

Course Syllabus

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Course Description

This course is an introduction to communicating science, with a focus on environmental and occupational health sciences. We'll learn about the different forms of science communication, from academic papers to the casual 5-minute bar talk, and practice our writing and speaking skills with hands-on activities.

We'll also dive deep into skills that support good science communication. We'll learn about tailoring our message for specific audiences, how to consume media critically, interviewing others, and how to revise your own and other people's work. Ideally, you'll leave this course with a better understanding of how science research makes it out into the world, and real-world skills you can apply to any situation in which you have the opportunity to communicate science.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Identify and strategically target a variety of audiences for science communication
- Find, evaluate, and use public health information to communicate with others
- Learn and practice the basic mechanics of writing and public speaking skills
- Compose and revise written materials and oral presentations
- Describe how the media ecosystem works, including the role and importance of data collection and research in public health
- Critically evaluate sources of information

Learning assessment

Like any other skill, science communication requires practice. Around half of your total grade will be based on weekly reflections and your participation in class discussions in forums or on Zoom. These are designed to provide an opportunity not only to write, but also to think about your audience and what makes for compelling scicomm.

Throughout the course, we'll build our toolkit of scicomm skills, first practicing how to read, analyze, and summarize research for others within our field, then trying our hand at writing and talking about it with a general audience.

Here's a summary of your major assignments:

Assignment	Total grade %	Due date
Reflections, discussions, and exercises	55%	(throughout course)
Executive summary	10%	Jan 24 (1st draft)
		Jan 31 (final draft)
News article	20%	Feb 7 (1st draft)
		Feb 14 (2nd draft)
		Feb 21 (final draft)
Final presentation	15%	Last week of class (March 9 & 11)

Class Participation

It's my hope that the discussions we have in class will allow us to learn from each other, and generate new ideas we wouldn't arrive at just by reading and reflecting on our own. It's not just that you might learn something new in class — it's also that your unique perspective and contributions will allow your classmates to learn from you, too.

We'll talk about ideas at our class meetings each week, and you'll also submit written reflections on readings or videos. Your top ten reflections will count towards your final grade; there will be more than ten opportunities to submit reflections, which means that if there's a week or two you're not able to complete reflection assignments, it will not affect your overall grade.










These are hectic times, and I know many of you have other responsibilities — coursework, caring for family, and caring for yourselves. If you know in advance you will not be able to complete coursework by the due date and you need to make alternate arrangements, please let me know as soon as you can.




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
The easiest way to reach me is via email: [janehu@uw.edu \(mailto:janehu@uw.edu\)](mailto:janehu@uw.edu). You can also send me a message through Canvas. I'll do my best to respond in a timely manner, but please be prepared to


wait at least a day for a response, if not longer. I check and respond to emails between 9am and 5pm on weekdays.





Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Thu Jan 7, 2021	 ENV H 320 A Sp 20: Welcome (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=1786207&include_contexts=course_1434489)	1:30pm to 3:20pm
	 ENV H 320 A Wi 21: Introduction To Technical Communication In Environmental Health (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=1818629&include_contexts=course_1434489)	1:30pm to 3:15pm
Sun Jan 10, 2021	 Exercise: Email writing (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1434489/assignments/5909898)	due by 11:59pm
	 Exercise: Study summary (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1434489/assignments/5909907)	due by 11:59pm
	 Reflection: Goals and interests (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1434489/assignments/5909911)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jan 14, 2021	 ENV H 320 A Wi 21: Introduction To Technical Communication In Environmental Health (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=1818630&include_contexts=course_1434489)	1:30pm to 3:15pm
Sun Jan 17, 2021	 Discussion: Evaluate the message (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1434489/assignments/5909881)	due by 11:59pm
	 Exercise: Journalism or PR? (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1434489/assignments/5909901)	due by 11:59pm
	 Exercise: Literature review (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1434489/assignments/6023752)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Thu Jan 21, 2021	 ENV H 320 A Wi 21: Introduction To Technical Communication In Environmental Health (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=1818631&include_contexts=course_1434489)	1:30pm to 3:15pm
Sun Jan 24, 2021	 Assignment: Executive summary, draft 1 (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1434489/assignments/5909886)	due by 11:59pm
	 Exercise: Describe how an everyday object works (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1434489/assignments/5909894)	due by 11:59pm
	 Exercise: News jumble (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1434489/assignments/5909903)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jan 28, 2021	 Assignment: Executive summary peer reviews (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1434489/assignments/5909883)	due by 12pm
	 ENV H 320 A Wi 21: Introduction To Technical Communication In Environmental Health (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=1818632&include_contexts=course_1434489)	1:30pm to 3:15pm
Sun Jan 31, 2021	 Assignment: Executive summary -- final draft (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1434489/assignments/5909882)	due by 11:59pm
	 Exercise: Identifying plagiarism (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1434489/assignments/5909899)	due by 11:59pm
	 Exercise: Paraphrasing (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1434489/assignments/5909904)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
	 Exercise: Self-editing (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1434489/assignments/5909906)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Feb 4, 2021	 ENV H 320 A Wi 21: Introduction To Technical Communication In Environmental Health (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=1818633&include_contexts=course_1434489)	1:30pm to 3:15pm
Sun Feb 7, 2021	 Assignment: News article, draft 1 (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1434489/assignments/5909887)	due by 11:59pm
	 Exercise: Write 5 ledes (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1434489/assignments/5909910)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Feb 10, 2021	 Assignment: News article peer reviews (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1434489/assignments/5909890)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Feb 11, 2021	 ENV H 320 A Wi 21: Introduction To Technical Communication In Environmental Health (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=1818634&include_contexts=course_1434489)	1:30pm to 3:15pm
Sun Feb 14, 2021	 Assignment: News article, draft 2 (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1434489/assignments/5909888)	due by 11:59pm
	 Exercise: Elevator pitch (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1434489/assignments/5909896)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Feb 17, 2021	 Assignment: News article peer reviews, round 2 (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1434489/assignments/5909891)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Thu Feb 18, 2021	 ENV H 320 A Wi 21: Introduction To Technical Communication In Environmental Health (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=1818635&include_contexts=course_1434489)	1:30pm to 3:15pm
Sun Feb 21, 2021	 Assignment: News article, final draft (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1434489/assignments/5909889)	due by 11:59pm
	 Exercise: Interviewing practice (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1434489/assignments/5909900)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Feb 25, 2021	 ENV H 320 A Wi 21: Introduction To Technical Communication In Environmental Health (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=1818636&include_contexts=course_1434489)	1:30pm to 3:15pm
Sun Feb 28, 2021	 Assignment: Final presentation, audience (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1434489/assignments/5909885)	due by 11:59pm
	 Exercise: Communicating your message visually. (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1434489/assignments/5909892)	due by 11:59pm
	 Exercise: Draw your outfit (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1434489/assignments/5909895)	due by 11:59pm
	 Exercise: Two dots (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1434489/assignments/5909909)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Mar 4, 2021	 ENV H 320 A Wi 21: Introduction To Technical Communication In Environmental Health (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=1818637&include_contexts=course_1434489)	1:30pm to 3:15pm

Date	Details	Due
Sun Mar 7, 2021	 Discussion: Having difficult conversations about science (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1434489/assignments/5909879)	due by 11:59pm
	 Exercise: Message box (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1434489/assignments/5909902)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Mar 11, 2021	 ENV H 320 A Wi 21: Introduction To Technical Communication In Environmental Health (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=1818638&include_contexts=course_1434489)	1:30pm to 3:15pm
Sun Mar 14, 2021	 Assignment: Final presentation (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1434489/assignments/5909884)	due by 1:30pm