

Syllabus: ASTR 578 Spring 2022
Writing Across the Space Sciences
T/Th 1:00-2:15 Rm 208

Instructor: Prof. Gurtina Besla astr578besla@gmail.com N312
Lecture Notes: https://github.com/gurtina/ASTR578_Spring2022

Office Hours: by appointment

Course Goals: The primary purpose of this class is to strengthen the technical scientific writing and science communication skills of the student as well as broaden their understanding of research ethics in the field of Astronomy. Student knowledge of scientific writing with applications towards writing clear and competitive scientific proposals for funding will be advanced. Ultimately this class will help prepare the student prepare for their careers by teaching them about research ethics and advancing communication skills, written and verbal, as required in the professional practice of the Space Sciences.

Evaluation: (all deadlines are 5 PM)

- 10% Assignment 2: Mock Abstract **DUE Jan 24, Revisions Jan 27**
- 10 % Assignment 3: Mock Section 1 **DUE Feb 8**
- 20% Assignment 4: 15 minute presentation **Feb 17 -Mar 3, abstracts Feb 14**
- 10% Assignment 5: Proposal Abstract **DUE Mar 17**
- 10% Assignment 6: Proposal Outline + Revised Abstract **DUE Mar 24**
- 30% Assignment 11: 3 page scientific justification for an HST/JWST proposal **DUE Apr. 26**
- 10% Shorter or In-Class Writing & Public Speaking Assignments

Assignments 7-10 are not graded but will be due on the following schedule:

- Assignment 7 : Mar 31
- Assignment 8 : Apr 7
- Assignment 9 : Apr 14
- Assignment 10 : Apr 21

Schedule:

January: HST/JWST Proposal Types, Proposal Structure overview, Scientific Writing

February-March: Scientific Talk Structure, Student Presentations, Scientific Writing cont'd
(note : No Class Feb 24th)

March - April: Research Ethics & the State of the Profession Report ([Appendix N: Decadal Astro 2020](#))
(note April 24: Class will be the Astronomy Colloquium 3:30-4:30 PM, this will be recorded)

April 28 & May 3: Mock Allocation Panels. (NOTE: these will be remote classes)

Classroom Behavior

Academic Integrity: All students in this course are expected to abide by the University of Arizona's Code of Academic Integrity <http://dos.web.arizona.edu/uapolicies/>

Proposals: All proposals shared with students are to be kept confidentially and not shared outside the class.

Cheating is not tolerated in any form. If a student is caught cheating on any assignment or presentation the penalty will be failure in the course. In all cases a letter will be sent to the Dean of Students describing the incident. If you are aware that someone else is cheating, it is your obligation to inform the instructor.

We allow, even encourage, collaboration on most assignments. However, **you must always write the final version of an assignment yourself, and use your own words to describe what you have concluded.** You cannot, for example, utilize exact wording from your advisor's proposal in your own proposal. If we receive verbatim answers from more than one person we will divide the credit received among all those with identical answers.

It is fine to make use of reference books or websites. But if you do so, make sure to put any text taken verbatim in quotes, otherwise make sure to rewrite things in your own words. In all cases you must list the source of your information. **Plagiarism is strictly prohibited.** If you are uncertain as to what constitutes plagiarism see: <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/codeofacademicintegrity>

Cell Phones: The use of cell phones is not allowed in the class

Assistance:

If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with me so that we can discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that disability-related accommodations are necessary, please register with **Disability Resources** (621-3268; drc.arizona.edu) and notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. We can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations.

The University of Arizona provides a wide variety of resources to help you feel more at home in the UA environment. Examples of student resource/cultural centers include:

African-American Student Affairs Center. <https://aasa.arizona.edu/>
Asian & Pacific American Student Affairs Center <https://apasa.arizona.edu/>
Guerrero Student Center <https://chsa.arizona.edu/>
Immigrant Student Resource Center <https://eao.arizona.edu/isrc>
LGBTQ+ Student Affairs Center <https://lgbtq.arizona.edu/>
Native American Student Affairs Center <https://nasa.arizona.edu/>
Transfer Student Center <https://transfer.arizona.edu/>
Veterans Education and Transition Services Center <https://vets.arizona.edu/>
Women & Gender Resource Center <https://wrc.arizona.edu/>

We encourage you to take advantage of the community, support, and learning opportunities afforded by these centers, and to encourage your friends and colleagues to do the same.

- **Classroom attendance and Covid-19 :**
 - If you feel sick, or if you need to isolate or quarantine based on [University protocols](#), stay home. Except for seeking medical care, avoid contact with others and do not travel.
 - Notify your instructor(s) if you will be missing a course meeting or an assignment deadline.
 - Non-attendance for any reason does **not** guarantee an automatic extension of due date or rescheduling of examinations/assessments.
 - Please communicate and coordinate any request directly with your instructor.

- If you must miss the equivalent of more than one week of class, please contact the Dean of Students Office DOS-deanofstudents@email.arizona.edu to share documentation about the challenges you are facing.
 - Voluntary, free, and convenient [COVID-19 testing](#) is available for students on Main Campus.
 - If you test positive for COVID-19 and you are participating in on-campus activities, you must report your results to Campus Health. To learn more about the process for reporting a positive test, visit the [Case Notification Protocol](#).
 - The COVID-19 vaccine and booster is available for all students at [Campus Health](#).
 - Visit the [UArizona COVID-19](#) page for the most up-to-date information.
- **Statement on compliance with COVID-19 mitigation guidelines:** As we enter the Spring semester, the health and wellbeing of everyone in this class is the highest priority. Accordingly, we are all required to follow the university guidelines on COVID-19 mitigation. Please visit www.covid19.arizona.edu for the latest guidance.