SCIE911: Fundamentals of Science Communication

Subject Outline
Autumn 2016
On Campus
Wollongong

Subject Information
Credit Points: 6
Pre-requisite(s): Nil
Co-requisite(s): Nil
Restrictions: Available only to students in Intl Grad.Dip in Science; Intl Grad.Cert in Science; Intl Masters of Science; Masters of Science & Mgmt; Grad.Cert. in Science; Masters of Science
Contact Hours: 8 hrs per week

Subject Contacts
Subject Coordinator/Lecturer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Dr Katarina Mikac</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Building 41, Room 173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone:</td>
<td>61 2 4221 3307</td>
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<td>Email:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:katarina_mikac@uow.edu.au">katarina_mikac@uow.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation mode and times:</td>
<td>Email for appointment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student Support and Advice
For general enquiries please contact StudentHub 41:
Location: 41.138B
Telephone: 61 2 4221 3492
Email: smah-students@uow.edu.au
Student Consultation and Communication
University staff receive many emails each day. In order to enable them to respond to your emails appropriately and in a timely fashion, students are asked to observe basic requirements of professional communication:

**Consider what the communication is about**
- Is your question addressed elsewhere (e.g. in the subject outline or, on the eLearning site)?
- Is it something that is better discussed in person or by telephone? This may be the case if your query requires a lengthy response or a dialogue in order to address. If so, see consultation times above and/or schedule an appointment.
- Are you addressing your request to the most appropriate person?

**Specific email subject title to enable easy identification of issue**
- Identify the subject code of the subject you are enquiring about (as staff may be involved in more than one subject) put this in the email subject heading. Add a brief, specific query reference after the subject code where appropriate.

**Professional courtesy**
- Address the staff member appropriately by name (and formal title if you do not yet know them).
- Use full words (avoid ‘text-speak’ abbreviations), correct grammar and correct spelling.
- Be respectful and courteous.
- Allow 3 – 4 working days for a response before following up. If the matter is legitimately urgent, you may wish to try telephoning the staff member (and leaving a voicemail message if necessary) or inquiring at the School Office.
- Please ensure that you include your full name and student number and identify your practical class or tutorial group in your email so that staff know who they are communicating with and can follow-up personally where appropriate.
Section A: General Information

Subject Learning Outcomes

On completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. find information efficiently on topics of current interest within their science discipline, and compile an accurate bibliography
2. identify issues and formulate researchable questions within a specific field, and comparatively evaluate various sources of information
3. recognise and avoid plagiarism, in relation to the use of published texts and images
4. summarise and paraphrase information effectively, and re-design the reporting of scientific research to suit different contexts and modes of communication
5. use personal learning experiences to contribute to the education of others in the wider academic / professional community
6. give and take constructive feedback to improve draft text, and evidence linguistic development

Subject Description

This subject focuses on the communication of scientific knowledge in English. It is organised around three task-based modules, which emphasise the process of developing knowledge, and pay close attention to the central role of language in academic learning. The modules are designed to develop student’s proficiency in aspects of English that are key to academic and professional work, and to communications in the digital era.

The subject works quite differently to traditional subjects, both in its task-based structure, in its use of technology and the classroom, and in the attention it pays to interaction. Most of the instruction and resources are provided online, so that classroom meetings can be devoted to extensive discussion and completion of tasks, in collaboration with others and under the supervision of teachers. The tasks are challenging, but by working on them together, with continual peer review and feedback, students have ample opportunity to develop the fluency and confidence in academic English and in communicating scientifically, both needed for successful engagement in their wider curriculum.

eLearning Space

This subject has materials and activities available via eLearning. To access eLearning you must have a UOW user account name and password, and be enrolled in the subject. eLearning is accessed via SOLS (student online services). Log on to SOLS and then click on the eLearning link in the menu column. For information regarding the eLearning spaces please use the following link:
[http://uowblogs.com/moodlelab/files/2013/05/Moodle_StudentGuide-1petpo7.pdf](http://uowblogs.com/moodlelab/files/2013/05/Moodle_StudentGuide-1petpo7.pdf)

Lecture, Tutorial, Laboratory Times

All timetable information is subject to variation. Check latest timetabling information on the ‘Current Student’ webpage on UOW website or log into SOLS to view your personal timetable prior to attending classes.


Timetable information can be accessed from

Key University Dates can be accessed from
Readings, References and Materials

Textbooks
There are no specific textbooks for this subject.

Prescribed Readings (includes eReadings)
Reading material and learning resources are provided through the eLearning site, and additional reading material on specific topics is sourced by students, under guidance, as part of the task-based modules.

Materials
Students should bring their own laptop or tablet computer to every class, as this will enable classes to function as collaborative work and peer review spaces. If you have any difficulty enabling your device to link up with the UOW wireless network, please immediately see staff in the student computer labs in Building 17. Refer also to: http://www.uow.edu.au/its/network/wireless/index.html. If you do not own a laptop or other mobile device that you can bring to classes, you can borrow one from the Library, or from AV services, where you can also borrow digital cameras and voice recorders when needed. (http://www.uow.edu.au/asd/lift/borrow/index.html )

Recommended Readings
The following references complement the prescribed readings and textbooks:

Nil

Recent Changes to this Subject
Nil.

Schedule of Learning
This subject does not require a Schedule of Learning as topic selection is flexible, based on the needs of students in the class. Basic direction is provided by the eLearning site, which is organised around the three key assignments through which learning is assessed. Most weeks, short lectures are presented, and then students move immediately onto practical work - drafting, editing and learning language, and these processes are closely monitored by the teaching staff.
Section B: Assessment

Assessment Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Item</th>
<th>Form of Assessment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Return/Feedback</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment 1</td>
<td>Literature review</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Continual feedback from teachers and peers is given throughout the development process; final grades are communicated within 21 days after submission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment 2</td>
<td>Re-presentation of research</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment 3</td>
<td>Open Educational Resource</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Marks 100%

Details of Assessment Tasks

Assessment tasks will be marked using explicit criteria that will be provided to students prior to submission. All assignments are submitted electronically. Academic writing (task 1) is submitted through a Moodle-based assignment ‘dropbox’ (which uses Turnitin to check for plagiarism).

Assessment 1: Literature review (short)
- Due date: Week 7
- Weighting: 30%
- Submission: Submit an electronic copy of your assessment via Moodle (and Turnitin)
- Type of Collaboration: Individual work, supported by peer review, monitored in class and online
- Length: 2,000 words
- Details: Detailed description and extensive illustration given through online module
- Subject Learning Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6
- Marking Criteria: Assessment task is marked using explicit and open discussed criteria articulated in a rubric which is provided to students prior to submission. Extensive feedback on planning and draft writing is given by peers and teachers throughout the development process, both in class and via a wiki within the relevant Moodle-based learning module.

Assessment 2: Re-presentation of research (published in a reputable academic journal)
- Due date: Week 7
- Weighting: 40%
- Submission: Submit an electronic copy of your assessment via Moodle
- Type of Collaboration: Group work, monitored in class and online
- Length: One page poster, plus 10–15 minute class talk with follow-up Q&A
- Details: Detailed description and extensive illustration given through online module
- Style and format: Scientific poster & academic (conference-style) slide-show presentation
- Subject Learning Outcomes: 1, 3, 4, 6
- Marking Criteria: Assessment tasks are marked using explicit and open discussed criteria articulated in a rubric which is provided to students prior to submission. Extensive feedback on planning and draft writing is given by peers and teachers throughout the development process, both in class and via a private group discussion forum within the Moodle-based learning module.
Assessment 3
Open Educational Resource (digital artefact suitable for instructing others)

Due date
Week 7

Weighting
30%

Submission
Submit an electronic copy of your assessment via Moodle or Cloudstor (system for transferring large files)

Type of Collaboration
Individual work, supported by peer review, monitored in class and online

Length
1000 words max (spoken and/or scripted)

Details
Detailed description and extensive illustration given through online module

Style and format
Multimedia artefact (eg 3 min video, e-book, digital comic, podcast etc.)

Subject Learning Outcomes
3, 5, 6

Marking Criteria
Assessment task is marked using explicit and open discussed criteria articulated in a rubric which is provided to students prior to submission. Extensive feedback on planning and draft multimedia artefacts is given by peers and teachers throughout the development process, both in class and via a wiki within the relevant Moodle-based learning module.

Minimum Requirements for a Pass in this Subject
To receive a clear pass in this subject a total mark of 50% or more must be achieved. In addition, failure to meet any of the minimum performance requirements is grounds for awarding a Technical Fail (TF) in the subject, even where total marks accumulated are greater than 50%.

The minimum performance requirements for this subject are:

- attempt all assessment tasks
- participating in group work
- meet the minimum student attendance and participation requirements (set out below)

Minimum Student Attendance and Participation
It is expected that students will allocate 12 hours per week to this subject including any required class attendance, completion of prescribed readings and assessment task and working on the task-based learning modules.

Student attendance at all classes is compulsory and students must attend 100% of classes. Absences will require the submission of an application for Academic Consideration via SOLS and the presentation of suitable documentation, for example a Medical Certificate, to Student Central as soon as practical. For further details about applying for academic consideration visit the Student Central webpage: [http://www.uow.edu.au/student/central/academicconsideration/index.html](http://www.uow.edu.au/student/central/academicconsideration/index.html)

Scaling
Scaling will not occur in this subject

Late Submission
Late submission of an assessment task without an approved extension of the deadline is not acceptable. If you are unable to submit an assessment due to extenuating circumstances (e.g. medical grounds or compassionate grounds), you can make an application of academic consideration. Not all circumstances qualify for academic consideration. For further details about applying for academic consideration visit the Student Central webpage: [http://www.uow.edu.au/student/central/academicconsideration/index.html](http://www.uow.edu.au/student/central/academicconsideration/index.html)
Late Submission Penalty
Late submission of an assessment task without an approved extension of the deadline is not acceptable. Marks will be deducted for late submission at the rate of 10% of the total possible marks for that particular assessment task per day. This means that if a piece of work is marked out of 100, then the late penalty will be 10 marks per day (10% of 100 possible marks per day). The formula for calculating the late penalty is the total possible marks $\times 0.10 \times$ number of days late. For the purposes of this policy a weekend (Saturday and Sunday) will be regarded as two days.

For example:

- Student A submits an assessment which is marked out of 100. The assessment is submitted 4 days late. This means that a late penalty of 40 marks will apply ($100 \times 0.10 \times 4$). The assessment is marked as per normal out of 100 and is given a mark of 85/100, and then the late penalty is applied. The result is that the student receives a final mark of 45/100 for the assessment (85 (original mark) – 40 marks (late penalty) = 45/100 (final mark)).

- Student B submits a report which is marked out of 20. The report is submitted three days late. This means that a late penalty of 6 marks will apply ($(20 \times 0.10 \times 3)$. The report is marked as per normal out of 20 and is given a mark of 15/20, and then the late penalty is applied. The result is that the student receives a final mark of 9/20 for the report (15 (original mark) – 6 marks (late penalty) = 9/20 (final mark)).

No marks will be awarded for work submitted after the assessment has been returned to the students (except where a particular assessment task is undertaken by students at different times throughout the session, but where the assessment is based on experiments or case studies specific to a student). Notwithstanding this, students must complete all assessment tasks to a satisfactory standard and submit them, regardless of lateness or loss of marks, where submission is a condition of satisfactorily completing the subject.

System of Referencing Used for Written Work
The Author-Date (Harvard) referencing system should, unless otherwise specified for a particular assessment (check Details of Assessment Tasks), be utilised. A summary of the Harvard system can be accessed on the Library website at: [http://public01.library.uow.edu.au/refcite/style-guides/html/](http://public01.library.uow.edu.au/refcite/style-guides/html/)

Use of Internet Sources
Students are able to use the Internet to access the most current information on relevant topics and information. Internet sources should only be used after careful critical analysis of the currency of the information, the role and standing of the sponsoring institution, reputation and credentials of the author, the clarity of the information and the extent to which the information can be supported or ratified by other authoritative sources.

Plagiarism
The full policy on Academic Integrity and Plagiarism is found in the Policy Directory on the UOW website.

“The University’s Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Policy, Faculty Handbooks and subject guides clearly set out the University’s expectation that students submit only their own original work for assessment and avoid plagiarising the work of others or cheating. Re-using any of your own work (either in part or in full) which you have submitted previously for assessment is not permitted without appropriate acknowledgement. Plagiarism can be detected and has led to students being expelled from the University.

The use by students of any website that provides access to essays or other assessment items (sometimes marketed as ‘resources’), is extremely unwise. Students who provide an assessment item (or provide access to an assessment item) to others, either directly or indirectly (for example by uploading an assessment item to a website) are considered by the university to be intentionally or recklessly helping other students to cheat. This is considered academic misconduct and students
place themselves at risk of being expelled from the University.

Submission of Assessments
Refer to the submission requirements under the details of the individual assessments. Students should ensure that they receive a receipt acknowledging submission. Students will be required to produce this in the event that an assessment task is considered to be lost. Students are also expected to keep a copy of all their submitted assessments in the event that re-submission is required.

Assessment Return
Students will be notified when they can collect or view their marked assessment. In accordance with University Policy marked assessments will usually only be held for 21 days after the declaration of marks for that assessment.
Section C: General Advice

Students should refer to the Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health website for information on policies, learning and support services and other general advice.

University Policies

Students should be familiar with the following University policies:

a. Code of Practice – Teaching and Assessment  

b. Student Charter  

c. Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Policy  

d. Student Academic Consideration Policy  

e. Course Progress Policy  

f. Graduate Qualities Policy  

g. Academic Complaints Policy (Coursework and Honours Students)  

h. Policy and Guidelines on Non-Discriminatory Language Practice and Presentation  

i. Intellectual Property Policy  

Student Support Services and Facilities

Students can access information on student support services and facilities at the following link. This includes information on “Academic Support”, “Starting at University,” “Help at University” as well as information and support on “Career’s and Jobs”. http://www.uow.edu.au/student/services/index.html

Student Etiquette

Guidelines on the use of email to contact teaching staff, mobile phone use in class and information on the university guide to eLearning ‘Netiquette’ can be found at http://www.uow.edu.au/student/elearning/netiquette/index.html

Version Control Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version Control</th>
<th>Release Date</th>
<th>Author/Reviewer</th>
<th>Approved By</th>
<th>Amendment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>20151201</td>
<td>Dr Katarina Mikac – Subject Coordinator</td>
<td>Mrs Sonia Losinno – ADE Nominee</td>
<td>FINAL SCIE911 Autumn 2016 Subject Outline</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>