Introduction
ZOO/BOT 4100, Spring 2012

• Syllabus
• Books
• Assignments
• Term Paper
  – Discussion Section Instructor
  – Contract Form
Introduction
ZOO/BOT 4100, Spring 2012

• Syllabus
  – TIP tutorial and quiz:
    http://tip.uwyo.edu
    go through the tutorial
    select my name (Dillon) and section (BOT or ZOO 4100), then take quiz.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFiHaMdPPZE
Goals for this class

1. Learn how to write better, primarily through revising and rewriting.
   – *Just learning rules won't make you a better writer … you have to practice what you learn*

2. Apply writing skills to documents you need: resume, C.V., letter of inquiry, business letter, cover letter, etc…

3. Learn to enjoy the writing process (?)
Learn how not to plagiarize!

---

Plagiarism Report
Generated by EVE 2.4
11/27/2006 9:34:54 AM
---

Amount of document detected to be plagiarized: 47.72%

Please Note: You should always check EVE's results carefully to make sure they are accurate.

Matching material was found on these sites:
http://experts.about.com/eca/Caviomorpha.htm
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caviomorpha

Student essay with matching content underlined for easy detection:

As stated by Emiliano in lecture, new world primates and caviomorph rodents first appeared in the fossil record of South America about 30 mya, or early Oligocene. As suggested by Emiliano, these two groups must have dispersed from Africa to South America some time during the Oligocene across an ocean gap. This was possible because ocean currents ran from east to west at that time, and South America and Africa were closer at that time than they are now. I have also found several other sources which agree with this hypothesis. The prevailing hypothesis suggests an African origin for both the caviomorph rodents and new world primates and a transatlantic migration. "This is supported by molecular results, which suggest that the Phiomorpha (as restricted to Bathergidae, Petromuridae, and Thryonomyidae) are sister taxa to the Caviomorpha. In fact, until the discovery of the Laotian Rock Rat, all modern hystricognath families were restricted to South America, Africa, or had a range that included Africa (Hystricidae). The principal alternative hypothesis is that the caviomorph ancestor arose in Asia and migrated to South America through another continent. Most commonly, North America is cited as the most likely continent as connections between North America and Asia were common via Beringia, and North America appears to have been closer to South America than any other continent at this time. One thing cited as evidence for an Asian origin is that fossil evidence suggests the Entodactyla may have originated in Asia" (Wikipedia).
Resources for writing

• Dictionary
• Thesaurus
• Handbooks and manuals
  – Hacker: “A Pocket Style Manual”
  – Strunk and White: “The Elements of Style”
Kinds of writing

Formal
adheres to some set of rules, e.g.
  1. no contractions
  2. standard rules of spelling and grammar
  3. slang and idiom are not used

Informal
adheres to few rules, perhaps only sufficient rules to be understood by only a narrow audience
Kinds of writing

Formal
  Some fiction
  Most non-fiction
    scholarly (historical, legal, scientific)
    popular (journalism)
  Business
Kinds of scientific writing

journal articles
review papers
original data papers
opinion pieces, essays, perspectives
books
book reviews
reports
  environmental impact statements
  project reports (“grey literature”)
proposals
Kinds of journal articles

original data reports
abstract, introduction, methods, results, discussion
reviews
tailored to the subject (e.g. history, basic concepts, new advances, conclusions)
Business writing

Letters
Memoranda
White papers
Executive summaries
Reports
Plans
Resumes
Curricula vitae
How to write better

“Writing is hard, even for authors who do it all the time.”

--Roger Angell
How to write better

Scales of correctness:
Words, numbers, sentences, punctuation, paragraphs.

Writing to an assigned length. Get used to it.

Revising, re-reading, revising, peer-review, revising.

Diagramming sentences?
How to write better

Diagramming sentences:

people | are laughing

Some

Subject | Verb

Adjective
Diagramming sentences

Unhappy bus and truck drivers argued yesterday that proposed limits on the time they can drive will cost the economy millions of dollars and make the roads less safe.

- Associated Press (published on June 1, 2000)
They can drive on time.

Drivers argued that the proposed limits will cost millions of dollars and make the economy less safe for roads.

Yesterday, unhappy bus truck drivers and argued.
What (I assume) you already know:

Parts of speech:

- Noun
- Pronoun
- Verb
- Adverb
- Adjectives
- Preposition
- Coordinate conjunction
- Verbals
- “Filler words”
What (I assume) you already know:

Parts of a sentence:

Subject
Verb (transitive and intransitive)
Predicate
Direct object
Indirect object
Dependent clause
Independent clause
Prepositional phrase
Common theme: recognizing taboos

Splitting infinitives:

He asked me to as soon as I was finished feeding the newts clear off the bench.

He asked me to clear off the bench as soon as I was finished feeding the newts.
Common theme: recognizing taboos

Splitting infinitives:

You will have to thoroughly mix the chemicals.

You will have to mix the chemicals thoroughly.
Common theme: recognizing taboos

Splitting infinitives:

It is difficult for us to adequately express our gratitude.

No taboo is universal!
Common theme: recognizing taboos

Ending a sentence with a preposition:

There are a couple of issues that I am willing to be more flexible on.

There are a couple of issues on which I am willing to be more flexible.
Common theme: recognizing taboos

Ending a sentence with a preposition:

This is the sort of English up with which I will not put.

-Winston Churchill

No taboo is universal!
Computers and writing

The ubiquity of word processors raises several issues that were unimportant 20 years ago.

1. Spell checkers do not check for homonyms, nor do they assure correct usage.

2. Use of spell checkers can worsen writing
Study: Spell-check can worsen writing

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania (AP) -- How might you drag a good writer's work down to the level of a lesser scribe? Try the spell-check button.

A study at the University of Pittsburgh indicates spell-check software may level the playing field between people with differing levels of language skills, hampering the work of writers and editors who place too much trust in the software.

In the study, 33 undergraduate students were asked to proofread a one-page business letter -- half of them using Microsoft Word with its squiggly red and green lines underlining potential errors.

The other half did it the old-fashioned way, using only their heads.

How they fared

Without grammar or spelling software, students with higher SAT verbal scores made, on average, five errors, compared with 12.3 errors for students with lower scores.

Using the software, students with higher verbal scores reading the same page made, on average, 16 errors, compared with 17 errors for students with lower scores.

Dennis Galletta, a professor of information systems at the Katz Business School, said spell-checking software is so sophisticated that some have come to trust it too thoroughly.
Example

"Michael Bales would be the best candidate. Bales have proven himself in similar rolls."
"Michael Bales would be the best candidate. Bales has proven himself in similar roles."
Reports about medicines in newspapers and on television commonly contain little or no information about drugs' risks and cost, and often cite medical "experts" without disclosing their financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry, according to a new study.

Reports and according to a new study often without disclosing ties to industry the pharmaceutical companies, cite "experts" and contain little information or no about drugs or cost risks.
Rules of good writing*

1. Have something to say

2. Know your audience
   (identify the genre and follow its conventions)

3. Write concisely and clearly
   (without sacrificing meaning)

*See also Strunk and White, Chapter 5, “An Approach to Style”
Facts: An accident occurred. It happened yesterday. Today is Tuesday. The accident was a car accident. It happened in Murfreesboro where Main Street and Broad Street intersect. One person was killed. The person was John Frazier. He was 20 years old and lived in Murfreesboro at 212 Moore Court. He was driving a blue 1998 Ford Mustang. He was driving northwest on Broad Street at about 5 p.m. He lost control of the car. It was raining, and the road was slick. He was also driving about 20 mph over the speed limit. He was the only one in the car. The car smashed into a utility pole along Broad Street. The impact crushed the whole front of the car. Frazier was thrown through the car's windshield. He landed on the pavement some 20 feet away. He wasn't wearing a seat belt. He was killed instantly.
A Murfreesboro man died Monday afternoon when his car spun out of control on rain-slickened Broad Street, crashed into a utility pole and threw him through the windshield.

(Standard news lead - some elements of who, what, when, where, how)
Dear Dr. Buskirk,
Hello. My name is Bill Smith. I am interested in beginning graduate studies in the fall of 2007. While researching programs online, your lab and its work grabbed my attention. I am wondering if you are taking on new students for the coming year.

Dr. Buskirk,
My name is Tiffany Smith. I am a senior Biology-English double major at Murray State University in Kentucky. I am currently looking for potential graduate advisors, and I am interested in the type of work your lab typically does. I would like to focus my graduate work on the behavioral ecology of

Professor Buskirk,

Hello, my name is Jeremy Hamilton from the University of Northern Iowa and this past fall semester I had contacted you and had sent you my resume for graduate school. I
Dr. Buskirk,

I am writing to express my interest in your research and to inquire about the possibility of working under you as a graduate student.

Dear Dr. Buskirk:

I am writing in response to M.S. graduate positions possibly available for the fall of 2007 concerning studies of carnivores.

Dear Dr. Buskirk:

Dr. Paul Krausman suggested that I contact you regarding potential Ph.D. research openings under your guidance. I am currently finishing up a Master’s degree in