

**BIOL 877: Writing in the Sciences
Online Course (2 credit hours)
Fall 2020**

Instructor Information

Dr. Saili Moghe

Email: moghes1@unk.edu

You may contact me at any time through email (using your Lopermail account), Canvas inbox messages, or the “Course Questions” discussion board in the course site on Canvas. I will respond to emails, inbox messages, and discussion board posts within 48 hours. If a video/voice call appointment is needed, please email me to set up a time.

Course Materials and Requirements:

Required Textbooks:

1. Hofmann, Angelika. 2016. Writing in the Biological Sciences: A Comprehensive Resource for Scientific Communication, 2nd ed. Oxford University Press. New York, NY. ISBN-13: 978-0190245603
2. Lamott, Anne. 1994. Bird by Bird, Instructions of Writing and Life. Anchor Books, Random House. New York, NY.

Technical Requirements:

Full access to a computer and the Internet, a word processing software (e.g. MS Word) with the ability to save documents as PDF.

Course Description:

Academic writing in the sciences can be a daunting solitary endeavor. It is the hope of this course to take away the fear of the blank page and help to engage the class with a sense of community that is inherently beneficial to the writing process. This course is particularly geared towards students who have been away from academic writing for many years, or perhaps decades. This will be an introduction into this type of writing, complete with an overview of the materials available to you as a distance student. The primary purpose of this course is to improve your written communications skills. We will focus on your ability to prepare and write technical papers in a professional scientific format. A crucial part of learning to write technical papers is reading them and practicing writing them yourself. Plan to spend at least several hours each week on reading, writing, and practicing the skills we cover in this course. Offered online, Fall of even-numbered years.

Course Objectives:

1. Identify and obtain scientific research articles from the primary scientific literature.
2. Explore multiple methods of scientific communication.
3. Use the steps of writing a scientific literature review for a specific topic.
4. Critically evaluate scientific writing and improve overall written skills in scientific communication.

Course Structure

Weekly materials will be posted on Canvas by Tuesdays by 8am, and an announcement will always go up at the same time letting you know that all materials are up, as well as any information or details you need to know for that particular week.

Materials and activities will vary from week to week, and will include one or more of the following:

- Video lectures
- Lectures notes
- Writing practice activities
- Discussion board activities
- Writing assignments
- Reading assignments

Assessments

Your progress in class will be assessed based on your completion of various writing-based assignments

Course Points

Personal Statement	10pts
Library Exercise	10pts
Potential Topics	10pts
Annotated Bibliography	30pts
References (10 required)	20pts
Title Page & Outline	20pts
1 st Submission of Review Article	50pts
Peer Review of Review Article	35pts
2 nd Submission of Review Article	100pts
Close of Course Personal Statement	10pts
Journal Writing (5pts each)	55pts
TOTAL POINTS	350 pts

Grading:

Grades will be assigned using the standard grading scale for the Department of Biology, as follows:

A+ = 97-100%	B+ = 88-89%	C+ = 78-79%	D+ = 68-69%	F = Below 60%
A = 93-96%	B = 83-87%	C = 73-77%	D = 63-67%	
A- = 90-92%	B- = 80-82%	C- = 70-72%	D- = 60-62%	

Expectations from students:

As students enrolled in this class, it is your responsibility to

- log on to Canvas every week and keep up with all weekly course materials. Make sure that you keep up with the Announcements and stay informed about what is happening and going to happen in class.
- complete all activities and assignments by the given due dates
- seek help or clarification when you need it, do not wait till the last minute
- be courteous and respectful to all members within the course
- maintain academic integrity

Course Policies:

- **Policy on plagiarism:** Anyone caught plagiarizing any exercise will receive a 0 for that exercise; subsequent violations will result in referral to the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs for dismissal from the university.
- **Policy on incomplete:** All students are expected to progress through the requirements for this course in a timely fashion. Incompletes will only be considered if circumstances are extenuating and beyond your control, and will require documentation.
- **Extensions** for any assignments will NOT be possible unless circumstances are exceptional and beyond your control – a legitimate excuse (based on my discretion) with provided documentation will be required for such considerations
- **If any class assignment or activity is not submitted by its due date, it will not be accepted and will receive zero (0) points (unless you have a legitimate excuse, see above)**

Copyright Law:

Materials in this course may be protected by copyright and intended only for the use of students enrolled in this course for the purposes of this course. Materials from this course may not be disseminated, adapted, copied, or published. Any violation of this is a violation of Federal copyright law.

University Policies Related to COVID-19

The university community is deeply concerned for the well-being of its students, faculty, and staff. Keeping each other as safe as possible will require commitment from each of us; failure to do so will literally place lives in danger. The full policy relating to mitigation of the spread of infectious diseases can be found at <https://www.unk.edu/coronavirus/>. Policies that apply to all courses (online, remote, blended, or face-to-face) include:

-Students shall monitor their health daily. No student shall attend classes in person while sick. Those who have had contact with positive-tested individuals or show COVID-19 related symptoms must have clearance from the Public Health Center prior to returning to face-to-face classes. There will be no penalties for missing classes for COVID-19 related absences. Students will still be responsible for course content through alternative attendance or other options arranged with the instructor

Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of the University of Nebraska at Kearney to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to students with documented disabilities. To receive accommodation services for a disability, students must be registered with UNK Disabilities Services for Students Office, 172 Memorial Student Affairs Building, 308-865-8988 or by email unkdso@unk.edu.

UNK Statement of Diversity & Inclusion:

UNK stands in solidarity and unity with our students of color, our LatinX and international students, our LGBTQIA+ students and students from other marginalized groups in opposition to racism and prejudice in any form, wherever it may exist. It is the job of institutions of higher education, indeed their duty, to provide a haven for the safe and meaningful exchange of ideas and to support peaceful disagreement and discussion. In our classes, we strive to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication and mutual respect. UNK does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, disability or political affiliation. Respect for the diversity of our backgrounds and varied life experiences is essential to learning from our similarities as well as our differences. The following link provides resources and other information regarding D&I: <https://www.unk.edu/about/equity-access-diversity.php>.

Students Who are Pregnant

It is the policy of the University of Nebraska at Kearney to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to students who are pregnant. To receive accommodation services due to pregnancy, students must contact Cindy Ference in Student Health, 308-865-8219. The following link provides information for students and faculty regarding pregnancy rights. <http://www.nwlc.org/resource/pregnant-and-parenting-students-rights-faqs-college-and-graduate-students>

Reporting Student Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence or Sexual Assault

Reporting allegations of rape, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and stalking enables the University to promptly provide support to the impacted student(s), and to take appropriate action to prevent a recurrence of such sexual misconduct and protect the campus community. Confidentiality will be respected to the greatest degree possible. Any student who believes she or he may be the victim of sexual misconduct is encouraged to report to one or more of the following resources:

Local Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault Advocacy Agency 308-237-2599

Campus Police (or Security) 308-865-8911

Title IX Coordinator 308-865-8655

Retaliation against the student making the report, whether by students or University employees, will not be tolerated. If you have questions regarding this information please contact Mary Chinnock Petroski, Chief Compliance Officer (petroskimj@unk.edu or phone 8400).

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:

Weekly materials will be posted on Tuesdays by 8am, and all assignments will be due by 11:59pm on the date they are due. All times listed on the course site and course materials are in North American Central Standard Time (CST).

TOPIC	Journal Writing	Assignment	Week
Introduction		-Class Introductions -Personal Statement (<i>due: Sep 1</i>)	1 (Aug 24)
Literature Searches	Journal Entry 1 (<i>due: Sep 8</i>)	-Library Assignment (<i>due: Sep 8</i>)	2 (Aug 31)
Plagiarism & Proper Paraphrase	Journal Entry 2 (<i>due: Sep 15</i>)		3 (Sep 7)
Brainstorming	Journal Entry 3 (<i>due: Sep 22</i>)	-Potential Topic (<i>due: Sep 22</i>)	4 (Sept 14)
Types of Scientific Writing	Journal Entry 4 (<i>due: Sep 29</i>)		5 (Sept 21)
Sections of a Scientific Research Paper	Journal Entry 5 (<i>due: Oct 6</i>)	-Final Topic & Annotated Bibliography (<i>due: Oct 13</i>)	6 (Sept 28)
Outlining & Organizing	Journal Entry 6 (<i>due: Oct 13</i>)	-Title page & Outline (<i>due: Oct 19</i>)	7 (Oct 5)
Paragraph Structure	Journal Entry 7 (<i>due: Oct 21</i>)		8 (Oct 12)
Language & Punctuation	Journal Entry 8 (<i>due: Oct 27</i>)	- 1 st draft or review paper (<i>due: Nov 10</i>)	9 (Oct 19) Oct 19-20
Figures & Tables	Journal Entry 9 (<i>due: Nov 3</i>)		10 (Oct 26)
Documenting Sources			11 (Nov 2)
Revising & Editing	Journal Entry 10 (<i>due: Nov 10</i>)	-Peer Review (<i>due: Nov 17</i>)	12 (Nov 9)
Critical Eye	Journal Entry 11 (<i>due: Nov 17</i>)	Final draft of review paper (<i>due: Dec 8</i>)	13 (Nov 16)
			14 (Nov 23) Thanksgiving
			15 (Nov 30)
Reflection		Closing Statement (<i>due: Dec 15</i>)	16 (Dec 7)
			17 (Dec 14-17)

BIOL 877 Syllabus
Instructor: Dr. Moghe