

Writing 2131G
No Bones About It: Writing in the Sciences,
Winter 2022

Section: 650

Instructor: Dr. Aaron Schneider

Email: aschnei4@uwo.ca or OWL email

Office: UC 2431

Office hours: Monday 9:30-11:30 (Zoom):

Aaron Schneider is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Aaron Schneider's Zoom Meeting

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/92023725393>

Meeting ID: 920 2372 5393

One tap mobile

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Dial by your location

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Join by H.323

162.255.37.11 (US West)

162.255.36.11 (US East)

69.174.57.160 (Canada Toronto)

65.39.152.160 (Canada Vancouver)

Meeting ID: 920 2372 5393

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Writing in the Sciences introduces students to the basic principles and genres of writing required for science students in their under-graduate careers. Writing in the sciences requires students to observe clearly, record their observations systematically, follow and write clear procedures, summarize the work of others clearly, report the work of other researchers accurately, and communicate their own actions in detailed reports. This kind of discourse often takes the form of reports, research essays, poster presentations, and oral presentations, and as such will constitute the major assignments for this course.

In this course you will learn how to

- analyse scientific journal articles
- write for non-scientific audiences
- document your activities in a lab setting
- write research reports on scientific topics
- document your sources correctly
- write in a style appropriate to scientific discourse
- edit and revise your work to conform to Standard Edited English

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Thaiss, Christopher. *Writing Science in the Twenty-First Century*. Broadview Press: Peterborough, 2019.
- Messenger, William E., Jande Bruyn, Judy Brown, and Ramona Montagnes. *The Canadian Writer's Handbook*. Second Essentials Edition. Oxford University Press: Don Mills, 2017.
- Writing 2131G Course Pack

ASSIGNMENTS:

Rhetorical Analysis (Diagnostic Assignment)	500 words	0%
Writing for Non-Scientists	750 words	20%
Proposal and Annotated Bibliography	See assignment	10%
Poster	See assignment	15%
2 Quizzes (7.5% x 2)	NA	15%
Research Paper	2000 words	40%

Note: Assignment due dates are listed on the class schedule.

Note: Complete assignments will be posted on OWL.

ATTENDANCE:

This is an online course, and there is, therefore, no scheduled class, and no penalties for missing class. However, it is your responsibility to stay engaged with the course. A regular class requires you to attend class at least once and often twice a week. You should be logging on to our class' OWL site a bare minimum of this number of times a week, and, ideally, several more.

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS:

All assignments should be submitted through the Assignments drop boxes on OWL by 5:30 pm on the Friday of the week the assignment is due.

Note: All assignments must be submitted as Microsoft Word files. As a Western student, you have access to this program through your Outlook site (the site you use for your Western email). The one exception to this is the Poster which must be submitted as a PowerPoint slide. Assignments that do not conform to these file types will receive a grade of 0%.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

Late assignments will be penalized 5% a day.

Do not

- fax assignments
- e-mail assignments

Keep copies (electronic, paper, or both) of all assignments submitted.

EMAIL POLICY:

I respond to email in one working day. You can email me at aschnei4@uwo.ca or through OWL email. I do not respond to email on the weekend.

Please note that UWO Instructors can respond only to UWO e-mail addresses. Grades can be communicated only through the Mail aspect of Sakai (OWL), not through UWO e-mail.

Scholastic Offences, including Plagiarism

The University Senate requires the following statements, and Web site references, to appear on course outlines:

“Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf”

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy as above).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

Academic Accommodation and Consideration

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities.

Academic Consideration for Student Absence:

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student’s final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student’s final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are not met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant

documentation. All requests for consideration for assessments worth more than 30% of a final grade must be directed to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.

In this course, all requests for academic consideration must be directed to the Academic Counselling office of the student's Home Faculty if an SRA will not be used.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Religious Accommodation:

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Special Requests (Special Examinations, Incomplete Standing, Aegrotat Standing):

Please refer to the "Information for All Students in a Writing Course" for more detailed information. Briefly, remember that your instructor does not have the discretion to initiate, consider, or grant (or not) such requests; you must go directly to the Dean's office of your home faculty.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Academic Support and Engagement <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Owl (Sakai)

Assignments, when they are assigned, will be posted on our Sakai course site. Modifications to the schedule may occur from time to time, but students will be notified by e-mail if this occurs.

Class Schedule

Week 1 (January 10-14):

Topic: Introduction to the Course: Reading Rhetorically

Readings:

- *Writing Science*: Chapter 1: Writing to Reach Readers
- Course Pack: “Writing About Biology: How Rhetorical Choices Can Influence the Impact of a Scientific Paper”
- Week 1 Lecture: Welcome to the Course
- Week 1 Lecture: Writing About Biology

Week 2 (January 17-21):

Topic: Writing for General Audiences, and Grammar Basics

Readings:

- *Writing Science*: Chapter 8: STEM Journalism
- *Writing Science*: Chapter 9: Science Blogs
- *Grammar Handbook*: Chapters 3 and 6, 7a, 8a-d, 10-13
- Week 2 Lecture: Getting Started with Grammar
- Week 2 Lecture: General Audiences

Assignment: Assignment #1: Rhetorical Analysis due by 5:30 on Friday, January 21

Week 3 (January 24-28):

Topic: Writing with Power and Clarity, and Paragraphs

Readings:

- *Writing Science*: Chapter 2: Building Experience and Confidence in Writing Science
- *Grammar Handbook*: Chapter 1 and Chapter 2
- Week 3 Lecture: Paragraphs
- Week 3 Lecture: Writing with Power and Clarity in the Sciences
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Week 4 (January 31-February 4):

Topic: Illustrations, Tables and Charts (for general audiences), and Verbs and the Active-Voice

Readings:

- *Writing Science*: Chapter 3: “Writing” Redefined Multimodally
- *Grammar Handbook*: Chapter 8 and 9
- Week 4 Lecture: Design for General Audiences
- Week 4 Lecture: Verbs and the Active-Voice

Week 5 (February 7-11):

Topic: Illustrations, Tables and Charts (for scientific audiences), and Commas

Readings:

- Revisit *Writing Science*: Chapter 3
- *Grammar Handbook*: Chapter 15
- Week 5 Lecture: Design for Scientific Audiences
- Week 5 Lecture: The Comma

Assignment: Assignment #2: Writing for Non-Scientists due by 5:30 on Friday, February 11

Week 6 (February 14-18):

Topic: Research Proposals, and Creating an Annotated Bibliography, and Semicolons and Colons

Readings:

- *Grammar Handbook*: Chapters 16 and 17
- Week 6 Lecture: Proposals and Annotated Bibliographies
- Week 6 Lecture: Semicolons and Colons

Assignments: Quiz #1

****Winter Reading Break****

Week 7 (February 28-March 4):

Topic: Research, and Common Sentence Problems

Readings:

- *Grammar Handbook*: Chapters 33 and 5
- Week 7 Lecture: Common Sentence Problems
- Week 7 Lecture: Research

Assignment: Assignment #3: Proposal and Annotated Bibliography due by 5:30 on Friday, March 4

Week 8 (March 7-11):

Topic: Posters

Readings:

- *Writing Science*: Chapter 10: Creating Posters and Infographics
- Week 8 Lecture: Posters
- Week 8 Lecture: Grammar Review

Assignment: Quiz #2

Week 9 (March 14-18):

Topic: Writing to Persuade, Writing the Research Project, and Dealing with Sources

Readings:

- *Grammar Handbook*: Chapters 14 and 35
- Week 9 Lecture: Persuasive Papers
- Week 9 Lecture: Documentation Styles

Week 10 (March 21-25):

Topic: Writing a Review and Dealing with Sources Continued

Readings:

- *Writing Science*: Chapter 7: Writing the Research Review
- *Grammar Handbook*: Chapter 36
- Week 10 Lecture: Writing a Review
- Week 10 Lecture: Plagiarism

Assignment: Assignment #4: Poster due by 5:30 on Friday, March 25

Week 11 (March 28-April 1):

Topic: Catch Up, Bringing it All Together, and Presentation Tips

Readings:

- *Writing Science*: Chapter 11: Creating Oral-Visual Presentations
- Review course readings up to this point with a particular emphasis on those that are relevant to the Research Paper
- Week 11 Lecture: Presentations
- Week 11 Lecture: The Total Quality Management Approach to Writing

Week 12 (April 4-8):

Topic: Revising Strategies, and Sundry Grammatical Issues

Readings:

- *Writing Science*: Chapter 12: Writing Science with Style and Styles
- *Writing Science*: Chapter 13: Editing Sentences
- *Grammar Handbook*: Chapter 25
- Week 12 Lecture: Writing with Style and Review

Assignment: Assignment #5: Research Paper due by 5:30 on Friday, April 8