

Environment and Natural Resources 2367
Communicating Environmental and Natural Resources Information
COURSE SYLLABUS¹

Spring Semester 2013
Lecture: MW 4:10 pm – 5:05 pm (KH 104)
Recitation: R 3:55 pm – 5:30 pm (KH 103)*

Course Instructors			
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Course Goals and Objectives: ENR 2367 meets the GE Second Writing Course requirement (GE Category 1. Skills, Section A. Writing and Related Skills, Second Writing Course). Writing and Related Skills coursework develops students' skills in written communication and expression, reading, critical thinking, and oral expression.

Students who take this course will: 1) extend their ability to read carefully and express ideas effectively through critical analysis, discussion, and writing, 2) further develop basic skills in expository writing and oral expression, and 3) further develop skills in effective communication and in accessing and using information analytically.

These objectives will be met through: 1) weekly writing assignments: synopses and critical reviews, some including peer review and revision, 2) a group research term project on an environmental topic or issue of the group's choosing, including oral reports and a final written report due with two revisions, 3) in-class writing exercises related to research topics and the writing process, 4) a short take-home midterm essay exam.

Full Description: The purpose of ENR 2367 is to improve students' proficiency in technical writing and critical thinking through a series of writing and presentation projects, including a group research term project. By the end of the course, students will have learned skills for critically evaluating and communicating concepts in natural resources and the environment. In Spring 2013, students will examine Ohio State's long-term sustainability plan as the focus for group research term projects ([Ohio State University Framework Plan](#), Sasaki Associates). At the end of the term, a select number of groups will earn the opportunity to present their research findings to OSU administrators and staff responsible for implementing the Framework Plan, and to local community and municipality leaders (at the OSU Sustainability Forum); high quality student project results may therefore influence and enhance Ohio State's sustainability plans and the surrounding community. By applying skills in critical thinking with lessons in environmental writing in this way, students will be prepared for critically evaluating issues in natural resources and presenting those concepts in written and oral formats such that they can be understood and acted on by others.

Prerequisites: First Writing course; 6 credit hours of environmental, natural resources, or equivalent coursework preferred.

Course Format: There will be two types of meetings as noted on your schedule: classroom sessions (M,W) and seminars (R). Classroom sessions will combine short lectures and instruction with discussions of assigned readings and other topical issues. Some classes will be structured around problem-based learning techniques involving small groups, and pre-assigned work. An interactive approach such as this makes your attendance a crucial component of achieving success in this course. Seminars will involve lectures from leading researchers in our field and will be attended by students, researchers, and faculty alike. Thursday seminars in KH 103 begin at 3:55pm.*

Course Objectives: Students will develop a general appreciation and working knowledge for critical thinking and environmental writing. Students will acquire skills in expository writing about environmental issues, peer-review, literature review, presentation skills, team dynamics, and critical thinking skills.

¹Changes may be made to this syllabus as required. This syllabus is available in alternative formats upon request. Students with disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the instructor and for seeking available assistance in a timely manner. For more information, visit <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/> *KH 104 is also reserved for our class and sometimes used on Thursdays.

Assignments: Students will receive points counting towards their final grade from class and group participation, written assignments, and oral presentations. These can be further subdivided as follows:

Participation Exercises: These assignments are intended to provide additional opportunities for students to apply the skills and content presented during class. In most of the classes there will be activities related to the topic of discussion. Hence your attendance and meaningful participation will be imperative in each class; absences will negatively affect your grade. Please sign attendance sheets handed out during class.

Presentations (oral): Near the beginning of the term, student groups will present (10 min.) their proposed research report topic to the class for feedback and questions. Groups will present a research update report in class three weeks later, in preparation for their final presentation. Near the end of the semester, students will deliver a 5-7minute Pecha Kucha presentation summarizing their group research report for an external review panel (i.e., comprised of researchers from within the School of Environment and Natural Resources or the wider university) using visual support such as PowerPoint (with additional time for questions).

Peer Reviewed Seminar Assignments -PRSA (written): For the second and third Thursday seminars, students will write a short (minimum three paragraphs, 1-2 pages long [1 inch margins and 1.5 spacing]) abstract-like paper on the topic covered during the Thursday afternoon seminar presentation. At minimum, these papers should include (in sufficient detail) the following information: 1) who was the speaker and his/her credentials; date of the seminar, 2) main focus of presentation, 3) major supporting points/data of the topic presented, and 4) personal comments on the presentation content (old and/or new ideas evoked, questions asked, gaps found/pondered based on the presentation). Note that attendance at all seminars is mandatory. Papers will not be accepted from students who do not sign the attendance sheet provided during the seminar. *All peer reviewed seminar assignments (PRSAs) will be submitted to the dropbox in Carmen by Friday at 11:59pm (the next day!) for peer review; peers' papers are downloaded from Carmen discussion groups for review over the weekend; peer reviewed PRSAs are submitted in hard copy to their authors at the start of class the following Monday. Revised PRSAs will be submitted to the dropbox in Carmen by Wednesday at 1pm, and in hard copy in class.*

Critical Reviews of Seminar-CR (written): Four of the other Thursday seminars will be reviewed critically (CRs) using skills being developed and discussed in class. The format for the review will be presented in class prior to the first seminar to be critically reviewed. *All critical reviews (CRs) will be submitted to your dropbox in Carmen by the following Monday at 1pm, and in hard copy in class.*

Midterm (written): The midterm will be made up of several parts: 1) an *individual* annotated bibliography of five or more pieces of primary literature that you believe will support your group's research report (one bibliography per *student*), together with an introduction paragraph and outline of your group's paper (one paragraph and outline per *group*), and 2) a take home written exam covering the principles/concepts of critical thinking, peer review, team dynamics, and scientific writing. The annotated bibliography will be due Thursday, February 21, and the take home exam will be due Monday, March 4.

Group Presentation Plan: A several-page description of the elements of your group's project and your plan for organizing and presenting the content of your research. Assignment details will be distributed in class.

Research Report (written): Students, working in groups of four or five, will write a written report of approximately 15-20 pages, in several stages: an outline, **a complete, final draft** for peer and instructor review, a revised manuscript for instructor assessment, and a revised final submission. A focus on environmental issues and topics of concern in the United States is encouraged.

More detailed explanations of each assignment and grading standards will be provided in class.

Make-up Work: Make-ups for assignments will not be scheduled in the case of an unexcused absence (and in some cases, may not be rescheduled for logistical reasons). There are three situations that constitute an "excused absence" from class. They are: 1) students who participate in a *documented* University sanctioned event, 2) students who have a *documented* death in the family, and 3) students who have received *documented* medical attention for an illness. Students who will be participating in University sanctioned events must provide the instructor with a copy of the scheduled events and those classes that will be missed. This documentation must be on University letterhead, signed by the coach/supervisor, and given to the instructor within the first two weeks of the quarter.

Late Assignment Policy: To receive full credit for writing assignments, work must be turned-in on time and in condition to be evaluated. Papers with excessive errors (15 or more) will be returned for resubmission and will be treated as if they are late. Late assignments will incur a deduction of 50% of the total point value for each 24-hour period (or portion) that they are late (including weekends). In-class assignments missed because of an unexcused absence cannot be made-up or repeated.

Grading: Points in ENR 2367 will be distributed as follows:

Class Participation	60 Points**
Peer-Reviewed Seminar Writing Assignments (x2)	100 Points
Critical Reviews of Seminar (x4)	40 Points
Peer Reviews (x2)	30 Points
Topic Presentation	40 Points
Presentation Plan	10 Points
Other Assignments (in-class (sci writing examples; intro & outline)	20 Points
Midterm	45 Points
Research Report Peer Review	25 Points
Pecha Kucha Presentation	100 Points
Research Report (50 points for each submission)	150 Points
Final 1 minute trailer	25 Points
TOTAL	645 Points

****More than three unexcused absences will result in a zero for class participation; all unexcused absences will significantly affect your participation score.**

Carmen: This class will be administrated using **Carmen**; on the class website you will find the course syllabus, reading list, links to weekly homework assignments, announcements, and Points. To gain access to the **Carmen** website, go to <http://class.osu.edu>, sign in with your OSU ID (e.g., beniston.2) and your password, and navigate to the ENR 2367 website, or visit the Carmen help site: <http://elearning.osu.edu/carmen%2Dhelp/students/index.htm>.

Class Readings: Two texts are required for this course. They are:

A Sand County Almanac with Essays on Conservation from Round River
Aldo Leopold
Ballantine Books Edition (First printing was 1970)
ISBN: 0-345-34505-3

The Craft of Scientific Writing (3rd edition, 1996)
Michael Alley
Springer Verlag Press
ISBN 10: 0-387-94766-3

These books are available at the OSU Bookstore and SBX as well as at other standard and online book retailers. Additional required readings—e.g., journal articles—will be assigned throughout the quarter.

Academic Integrity: The university states that it is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct: (http://oaa.osu.edu/assets/files/documents/csc_12-31-07.pdf).

It is our intent to treat each of you as if you are honest. We assume that whatever you say or do is done in good faith. If we suspect that you have breached that trust, our intention is to report any suspected academic misconduct through appropriate channels to the University Committee on Academic Misconduct. The Ohio State University Student Handbook covers the subject should you not understand what academic misconduct is. Of course, we will be happy to discuss the topic with you on a no fault basis if we are consulted before the fact. For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct at the link listed in the previous paragraph.

Disability Services: Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

Schedule of Classes

Week	Monday	Wednesday	Thursday
Jan 7 - 10	Class Introduction	Environmental Writing	Seminar Intro
Jan 14 - 17	Team Work	Assignments info and peer review	Seminar 1 ^(CR)
Jan 21 - 24	MLK day – no class	Environmental Writing	Seminar 2 ^(PRSA) ; Topic ¶'s due
Jan 28 - 31	Environmental Writing	Environmental writing	CLASS group time
Feb 4 - 7	Topic Presentations	Topic Presentations	CLASS (rm 104) Presentation skills
Feb 11 - 14	Presentation Skills (Pecha Kucha)	Presentation Skills (Pecha Kucha)	Seminar 3 ^(PRSA 2)
Feb 18 - 21	Environmental Writing Alley Quiz	Critical thinking / Group time	Seminar 4; Midterm (Ann. Bib.; Intro ¶ and outline) due
Feb 25 - 28	Script and storyboarding (update pres)	Script and storyboarding (update pres)	Seminar 5
Mar 4 - 7	Midterm (Exam) due Critical Thinking ^(P)	Environmental writing	Seminar 6
Mar 11 - 14	SPRING	BREAK	NO CLASS
Mar 18 - 21	Group Time	Rehearsals	CLASS (rm 104) Rehearsals
Mar 25 - 28	Research Report Pecha Kuchas	Research Report Pecha Kuchas	Research Report Pecha Kuchas
April 1 - 4	Environmental writing	Research Paper due	Seminar 7
April 8 - 11	Revision workshop Peer Reviews due	Press releases (1 min. trailer draft)	CLASS (rm 104) Group time – paper revisions
April 15 - 18	Presentation and report editing	Revised Research Report due	Seminar 8
April 22 - 25	Last class/conclusion Final 1 min. trailer due		last day for rewrites
April 29, 30 (Exam week)	Final Research Report due		

(P) Group Presentation Plan, due in lieu of a CR on Mon; students may critically review subsequent seminars for replacement credit.

(PRSA) Peer reviewed seminar assignment. [note: PRSA's due 11:55pm Fri.; Peer Reviews due Mon.; revision due Wed.]