



Scientific Writing in Data Science II (Spring 2025, DATA 607)

Schedule

Tuesday and Thursday 12:30PM to 2:00PM *ISC 1291*

Instructor

Dr. **Dan** Runfola

danr@wm.edu

ISC 1269

Office Hours: By appointment

757.221.1970

Please let me know if you have any documented disabilities that may impact your performance in this class.

Course Description: This course will teach foundational practices of scientific writing specifically tailored to the Data Science domain, with a concentrated focus on conducting a comprehensive literature review and crafting a preliminary quantitative analysis. Students will acquire the skills necessary to navigate academic databases, critically evaluate and synthesize existing research, and effectively present quantitative data. Through a combination of lectures, workshops, and peer reviews, students will learn to articulate research gaps, present data with clarity, and lay the groundwork for their future research endeavors. In this section of the course, students will focus on writing prospective pieces for their qualification.

Prerequisite(s): Prerequisites for this course include a solid background in statistical analysis, proficiency in research methodologies, and a basic understanding of data science concepts. It is normally taken in the Spring of your second year.

Credit Hours: 3

Materials:

A free SciClone account is needed in order to access the William and Mary High Performance Cluster (HPC). Registration can be started at <https://hpc.wm.edu/acctreq/>.

You must bring a laptop to class each day unless otherwise noted.

Grade Distribution:

Peer Review	50.0%
Draft Prospectus	2050%
Presentations	25.0%

Letter Grade Distribution:

>= 93.00	A	73.00 - 76.99	C
90.00 - 92.99	A-	70.00 - 72.99	C-
87.00 - 89.99	B+	67.00 - 69.99	D+
83.00 - 86.99	B	63.00 - 66.99	D
80.00 - 82.99	B-	60.00 - 62.99	D-
77.00 - 79.99	C+	<= 59.99	F

Attendance: This class does not have an attendance policy. However, it will be difficult to learn enough to pass the class without regular participation, as the majority of course content relevant to tests and assignments will be covered in class.

Classroom Behavior: Please remain civil during discussions to promote the open exchange of ideas and foster a culture of open dialogue. Please bear in mind that all students are entitled to their own opinion. You are expected to listen attentively to each person speaking. Please refrain from eating during class (and, if you must, make sure it isn't loud!).

Late / Poor Performance Policy: Assignments will not be accepted late, excepting in documented circumstances (i.e., an illness with a doctor's note).

Bi-weekly Advisor Meeting:

In addition to this course, you will work closely with your advisor to craft your dissertation prospectus. It is expected you will meet with your advisor at least once every two weeks to discuss your progress towards your prospectus, and feedback you may receive from this course.

Prospectus outline of Paper 1, Paper 2, Paper 3, and GANTT chart: As a part of this course, you will write and submit the prospectus for your dissertation papers, as well as a prospective timeline associated with your work.

Feedback: You will be asked to provide reviews of your peers work, and will be assessed based on the quality of these reviews.

Presentation: You will be asked to provide a 30-minute presentation of your prospectus, designed to target non-experts in the field. This presentation will be 50% of your grade.

Important Dates: The add and drop deadline this semester is January 31, 2025, and withdrawal deadline is March 24, 2025.

Do not cheat!

Academic dishonesty is taken very seriously. Make sure to cite all of your work,

and do not turn in work that is not yours! Cases of academic dishonesty will be evaluated and acted upon in accordance with William and Mary policies, which can be found at [http://www.wm.edu/offices/deanofstudents/services/ student-conduct/](http://www.wm.edu/offices/deanofstudents/services/student-conduct/)
