

Mondays, 3 to 4:50 p.m., 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 for this meeting
September 26	Introduction to this seminar	
October 3	Sources of information: the good, the bad, and the dreadful	Pick ONE topic that is directly related to biology. Find and bring to class a hard copy or an electronic copy of: (1) one excellent source of information about your topic, (2) one questionable source of information, and (3) one terrible source of information
October 10	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 double-spaced and should be 150 - 200 words long. Take care not to plagiarize.
Oct 17	How to write the answers to exam questions	Pick one 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 . Write good answers to each of your three questions.
Oct 24	Constructing excellent graphics-- diagrams, graphs, images	Choose one topic and illustrate it with a good graph and a good diagram. You'll give a BRIEF talk guiding your audience through your slide.

Oct 31	Presenting a talk using Power Point (See below for schedules)	Choose one topic related to biology, and construct an 8-minute talk that is illustrated with Power Point slides
Nov. 7	Continue Power Point talks	Same as for October 31
Nov. 14	Presenting a "chalk talk"	Choose one topic related to biology and construct a 5-minute chalk talk
Nov. 21	Continue chalk talks	none
Nov 28	What I wish I knew when I was an entering UCSD Freshman--hear from Biology honors students who entered UCSD in Fall 2010; summing up and evaluation	