

Western University – School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

SGPS 9104 **Writing in Graduate School II** (0.25 credits)

Course Outline: Summer 2019

Dates: Thursdays; May 9 to June 13, 2019

Time: 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Location: SGPS 1N05

Instructor: Dr. Aaron Schneider

Office: UC 2431

Office Hours: Monday 12-1 and Thursday 12-1

Email: aschnei4@uwo.ca or OWL email

1. Objectives of this professional development course:

The Writing in Graduate School II course will develop graduate students' skills and competencies in the rhetorical principles and practices of communicating to diverse audiences with a particular emphasis on communicating to general/non-specialist audiences. Students will learn strategies for effectively communicating complex, disciplinary specific ideas to non-specialist audiences in ways that are clear, concise and captivating, and focus on refining their writing and presenting skills.

Students will participate in a mixture of short written assignments based on the lay abstracts typically required for grant applications, and oral presentations that are modeled on the 3 Minute Thesis competition.

The course is open to all disciplines. It is ideal for students who are effective academic writers who want to learn to adapt their writing to a variety of audiences, who want to refine both their writing and oral communication skills, and who want to prepare for the 3 Minute Thesis competition.

By the end of the course, you will have given several presentations, including a 3 minute thesis presentation, and written a lay abstract.

Professional Development Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- orally present research or work to a general, non-expert audience
- write for a general, non-expert audience
- articulate the impact of your research to the discipline
- articulate the impact of your research to the “real world”
- communicate complex ideas, your work and your skills effectively in all environments
- effectively summarize complex ideas
- adapt your writing to different audiences
- present effectively in different contexts
- use your writing and presentation skills to build professional relationships

2. Topics:

The basic topics in the course will include:

- Presentation skills
- Writing for general audiences
- Lay abstracts

We will cover topics in grammar as necessary.

3. Timetable:

The basic timetable of the course will be:

Class 1:

- Introduction
- Introduction Presentation (0%)

Class 2:

- Writing for general audiences
- Presenting
- Field Explanation workshop

Class 3:

- Lay abstracts
 - Field Explanation Presentation (20%)
- **Field Explanation Due in Class (20%)****

Class 4:

- Clarity and style
- Field Explanation Presentation (20%)

Class 5:

- Presenting redux
- Lay Abstract workshop

Class 6:

- 3 minutes Thesis Presentations (40%)
- **Lay Abstract Due in Class (20%)****

Note: short lectures on grammar may be added to this schedule to address specific issues raised by the assignments. You may be asked to do some readings from your grammar handbook to prepare for these lectures.

4. Prerequisite:

This course is open to any graduate student at any stage of the program, subject to compliance with SGPS' regulation 9.0:

Graduate students are encouraged to participate in professional development and career-related courses, workshops, talks and events. Graduate students do NOT need the approval of their supervisors or their programs to participate in these faculty, program and university-wide events. Professional development and career-related events can be found through the Teaching Support Centre, the Student Development Centre, the Student Success Centre: Careers, Leadership and Experience, the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and individual Faculties. Participation in professional development and career offerings is expected to occur outside of TA duties, time-critical research duties, and shall not interfere with required current Graduate program courses, meetings and responsibilities.

5. Corequisite:

None

6. Antirequisite:

None

7. Instructor:

Dr. Aaron Schneider
aschnei4@uwo.ca or OWL mail

8. Contact Hours and Room:

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9. Course Materials:

- Course materials available on OWL
- Messenger, William E., Jan de Bruyn, Judy Brown, and Ramona Montagnes. *The Canadian Writer's Handbook*. Essentials Edition. Oxford University Press: Don Mills, 2012. (suggested)

10. Evaluation:

The final course mark will be determined as a Pass/Fail. There will be three presentations (2 graded) and two written assignments in the course.

Introduction Presentation (diagnostic assignment) 0%:

This is a short presentation you do in the first class. It is intended to introduce you to the expectations of the course.

Field Explanation 20%:

This is 2 page max explanation of your field written for a lay audience. You are expected to workshop a draft of this in class before handing in a final draft.

Field Explanation Presentation 20%:

This is a 4-5 minute presentation of the content of your Field Explanation.

Lay Abstract 20%:

This is a 2 page max lay abstract of the kind required for scholarship and grant applications. You are expected to workshop a draft of this in class before handing in a final draft.

3 Minute Thesis 40%:

A presentation of your thesis topic that follows the requirements of the 3 minute thesis competition.

11. Scholastic Offences:

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/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf.

12. Plagiarism:

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>).

13. Accessibility:

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.