

**Writing 2131G:
No Bones About It: Writing in the Sciences
Winter 2024**

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
- write in a style appropriate to scientific discourse
- edit and revise your work to conform to Standard Edited English

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Thaiss, Christopher. *Writing Science in the Twenty-First Century*. Broadview Press: Peterborough, 2019.
- Messenger, William E., Jande Bruyn, Judy Brown, and Ramona Montagnes. *The Canadian Writer's Handbook*. Third Essentials Edition. Oxford University Press: Don Mills, 2023.
- “Writing About Biology: How Rhetorical Choices Can Influence the Impact of a Scientific Paper,” by Randy Moore (posted on OWL)
- “The Delphic Oracle: A Multidisciplinary Defense of the Gaseous Vent Theory,” by Henry A. Spiller, John R. Hale, and Jelle Z. De Boer (posted on OWL)

ASSIGNMENTS:

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

Poster	See assignment	15%
2 Quizzes (7.5% x 2)	NA	15%
Research Paper	2000 words	40%