**Course Outline Form: Fall 2017**

# General Information

**Course Code:** ENVS\*2230

**Course Title:** Communications in Environmental Science

## Course Description:

This course provides students with direct training in the academic skills used in researching and communicating environmental science. Within the context of current problems in environmental science, students will develop skills in library research, statistical interpretation, oral presentation and written communication to diverse audiences. Students will research and report on scientific issues within environmental issues being reported in the media.

**Credit Weight:** 0.50

**Academic Department (or campus):** School of Environmental Sciences

**Campus:** Guelph

**Semester Offering:** Fall semester 2017

## Class Schedule and Location:

Lecture Mondays 4:30pm - 5:20pm MINS Room 103 Seminar Tuesdays 2:30pm - 5:20pm ALEX Room 218

# Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Simone Härri Instructor Email: shaerri@uoguelph.ca

Instructor Phone and Extension: +1 519 824 4120 ext. 56681

Office location and office hours: Bovey 2216. Office hours Mondays 13:30– 15:30 and by appointment.

# GTA Information

GTA Name: Chase Jones-Baumgardt GTA Email: cjonesba@uoguelph.ca

GTA office location and office hours: N/A

# Course Content

## Specific Learning Outcomes:

At the successful completion of this course, the student will have demonstrated the ability to:

1. Develop and write a scientific research paper including researching literature, designing an experiment and statistically analyzing data.
2. Design and create a scientific poster by simplifying and condensing information from a written research paper and by applying design principles focusing on clear and creative communication methods.
3. Communicate effectively an important environmental issue to a lay audience using various media tools
4. Practice extemporaneous (without many notes) oral presentations in front of your peers.
5. Identify and discuss challenges for scientific writing by editing and simplifying texts.
6. Demonstrate your understanding of the important aspects of effective communication by evaluating presentations and written work by your peers

## Lecture Content:

Week 1 Introduction to Science communication Week 2 Tips and tricks for oral presentations Week 3 Student presentations

Week 4 How to analyse data and write result parts Week 5 Components of a scientific paper

Week 6 Literature search and peer reviews Week 7 Improve your scientific writing skills

Week 8 How to create an impactful scientific poster Week 9 Introduction to science communication Week 10 Poster presentations

Week 11 Science communication part 2

Week 12 Wrap-up and science communication exhibit

**Labs:** N/A

**Seminars:** See schedule in Lecture content

## Course Assignments and Tests:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Assignment or Test** | **Due Date** | **Contribution to Final Mark (%)** | **Learning Outcomes Assessed** |
| Oral presentations | September 25, 3pm | 15% | 4, 6 |
| Data assignment | October 20, 23:59 | 10% | 1 |
| Research paper - first submission | November 5, 23:59 | 25% | 1, 5, 6 |
| Posters | November 20, 3pm | 15% | 2 |
| Science communication assignment | November 30, 2pm | 20% | 3 (and possibly 4) |
| Research paper - second submission | November 26, 23:59 | 15% | 1, 5 |
| TOPHAT (Bonus) | Regularly throughout semester | 5% (BONUS) | 5, 6 |

**Additional Notes (if required):**

Oral presentations will take place September 25 and September 26, 2017. The powerpoint file has to be submitted by September 25, 3pm to Courselink. You will get a chance to resubmit your powerpoint file after my feedback by October 8, 2017

Poster presentations will take place November 20 and November 21, 2017. The poster file has to be submitted by September 25, 3pm to Courselink. Posters will be completed in groups of two.

The science communication assignment can either be done individually, or in groups of two.

Throughout the semester, you will have a chance to obtain a maximum of 5 bonus marks by answering Top Hat questions and discussion topics that are randomly dispersed throughout lectures and seminars, and can sometimes be assigned to you after class. For the Top Hat questions/discussions, the grade will be a combination of participating and answering questions correctly. You can follow your Top Hat grade in your Top Hat gradebook. The final grade will be transferred to CourseLink at the end of the semester. You will receive the full 5 bonus marks when obtaining a Top Hat grade of 85% or higher (i.e I “gift” you 25%). For a grade below 85%, the bonus marks

will be adjusted accordingly (i.e a 70% will be a 95%, resulting in 0.95\*5 = 4.75 bonus marks).

## Final examination date and time: N/A

**Final exam weighting:** N/A

**Course Resources**

**Required Texts:** N/A **Recommended Texts:** N/A **Lab Manual:** N/A

**Other Resources:**

D2L:

The instructor uses CourseLink for posting class announcements, hand-outs, slides from lectures, class readings, weekly quizzes, grades and other required and recommended materials that is relevant to this course. Please check this site often.

To phat:

We will be using the Top Hat (www.tophat.com) classroom response system in class. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message. As cell coverage can be spotty on campus, I recommend connecting through the University of Guelph's wifi. Top Hat allows us to provide a more engaging and interactive environment, that ultimately helps your learning and boosts your understanding of core concepts. It also allows us to get immediate feedback from you and allows us to adjust the course content accordingly.

You can visit the Top Hat Overview (https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student- Top-Hat-Overview-and-Getting-Started-Guide) within the Top Hat Success Center which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system.

An email invitation will be sent to you by email, but if don’t receive this email, you can register by simply visiting our course website: https://app.tophat.com/e/639159 Note: our Course Join Code is 639159

Unfortunately, Top Hat requires a paid subscription, and a full breakdown of all subscription options available can be found her[e: www.tophat.com/pricing.](http://www.tophat.com/pricing)

Therefore, Top Hat is not mandatory to pass this course and participation is rewarded

by bonus marks. However, I strongly recommend the use of Top Hat to facilitate our communication, to increase your learning experience and ultimately to result in a higher grade.

Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time, due to the fact that they require specific user information to troubleshoot these issues, please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491.

## Field Trips: N/A

**Additional Costs:** You will have to cover the cost for printing your posters. The posters will cost a maximum of 30$. The costs of the posters will be shared among group members. Group size will be 2 students.

# Course Policies

## Grading Policies:

Assignments are to be submitted online via D2L before midnight on the due date. Assignments handed-in late, for which an extension has not been granted ahead of time, will lose 10% of the total marks for every day (or part thereof) that it is late. If you require an extension on an assignment, you must have a valid reason and contact Dr. Härri in advance of the due date.

## Course Policy on Group Work:

This course encourages group work and collaborative problem solving for solving the Top Hat discussions and questions during the lectures and seminars. The poster presentations are completed in groups of two. The science communication assignment can either be completed as a group or individually. The research paper and paper presentations should reflect the opinion of the student alone and should be the original work of the student. For group assignments, the completed assignment should contain only work which has been produced by members of the group in question.

**Course Policy regarding use of electronic devices and recording of lectures:** Electronic recording of classes is expressly forbidden without consent of the instructor. When recordings are permitted they are solely for the use of the authorized student and may not be reproduced, or transmitted to others, without the express written consent of the instructor.

# University Policies

## Academic Consideration:

The University of Guelph is committed to supporting students in their learning experiences and responding to their individual needs and is aware that a variety of situations or events beyond the student's control may affect academic performance. Support is provided to accommodate academic needs in the face of personal difficulties or unforeseen events in the form of Academic Consideration.

Information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions, including categories, grounds, timelines and appeals can be found in Section VIII (Undergraduate Degree Regulations and Procedures) of the Undergraduate Calendar.

## Academic Misconduct:

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community, faculty, staff, and students to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring.

University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Detailed information regarding the Academic Misconduct policy is available in Section VIII (Undergraduate Degree Regulations and Procedures) of the Undergraduate Calendar.

## Accessibility:

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact the Student Accessibility Services (SAS), formerly Centre for Students with Disabilities (CSD), as soon as possible.

For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email sas@uoguelph.ca or visit the Student Accessibility Services website (http:// [www.uoguelph.ca/csd/).](http://www.uoguelph.ca/csd/%29)

## Course Evaluation Information:

End of semester course and instructor evaluations provide students the opportunity to have their comments and opinions used as an important component in the Faculty Tenure and Promotion process, and as valuable feedback to help instructors enhance the quality of their teaching effectiveness and course delivery.

While many course evaluations are conducted in class others are now conducted online. Please refer to the Course and Instructor Evaluation Website for more information.

## Drop period:

The drop period for single semester courses starts at the beginning of the add period and extends to the Fortieth (40th) class day of the current semester (the last date to drop a single semester courses without academic penalty) which is listed in Section III (Schedule of Dates) of the Undergraduate Calendar.

The drop period for two semester courses starts at the beginning of the add period in the first semester and extends to the last day of the add period in the second semester.

Information about Dropping Courses can be found in Section VIII (Undergraduate Degree Regulations and Procedures) of the Undergraduate Calendar.

# Additional Course Information

## Plagiarism Software - Turnitin:

In this course, your instructor will be using Turnitin, integrated with the CourseLink Dropbox tool, to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to maintain academic integrity at the University of Guelph.

All submitted assignments will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site.

A major benefit of using Turnitin is that students will be able to educate and empower themselves in preventing academic misconduct. In this course, you may screen your own assignments through Turnitin as many times as you wish before the due date. You

will be able to see and print reports that show you exactly where you have properly and improperly referenced the outside sources and materials in your assignment