INTRODUCTION

One of the most important aspects of Environmental Science is to communicate your findings of scientific research experiments or environmental analysis on current environmental issues. In this course we will discuss and practice different skills and approaches necessary for giving an effective oral or poster presentation. Guest speakers and faculty in the Environmental Sciences Program will demonstrate how to prepare and give a scientific presentation, and registered students will each make an oral and a poster presentation.

ENSC 505 is required to be taken during the first year of study in the Environmental Sciences Program. Students registered in ENSC 505 will be required to give a 15-minute oral presentation on a scientific topic of their choice in Environmental Sciences and a poster presentation of the same material or on a different topic.

ENSC 506 is required to be taken during or just prior to the semester of a graduate student’s thesis or research paper defense. Students registered in ENSC 506 will be required to give a 20-40 minute oral presentation on their thesis or research paper topic.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

At the termination of this spring semester all students will be able to do the following:
1) organize materials for an academic presentation;
2) possess different technical skills for explaining scientific information;
3) demonstrate professional oral and written communication skills.

GRADING SCALE:

Each oral presentation will be evaluated by your classmates and the instructor immediately following your presentation. For further information please refer to the evaluation form provided on Blackboard. Posters will be presented in the last class of the semester and will be evaluated by all classmates and faculty from the Environmental Sciences Program via the evaluation form (also found on Blackboard). All course grades are converted as follows: A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69, F=0-59. The final grade for ENSC 505/506 consists of these following components:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Oral presentation</th>
<th>Poster presentation</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>505</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>506</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORAL PRESENTATION</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COURSE ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

Regular prompt attendance is required for success in this course. Only the University approved absences will be accepted for missing classes. If excessive absenteeism occurs, your final grade will be greatly affected. Please note that an undocumented absence on the day of your presentation will result in a failure. In addition to attendance, students are expected to take responsibility for raising questions about oral and poster presentations. Critical for understanding the environmental sciences is an ability to reasonably discuss an environmental study with intellectual peers. As such, student participation is part of every class day. This participation will be facilitated by having each student serve as a chairperson who will both introduce the scheduled speaker prior to their talk and ask the first formal question subsequent to the same oral presentation.

GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTATION:


Being able to effectively communicate the results of an environmental study is critical for evaluating environmental and ecological problems. Your presentation therefore must be informative and creative. In order to present your research in clear and logical way, I would suggest the following components: (1) title; (2) introduction to important background information and questions to be addressed; (3) relevant methods and materials; (4) analysis and interpretation of your results, available information, or literature; (5) discussion about your explanation, speculation, and future research needs; (6) conclusion.

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:**

Faculty members retain their traditional authority to take disciplinary action in the event of academic misconduct. Acts of academic misconduct for which students are subject to sanctions include: plagiarism, cheating, failure or refusal to follow clinical practice standards, falsifying or manufacturing scientific or scholarly experiments or research, and soliciting, aiding, abetting, concealing, or attempting such acts. Plagiarism may consist of copying, paraphrasing, or otherwise using written or oral work of another without proper acknowledgment of the source or presenting oral or written material prepared by another as one’s own. In the event of academic misconduct, the instructor may request the Student Assessments and Standards Committee of the Environmental Studies Program to impose on a student the sanction of a failing grade on an individual assignment or on the course as a whole. Furthermore, the chair of the Program may recommend to the dean of Students other sanctions, such as dismissal from the University.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Persons with documented disabilities should visit the Disability Support Services Office, located in the Student Success Center, at their earliest convenience to meet the director and discuss available services. The student should also, make an appointment with the instructor as soon as possible to discuss any special arrangements.

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

This order will govern the sequence of topics covered this semester. The instructor maintains the right to change the following schedule under mitigating circumstances. Students who are not able to give their presentation on the date they agreed to will receive a failing grade for that assignment.

- **January 14.** Introduction, presentation signup
- **January 21.** Preparing and presenting an oral scientific presentation and Poster Presentations
- **January 28.** Example Presentation
- **February 4.** Julianne-Practice Conference Presentation
- **February 11.** Library Resources I
- **February 18.** Library Resources II (Ref-Works, Library Instruction Room A)
- **February 25.** Resumes and CVs (Career Center Presentation)
- **March 4.** Career Choices in ENSC
- **March 11.** Spring Break
- **March 18.** Keith and Ashley (introducing each other)
- **March 25.** Ayo (Adam) and Joy (Meeta)
- **April 1.** Jake, Sahar (introducing each other) and Meeta (Joy)
- **April 8.** Swechhya (Julianne)
- **April 15.** Julianne (Swechhya)
- **April 22.** Adam (Ayo)
- **April 29.** 505 Final Poster Presentations