this seminar-- what are the goals and what will you do?	
October 8	Written communication	Go to sciencefriday.com. Choose a biological topic from that site, and write a paragraph that summarizes the segment that you listened to (or maybe read). Your paragraph should be typed in a 12-point font, double-spaced, and should be 150 - 200 words long. Take care not to plagiarize. (What is plagiarism?)
Oct 15	How do you talk to a professor , either right after class or during office hours?	Attend an office hour of one of your professors. Before you go, make a list of questions you might want to ask (it can be a short list), and afterward write a brief description of how it went. What was good, and what could have been better? We'll compare notes about the experience.
Oct 22	How to write great answers to exam questions	Pick <u>one</u> topic from a class that you are currently taking . Write three questions that address the topic you chose: one that tests memorization , one that tests explanation , and one that requires application . By noon on Wednesday, Oct. 17, send your questions to me attached to an e-mail message. Write good answers to each of your three questions, thinking about how the answers differ, and bring them to class.

Oct 29	Constructing effective graphics-- diagrams, graphs, images (Do you know how to use Power Point effectively?)	Choose one topic and illustrate it with an informative graph OR an informative good diagram. Either e-mail it to me by noon on Wednesday, October 24, or bring it on a jump drive or on your computer. You'll give a BRIEF talk guiding your audience through your slide.
November 5	Presenting a talk using Power Point	Choose one topic related to biology, and construct an 8-minute talk that is illustrated with no more than 5 Power Point slides. Either e-mail it to me by noon on Friday November 2 or bring it on a jump drive or on your computer.
Nov. 12	More Power Point talks	Same as for November 5, but deadline is November 9
Nov. 19	Presenting a "chalk talk"	Choose one topic related to biology and construct a 5-minute chalk talk (no slides, just a board and some chalk or markers). How is this different from a Power Point presentation?
Nov. 26	More chalk talks	none
December 3	Meeting with Biological Sciences Honors Program members who will talk about "What I've learned about getting along and doing well at UCSD." Evaluation and summing up.	none

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