

**WRITING 2131F Online:  
No Bones About It: Writing in the Sciences**

**Fall 2020**

**SECTION: 650**  
**PROFESSOR: Dr. Aaron Schneider**  
**EMAIL: [aschnei4@uwo.ca](mailto:aschnei4@uwo.ca) or OWL mail**

**OFFICE: UC 2431 (note: I will not be in my office during the fall term)**

**OFFICE HOURS: Because this is an online course, I will not be holding regular office hours; however, I will be available to meet virtually at a variety of times during the week. Please email me to setup a meeting time that works. You can expect a reply within one working day.**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

Writing in the Sciences introduces students to the basic principles and genres of writing required for science students in their under-graduate careers. Writing in the sciences requires students to observe clearly, record their observations systematically, follow and write clear procedures, summarize the work of others clearly, report the work of other researchers accurately, and communicate their own actions in detailed reports. This kind of discourse often takes the form of reports, research essays, poster presentations, and oral presentations, and as such will constitute the major assignments for this course.

In this course you will learn how to

- analyse scientific journal articles
- write for non-scientific audiences
- document your activities in a lab setting
- write research reports on scientific topics
- document your sources correctly

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**ASSIGNMENTS:**

Rhetorical Analysis (Diagnostic Assignment)	500 words	0%
Writing for Non-Scientists	750 words	20%
Proposal and Annotated Bibliography	See assignment	10%

Please note that UWO Instructors can respond only to UWO e-mail addresses. Grades can be communicated only through the Mail aspect of Sakai (OWL), not through UWO e-mail.

**Accommodation Policy**

**Note: the official Western Accommodation Policy appears below. This is in effect, but may be modified temporarily by the university during the academic year as conditions change.**

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodati

if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is give

# Class Schedule

## Week 0 (Sept 9-11):

**Topic:** Brief Introduction to the Course

**Readings:**

Familiarize yourself with the OWL site  
Start on Week 1 readings

## Week 1 (Sept 14-18):

**Topic:** Extended Introduction to the Course: Reading Rhetorically

**Readings:**

*Writing Science*: Chapter 1: Writing to Reach Readers  
Course Pack: "Writing About Biology: How Rhetorical Choices Can Influence the Impact of a Scientific Paper"  
Week 1 Lecture: Welcome to the Course  
Week 1 Lecture: Writing About Biology

## Week 2 (Sept 21-25):

**Topic:** Writing for General Audiences, and Grammar Basics

**Readings:**

*Writing Science*: Chapter 8: STEM Journalism  
*Writing Science*: Chapter 9: Science Blogs  
*Grammar Handbook*: Chapters 3 and 6, 7a, 8a-d, 10-13  
Week 2 Lecture: Getting Started with Grammar  
Week 2 Lecture: General Audiences

**Assignment: Assignment #1: Rhetorical Analysis due by 5:30 on Friday**

## Week 3 (Sept 28-Oct 2):

**Topic:** Writing with Power and Clarity, and Paragraphs

**Readings:**

*Writing Science*: Chapter 2: Building Experience and Confidence in Writing Science  
*Grammar Handbook*: Chapter 1 and Chapter 2  
Week 3 Lecture: Paragraphs  
Week 3 Lecture: Writing with Power and Clarity in the Sciences

## Week 4

**Week 8 (Nov 9-13):**

**Topic:** Posters

**Readings:**

*Writing Science*: Chapter 10: Creating Posters and Infographics

Week 8 Lecture: Posters

Week 8 Lecture: Grammar Review

**Assignment: Quiz #2**

**Week 9 (Nov 16-20):**

**Topic:** Writing to Persuade, Writing the Research Project, and Dealing with Sources

**Readings:**

*Grammar Handbook*: Chapters

**Week 12 (Dec 7-9):**

**Topic:** Revising Strategies, and Sundry Grammatical Issues

**Readings:**

*Writing Science*: Chapter 12: Writing Science with Style and Styles

*Writing Science*: Chapter 13: Editing Sentences

*Grammar Handbook*: Chapter 25

Week 12 Lecture: Writing with Style and Review

**Assignment: Assignment #5: Research Paper due by 5:30 on Friday**