

Course Syllabus

SIE 502 Research Methods

Course Description

Covers process of successful graduate research, including the written and verbal presentation of plans and results. Students formulate hypotheses, perform a literature search, write abstracts and introductions of research papers, learn about presentation styles and techniques, make two presentations (3-minutes and 10-minutes) about research proposals. Lec 1. Cr.1

Prerequisites and Course Notes: SIE 501 and students must have selected a thesis topic

Course Goals and Objectives:

- Introduce students to disseminating their research in orally and in writing

Expected Outcomes:

- Understand how to make quality scientific presentations
- Understand how to write abstracts and introductions
- Understand how to write reviews

Faculty Information

Professor Max Egenhofer
max@spatial.maine.edu

Office Hours

I am available in my office during the hour immediately following class. In addition, I am in the office most hours of the day and feel free to drop by if you have a short question or two. If you want to arrange a longer session E-mail is the simplest way to get a message through and a response.

Instructional Materials and Methods

All slides from the lectures will be made available before the class starts.

Complementary readings from

Martha David, *Scientific Papers and Presentations*, Academic Press, 2005.

Grading and Course Expectations

Grading criteria:

3-minute talk – 20%

Abstract – 20%

Introduction – 20%

Review – 20%

Class participation – 20%

If you are absent due to illness or similar valid excuse, please notify me of your situation at max@spatial.maine.edu immediately prior to or after your absence.

Tentative exam schedule:

None.

Course Schedule

See the attached tentative schedule of class session topics and reading assignment due dates.

Class Policies

Attendance and class participation are expected. Forty percent of the course grade is dependent on participation in class.

Late assignments, make-up, retake and rescheduled exams, and extra credit:

A late submission of the written summary after the due date will be docked 10 percent per day and will not be accepted for credit after a week. If you miss your oral presentation due to an illness or emergency, you must send notification prior to the exam by email and special arrangements must be made with the instructor to consider your situation.

Incomplete work:

Incomplete or insufficient work may not be made up. It merely receives a low grade.

Academic honesty:

Academic honesty is expected. Plagiarism is unacceptable in this course and will result in a failing grade. “Although a writer may use other persons’ words and thoughts, they must be acknowledged as such.” Joseph Gibaldi and Walter S. Achtert, *MLA Handbook* (Modern Language Association) 1977, p. 4.

Students with disabilities:

If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, please contact either me or Ann Smith, Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities (Onward Building, 581- 2319), as early as possible in the term.

Course Schedule

Class 1

Course Introduction – objective, goals of disseminating research results

Class 2-3

Structures of abstracts and introductions

Class 4

Writing styles

Class 5

Formulating a hypothesis

Week 6-7

Reviewing a review of a scientific paper

Week 8-12

3-minute presentations and discussions

Week 13

Discussion of students’ abstracts

Class 14-15

Discussion of students’ introductions and reviews