

TOPICS AND ISSUES IN ANIMAL SCIENCE

ANSC 4630

SPRING 2014

Time: 1:10-2:00 p.m., MWF

Classroom: 104 AB

Instructors: Dr. Kristi Cammack
Office: ANSC/MOLB 406
Phone: 766-6530
FAX: 766-2355
e-mail: kcammack@uwyo.edu

Dr. Rich McCormick
Office: ANSC/MOLB 117
Phone: 766-6209
FAX: 766-2355
e-mail: RMcCrmck@uwyo.edu

TA: TBA

Office hours: Open door policy, but an appointment guarantees availability.

Texts: Guide to Rapid Revision, D. D. Pearlman and P. R. Pearlman
Reference only (Available at the bookstore and library)

The Business Writer's Handbook, G. J. Alred, C. T. Brusaw, W. E. Oliu
Reference only (available in Coe Library, the Center for Teaching Excellence, and from the instructor)

Description: Topics and Issues in Animal Science is a **writing-intensive course** that explores contemporary issues affecting animal and veterinary sciences. The course satisfies the WC (W3) category of the University Studies Program (USP) and emphasizes writing skills, writing strategies and the use of critical judgment.

Prerequisite: Senior standing and completion of W1 and W2 requirements.

Objectives: Students will gain a greater understanding of issues related to animal and veterinary sciences by utilizing the conventions of the discipline to prepare several assignments. Students will also improve their critical judgment and public speaking skills by leading discussions on issues and presenting individual critical review summaries to the class.

Policies for ANSC 4630:

1. **Attendance:** **Attendance is required and will be recorded.** Students will be responsible for all assigned work in the course. Authorization may be granted to make up missed work in case of personal hardship (authorized by the Dean of Students), hospitalization or confining illness (with Doctor's Statement), or participation in a University-sponsored activity. These are outlined in University Regulation 713. All assignments are due on the specific date listed in the syllabus or announced in class. Students **MUST** notify the instructors **BEFORE** a known absence and present the requested verification in order to make up missed work. It is acceptable for assignments to be turned in **BEFORE** the deadline for the assignment. In case of absence due to an emergency, students must call the instructors or come by their offices to schedule make up work within **48 hours** of the absence. **No make-ups** will be allowed after this time (unless there are extenuating circumstances).

NOTE: TWO (2) UN-EXCUSED ABSENCES WILL BE ALLOWED FOR EACH STUDENT. AFTER TWO (2) UN-EXCUSED ABSENCES, THE STUDENT WILL HAVE TWENTY-FIVE (25) POINTS SUBTRACTED FROM THEIR FINAL SCORE FOR EACH UN-EXCUSED ABSENCE.

2. **Late Assignments:** Assignments turned in after the due date without the above mentioned authorized absence verification will have **20% of the total points the assignment is worth deducted from the score for EACH DAY it is late.** If a student has an authorized absence when an assignment is due, the assignment is still due on that date. Assignments may be turned in **EARLY** if an absence is anticipated.
3. **Academic Dishonesty:** The University of Wyoming is built upon a strong foundation of integrity, respect, and trust. All members of the University community have a responsibility to be honest and the right to expect honesty from others. **Any** form of academic dishonesty is unacceptable to our community and will not be tolerated. All work in this class is individual, excluding the group discussion work for the issues. When outside sources are used in papers, they **must** be properly cited and their content must be properly utilized. Plagiarism is an extremely egregious form of academic dishonesty and is a continuing concern in any writing course. Plagiarism and its consequences will be discussed at length early in the course. If there is any question about what constitutes academic dishonesty, the student should contact the instructor immediately. **See UNIREG 802.**
4. **Paper Format:** Except for your resume and letter of transmittal, **all assignments will be typed and double-spaced** using one-inch margins and a **12-point type**. Points will be deducted for grammatical and spelling errors. Points will be deducted for papers that **fail to meet or exceed** page or word limits.

GRADE POINTS

2013

| Assignment | Finished Draft Due Date | Grade for Finished Draft | Grade for Revision |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Extemporaneous writing | Jan.13 | 10 | --- |
| Resume | Jan. 29 | 20 | --- |
| Letter of Transmittal | Jan. 29 | 20 | --- |
| Literature review oral pres. | as scheduled | 20 | --- |
| Literature review paper | Mar. 26 | 250 | 50** |
| Issue 1-6 discussion | as scheduled | 50 | --- |
| Issue 1-6 paper | as scheduled | 100 | --- |
| Seminar Report | Apr. 16 | 80 | --- |
| Mock Interview | Last week of class | 20 | --- |
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****Literature review revision due ONE WEEK after returned to students. Students must turn in both the graded finished draft and the revision at that time.**

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|---|------------------|
| Total points writing assignments | = 620 pts |
| Mid-term exam | = 50 pts |
| Total points in class | = 670 pts |

Your final course grade will be based upon your earned percentage of total available points and class attendance/participation. Late assignments will have **20%** of the total points per day **deducted** from your score unless you have made prior arrangements with the instructor. Un-excused absence penalty (after two unexcused absences) will be **25** points per absence.

The grading scale is as follows:

| | |
|---------|-----|
| 90-100% | = A |
| 80-89% | = B |
| 70-79% | = C |
| 60-69% | = D |
| <60% | = F |

ASSIGNMENT DIRECTIONS

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL AND RESUME

DUE: Wednesday, January 29

POINTS (Each): 20 pts.

1. The letter of transmittal will be one page in length. Letters should be single spaced. The letter should be written to apply for an **actual job** in an area of the student's interest. Students may use any of the standard letter formats (block, modified block, etc.) for the letter of transmittal. Specific examples will be discussed in class.
2. The resume should normally be one page in length. If the student has extensive experience (i.e. educational or employment), the resume may be two pages in length. Specific examples will be discussed in class.

LITERATURE REVIEW

250 pts. Paper – DUE: Wednesday, March 26

50 pts. Revision – DUE: 1 wk. after returned

50 pts. Oral presentation – DUE: As scheduled

Total = 350 pts. or >50% of course grade

A literature review is a summary of previous research on a topic using the studies and data reported by others to accomplish any number of goals. Papers will be from the scientific literature and citations (in-text and bibliography) required. Articles from the popular press are not acceptable.

The literature review should be organized as follows:

1. **Introduction** – In this section, include background information on the subject presented. Include significance (importance) of the subject as well as the organizational scheme you have chosen. That is, will the review provide an historical perspective, will it compare and contrast ideas and issues or follow the intellectual progression of research in a particular field?
2. **Review**– The body of the review is both a summary of the articles addressing the subject and a synthesis and interpretation of the material by the reviewer (you).
3. **Conclusion** – Provide a summary including your observations of how authors of the papers approached the subject.

The literature review should be a minimum of nine (9) pages long and not exceed ten (10) pages. The review should be based on ten (10) to twelve (12) papers. Base your oral presentation on the literature review. The presentation should last approximately **five minutes** with **three minutes** for discussion. Your oral presentation should include

appropriate visual aids within or in addition to your PowerPoint slide show. **NOTE: THE MID-TERM EXAM (50 pts.) IS BASED ON THE ORAL PRESENTATIONS OF THE LITERATURE REVIEWS.**

SEMINAR REPORT

DUE: Wednesday, April 16

POINTS: 80 pts.

1. Students are required to attend one seminar or public presentation (outside of class) on a topic or issue related to animal agriculture.
2. A written summary of **2 - 4** double spaced pages should be prepared for the seminar or presentation. Define the topic or issue, tell why it is important, explain all sides of the topic or issue, and summarize the speaker's views.
3. In an **additional** paragraph of approximately **200 - 500** words, evaluate the way the seminar was presented. Was the topic or issue clearly defined? Did the presentation flow well? How could the speaker improve the presentation?
4. Reports must contain:
 - a. Date of seminar
 - b. Title
 - c. Speaker's name
 - d. Student's name
 - e. Summary of seminar (**2 - 4** pages)
 - f. Evaluation of the way the seminar was presented (approximately **200 - 500** words).
 - g. **NOTE:** Finished seminar paper should be **3 - 5** pages, including evaluation of the seminar.

ISSUES

DUE: As scheduled

Points: 100 pts. Issue Paper

50 pts. Issue Discussion

Team Discussion Grade on Issues

1. Student **teams** will be assigned an issue corresponding to the subject in **issue lectures 1 through 7**. Each student on the team will receive a maximum of 50 points for their part of the discussion.
 1. The team is responsible for asking questions of the issue lecturer.
 2. Each team member should ask at least one question the day of the lecture.
 3. During the second class period following the issue, the team will conduct a class discussion of the issue based on the oral presentation and on

reference material gathered by each team member. Individual team members will be responsible for one of the five items below (there can be flexibility in these items depending on number of team members):

- a. Give the nature of the issue.
 - b. Offer possible solutions.
 - c. Give their position on the issue.
 - d. Provide opposing viewpoints.
 - e. Make a concluding statement.
4. The team should meet outside of class time with the instructor prior to their discussion to make sure that the student discussions are not repetitious and that the topic is covered appropriately. Ten points will be deducted from the 20 point discussion grade of team members who do not attend this outside-of-class meeting.

Issue Papers 1- 7

Papers on issue lectures should contain the following information and be organized as:

- Issue No. (Number, Title and Guest Lecturer)
- Title of paper
- Author of paper
- Date
- Introduction
 - Introduce the topic
 - Describe the controversy
- Body
 - Discuss the lecturer's position on the issue
 - Refer to literature and the class discussion on the subject
 - Present your position
 - Provide reasons for your position
- Conclusion
 - Make a concluding statement
- Literature Cited

Papers should be 5 - 6 pages in length. Papers must be typed and double-spaced. Use information from your reading, the guest lecturer and the class and group discussions to develop your paper.

MOCK INTERVIEWS

Dates: Scheduled for last week of course

Points: 20 pts.

Mock interviews will be conducted for each student. Detailed information about the interviews will be given during the last portion of the course.