Scientific Communication Skills II – PHAR 322B Calendar
Spring 2016 Semester

Course Instructors: Sean Davies and Claus Schneider

Students Enrolled (10):

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Goal: Prepare a draft NRSA fellowship (or equivalent, such as AHA) application. A draft Specific Aims page and Significance page was already written and critiqued by classmates and instructors in Scientific Communications I. In Communications II, students will write the Research Design and Methods sections of their application, and further revise their Specific Aims as needed. These assignments are self-guided with significant support by the mentor who should review drafts of each assignment and work with students to improve writing and scientific reasoning. Each assignment will be reviewed by two faculty reviewers with relevant experience that are chosen by the student and their mentor. These faculty reviewers will critique both the effectiveness of the writing and the proposed research plan, and assign a final grade.

Notes: Successful completion of this course is a pre-requisite to take the Phase I qualifying exam. Each late assignment will result in the final grade being docked by a half grade (e.g. A- to B+). Fellowship proposals that are submitted to funding agencies prior to the final deadline can be used to fulfill the requirements for the course. Those that are funded will automatically receive an A and no further work towards this course is needed. In that case, the final submitted proposal and the summary statements from the grant agency should be submitted to the course directors through Karen Gieg.
Monday, December 14, 2015. Due to Karen
- Providing the list of three potential faculty reviewers (only two will be actually assigned) that you and your advisor choose from among Pharmacology training faculty
- The title of the grant application
- The PDF of your Specific Aims and Significance pages (which you’ve already written, during the fall PHAR 322A course)

Karen and the Course Instructors will send out invitations to the 3 suggested reviewers to determine their willingness to participate and the criteria for grading each part of the assignment. Each reviewer will only be responsible for one or two students maximum.

Monday, January 11, 2016. Invited faculty will be asked to respond to Karen by this date whether or not they are willing to participate and the list of faculty that have agreed for each student will be given to the course instructors. (If more than two reviewers are available, the student and mentor will decide if they will use all three reviewers or chose only two. If less than two reviewers are available, the student, mentor, the course directors, and/or DGS will identify other available reviewers).

Thursday, January 14, 2016. NRSA Study Section Review Presentation
1:00 pm-3:00 pm NRSA Study Section Review Presentation in Bass Conference Room (436 RRB) with Kim Petrie

Friday, February 26, 2016. Assignment #1 (Aims, Significance, and Research Design & Methods) due
11-noon Review Session Meeting in Bass Conference Room (436 RRB) with Course Directors - Hard copy of assignment is to be brought with you; Electronic copy to be sent to Karen Gieg by 1pm.
Assignment #1: Students will submit a full electronic draft of their Specific Aims, Significance, and Research Design & Methods sections. This should be a fully written out and reasonably polished version of these sections that have undergone revision based on input from the thesis advisor.

Monday, March 7, 2016. Faculty reviewers return Assignment #1 Review Sheet to Karen Gieg.
Assignment #1 review sheet (see attached) includes the reviewer’s evaluation of the scientific reasoning and clarity of writing for Specific Aims, Significance, and Research Design & Methods sections. After students receive this review sheet, they will arrange to meet with faculty reviewers (between March 7th and March 18th) to discuss.

Monday, March 18, 2016. Deadline to confirm with Karen Gieg that meeting with reviewers has taken place.

Monday, April 11, 2016. Assignment #2 (Final Aims, Significance, and Research Design & Methods) due
1-2pm Review Session Meeting in Bass Conference Room (436 RRB) with Course Directors - Hard copy of assignment is to be brought with you; Electronic copy to be sent to Karen Gieg by 3pm.
Assignment #2: Students will electronically submit to Karen Gieg a full final version of their Specific Aims, Significance, and Research Design & Methods sections, revised in response to reviewers, for final evaluation by their faculty reviewers.

Thursday, April 21, 2016. Faculty reviewers return Assignment #2 Review Sheet to Karen Gieg.
Assignment #2 review sheet (see attached) includes the reviewer’s evaluation of the student’s writing style and scientific reasoning, whether student responded to recommendations made by the reviewer, and the reviewers’ final grade. After students receive this review sheet, they may arrange to meet with faculty reviewers to discuss.

Submission of Proposal: Actual submission of the proposal is not a requirement for the class; however, students and mentors are strongly encouraged to eventually submit a suitably revised version of the proposal at an appropriate time in the student’s career.