Title	*BIOSC 1010 Communicating in the Biological Sciences*

Objectives

- Use biological knowledge to construct a review article on a current biological topic.
- Search for, read, and analyze scientific literature.
- Constructively assess the effectiveness written and oral communication.
- Explain your review in a professional oral presentation to your peers.

Prerequisites

Completion of BIOSC 0160 & ENGCOMP 0200 with a C grade or better.

Faculty

Dr. Suzanna Lesko Gribble
sgribble@pitt.edu
Office hours are by appointment

Course Meetings

Class #	Day	Time	Location
25605	T	9:00-10:50 AM	A202 Langley

Websites

canvas.pitt.edu

Assignments

Due dates and format will be clearly announced when assignments are given. Scores will be reduced 5% per 24-hour period following assignment due dates. For example, a 20 point assignment loses 1 point for each day it is late.

Final Grade

The total points earned will determine your final grade.

Grading

Assignment	Points
2 page summary	5
cut the clutter	2
reference list	5
effective grammar and voice	2
5 moves of an introduction	2
draft introduction	5
draft figures	5
introduction peer review	5
first draft peer review	5
first draft	15
draft presentation slides	5
presentation peer review	4
final talk	15
final draft	30
total	105

Final letter grades are determined on a straight scale as follows:

A range—>90% of total points
B range—80-89% of total points
C range—70-79% of total points
D range—60-69% of total points
F grade assigned if fewer than 60% of the points have been earned.

A C (not C-) or better is required to earn the 2 course credits to count toward the Biological Sciences major. If you pass this course with less than a C, the 2 credits will

	<u>only</u> count toward the University's requirement that you have completed a writing intensive course in your major discipline. At the end of the semester, a final grade is determined for each student using the above scale. Factors such as sustained improvement, & class participation may be considered when making a decision in borderline cases.
Attendance	Meetings are interactive so student attendance & participation is highly recommended
Email	Each student is issued a University e–mail address (username@pitt.edu) upon admittance. This e–mail address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read e–mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read & react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing & complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an e–mail forwarding service that allows students to read their e–mail via other service providers (e.g. gmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their e–mail from their @pitt.edu address to another address do so at their own risk. If e–mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e–mail address. (*from the Pitt E-mail Communications Policy*)
Academic Integrity	Students in this course will be expected to comply with the University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity. Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. This may include, but is not limited to, the confiscation of the examination of any individual suspected of violating University Policy. Furthermore, no student may bring any unauthorized materials to an exam, including dictionaries and programmable calculators. To learn more about Academic Integrity, visit the Academic Integrity Guide for an overview of the topic. Any attempt to submit work that is not the student's own work is a violation of academic integrity & will be severely punished. If I find that a writing assignment contains evidence of plagiarism, I will grade the assignment according to my published guidelines but only award credit for that percentage of the paper that, in my determination, represents your own work. I will then subtract a 50% point penalty for the plagiarism (10 points on a 20-point assignment, 50 points on a 100-point assignment). **Second offenses will result in an automatic grade of F.** For hands on practice, complete the Understanding and Avoiding Plagiarism tutorial. Students agree that by taking this course, all writing submissions are subject to textual similarity review via Turnitin.com. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of Turnitin.com page service is subject to the Usage Policy & Privacy Pledge posted on the website.
Personal Conduct	Students are expected to arrive to join our class on-time & fully prepared. Use of any audio or video recording device is strictly prohibited without the consent of the professor. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in dismissal from the class. Emailing your professor is considered an official communication. Please treat your inquiries with professionalism. An acceptable email salutation is "Dear Dr. Gribble." Unacceptable salutations are "Hey," "Hi," or lack thereof.

Emergency Situations	Assignments missed due to emergent situations will be considered on an individual basis. Submit your request for an extension in writing; verbal communication is not sufficient. Use the following guidelines for your request: 1. Include your name, nature of the emergency, & assignment that you missed. 2. Your request must be received by me no later than 3 days after the assignment's due date. 3. If the emergency is due to a medical condition, you must include evidence that you have sought medical care. Failure to comply with these guidelines could result in a zero for the assignment.
Zoom (when remote is an option)	The University of Pittsburgh Student Conduct Code applies to online behavior as well as in-person or classroom behavior. You are expected to be professional and respectful when attending class on Zoom. The following are class policies for our meetings with Zoom. Please read carefully, these policies are effective immediately and apply for the remainder of the semester. All students are expected to adhere to the policies. **General** 1. **Sign in with your full first name and last name as listed on the class roster.** Do not use a nickname or other pseudonym when you log in. It makes it impossible to know who is in attendance. Using your full name quickly sorts students into their groups when needed. **Users who do not provide their full names will NOT be admitted to class.** **Exceptions** o Since enrolling in class, some students have changed their names to better reflect their gender identity. If you currently use a different name than what is listed on the official roster, please send a private Canvas message so this can be noted on the roster and you can use your current name on Zoom. o If you do not have access to a computer or smartphone with internet access, call into class using a landline phone. This is not optimal; please try to locate an internet-enabled device to use for class. 2. **Stay focused.** Please stay engaged in class activities. Close any apps on your device that are not relevant and turn off notifications. **Video** 1. **Turn on your video when possible.** It is helpful to be able to see each other, just as in an in-person class. **Exceptions** o If you have limited internet bandwidth or no webcam, it is ok to not use video. o If you're unable to find an environment without a lot of visual distractions, it is also ok to turn off your video. 2. **Keep it clean.** Don't share anything you wouldn't put up on the projector in class! **Audio** 1. **Mute your microphone when you are not talking.** This helps eliminate background noise. 2. **Use a headset when possible.** If you own headphones with a microphone, please use them. This improves audio quality.

3. **Be in a quiet place when possible.** Find a quiet, distraction-free spot to log in. Turn off any music, videos, etc. in the background.

Chat
1. **Stay on topic.** Use the chat window for questions and comments that are relevant to class. The chat window is not a place for socializing or posting comments that distract from the course activities. If you fill it up with random comments, I will be unable to sort through the information quickly to address students' real questions/concerns about the course.

2. **No disrespect or hate speech.** Just like in our in-person class, respectful behavior is expected. Consider Zoom a professional environment, and act like you're at a job interview, even when you're typing in the chat

COVID-19 Safety	During this pandemic, it is extremely important that you abide by the public health regulations , the University of Pittsburgh's health standards and guidelines, and Pitt's Health Rules. These rules have been developed to protect the health and safety of all of us. Universal face covering is required in all classrooms and in every building on campus, without exceptions, regardless of vaccination status. This means you must wear a face covering that properly covers your nose and mouth when you are in the classroom. If you do not comply, you will be asked to leave class. It is your responsibility have the required face covering when entering a university building or classroom. For the most up-to-date information and guidance, please visit coronavirus.pitt.edu and check your Pitt email for updates before each class. If you are required to isolate or quarantine, become sick, or are unable to come to class, contact me as soon as possible to discuss arrangements."
Accessibility	The Canvas LMS platform was built using the most modern HTML and CSS technologies, and is committed to W3C's Web Accessibility Initiative and Section 508 guidelines. Specific details regarding individual feature compliance are documented and updated regularly.
Disability Resources & Services	If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources and Services (DRS), 140 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890, drsrecep@pitt.edu, (412) 228-5347 for P3 ASL users, as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course. This course is designed to function fully in person beginning September 13. Requests for remote attendance will not be reviewed by myself or the department. If you believe you have a qualifying disability that prevents you from attending in-person instruction this semester, please contact Disability Resources and Services. If you are quarantined due to COVID-19, you may temporarily participate remotely by providing documentation. Under either of these circumstances, you may elect to preserve your privacy by not using video and by identifying yourself in Zoom using your initials or an alias that you have shared with me.
Diversity & Inclusion	The University of Pittsburgh does not tolerate any form of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation based on disability, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, genetic information, marital status, familial status, sex, age, sexual orientation, veteran status or gender identity or other factors as stated in the University's Title IX policy. The University is committed to taking prompt action to end a hostile environment that interferes with the University's mission. Information about policies, procedures, and practices is found here . I ask that everyone in the class strive to help ensure that other members of this class can learn in a supportive and respectful environment. If there are instances of the aforementioned issues, please contact the Title IX Coordinator, by calling 412-648-7860, or e-mailing titleixcoordinator@pitt.edu. Reports can also be

	filed [online](). You may also choose to report this to a faculty/staff member; they are required to communicate this to the University's Office of Diversity and Inclusion. If you wish to maintain complete confidentiality, you may also contact the University Counseling Center (412) 648-7930.
Self-care	Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, avoiding drugs and alcohol, getting enough sleep, and taking time to relax. Despite what you might hear, using your time to take care of yourself will actually help you achieve your academic goals more than spending too much time studying. All of us benefit from support and guidance during times of struggle. There are many helpful resources available at Pitt. An important part of the college experience is learning how to ask for help. Take the time to learn about all that's available and take advantage of it. Ask for support sooner rather than later – this always helps. If you or anyone you know experiences any academic stress, difficult life events, or difficult feelings like anxiety or depression, we strongly encourage you to seek support. Consider reaching out to a friend, faculty or family member you trust for assistance connecting to the support that can help. The University Counseling Center is here for you: call (412) 648-7930 and visit their [website](). If you or someone you know is feeling suicidal, call someone immediately, day or night: University Counseling Center: (412) 648-7930 University Counseling Center Mental Health Crisis Response: (412) 648-7930 x1 Resolve Crisis Network: (888) 796-8226 If the situation is life threatening, call the Police: On-campus, Pitt Police: (412) 268-2121 Off-campus: 911

FALL 2021 – BIOSC 1010 Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Peer Review	Assignment to submit and due date
1	T 8/31	course overview, partners and papers	--	--
	F 9/3	--	--	**topic summary**: canvas @ noon.
2	T 9/7	the 4 Cs of writing: cut the clutter!	--	**cut the clutter**: canvas @ end of class.
	F 9/10	--	--	**reference list**: canvas @ noon.
3	T 9/14	effective grammar and voice	--	**effective grammar and voice**: canvas @ end of class.
4	T 9/21	components of a scientific review introduction construction	--	**5 moves of an introduction**: canvas @ end of class.
5	T 9/28	figure construction	--	**draft introduction**: canvas @ 9:00 am.
	F 10/1	--	--	**draft figures**: canvas @ noon.
6	T 10/5	introduction revision workshop	introduction	**introduction peer review**: canvas @ end of class.
	W-F 10/6-10/8	introduction conferences	--	--
7	T 10/12	abstract and conclusion & full draft writing workshop	--	--
8	T 10/19	full draft peer review	full draft	**full 1st draft**: canvas @ 9:00 am.
	F 10/22	--	--	**1st draft peer review**: canvas @ noon.
9	T 10/26	effective presentation construction & delivery assertion-evidence presentation style impact of audience on presentation construction	--	**revised full draft**: canvas @ noon.
10	T 11/2	practice presentation—part 1	--	**draft presentation**: canvas @ 9:00 am.
11	T 11/9	draft conferences	--	**group 1**: **revised draft presentation**: canvas @ 9:00 am.
	F 11/12	--	--	**group 2**: **group 1 presentation peer review**: canvas @ noon.
12	T 11/16	practice presentation—part 2	presentation	**group 2**: **revised draft presentation**: canvas @ 9:00 am.
	F 11/19	--	--	**group 1**: **group 2 presentation peer review**: canvas @ noon.

13	T	11/23	no classes—thanksgiving break	--	--
14	T	11/30	final presentation—group 1	--	**group 1**: **final presentation**: canvas @ 9:00 am.
15	T	12/7	final presentation—group 2	--	**group 2**: **final presentation**: canvas @ 9:00 am.
	F	11/20	--	--	**final draft**: canvas @ noon.