

# IB 514 SCIENTIFIC WRITING

## Course Description

TBD

## Prerequisites

Officially, only graduate standing (or instructor approval), but see end of *Course Description* for what you should have coming in.

## Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

## Instructor

Mark Novak

Office: Cordley 5323

Email: [mark.novak@oregonstate.edu](mailto:mark.novak@oregonstate.edu)

## Office Hours

I am happy to meet by appointment, or please feel free to stop by my office anytime.

## Meeting Times, Location, Course Materials & Schedule

See <https://github.com/ScientificWriting>

## Course Work

There will be no exams, tests, or quizzes. I will not grade your work because there won't be "correct" answers to the problems you will solve. In fact, my goal is for you to not have almost no "homework" (besides readings and making progress on your manuscript writing). However, the course *will* require a significant allocation of time for thought and reflection outside of class. There *will* also be readings for in-class discussion to be read before class (see Schedule on GitHub repository). Finally, you will need to complete all assigned in-class work, ideally by the end of the week in which the topic is covered but definitely before the end of Week 10.

## Evaluation of Student Performance

Grading (A-F) will be based on your participation, your project presentations (see rubrics on the GitHub repository), and the completion of the various in-class "tasks" assigned throughout the quarter. Accommodations for missed classes (e.g., due to fieldwork) are okay in principle, as long as we can identify a path to your having fully participated in the course. Please discuss your specific situation with me during Week 1. Everyone who puts the effort into the class will get a grade that will make them happy (if you, as a graduate student, still care about grades).

## Collaboration

My hope is for you to make a tremendous amount of progress on your manuscript during this course. Your work will therefore, almost by definition and necessity, be your own. That said, I *strongly* encourage everyone to work as a team in whatever ways are possible! That's because what this course is all about is to provide you with tools. Tools have to be learned and practiced. Moreover, there's nothing better for learning to understand something than (successfully) explaining how you think about it to someone else.

Therefore, you are *strongly* encouraged to collaborate. This will be emphasized throughout the quarter by getting you to work or discuss your work in pairs or teams.

## Student Learning Experience Survey

The online Student Learning Experience surveys will open to you the Wednesday of week 9 and close the Sunday before Finals Week. You will receive notification, instructions, and the link through your ONID email. You may also log into the survey via MyOregonState or directly at <https://beav.es/Student-Learning-Survey>.

*Survey results are extremely important to how my department values this course. They also help me improve the course and the learning experience of future students.*

Responses are anonymous (unless you choose to “sign” your comments, agreeing to relinquish anonymity of written comments) and are not available to instructors until after grades have been posted. I’ve been told that the results of scaled (quantitative) questions and signed comments go to me and the Head of my department. Anonymous (unsigned) comments go only to me.

## Policies

### Academic Calendar

All students are subject to the registration and refund deadlines as stated in the Academic Calendar: <https://registrar.oregonstate.edu/osu-academic-calendar>

### Equity, Justice and Inclusion

Oregon State University, and the Department of Integrative Biology, have a lot of work to do on improving the level of equity, justice and inclusion in our community. I will take responsibility for creating an welcoming and supportive climate for everyone in the course. If you have concerns or suggestions related to these issues as they pertain to the course, please do not hesitate to contact me and/or the Office for Institutional Diversity (<https://diversity.oregonstate.edu/>).

### Student Conduct Expectations

Choosing to join the Oregon State University community obligates each member to a code of responsible behavior, which is outlined in the Student Conduct Code (<https://beav.es/codeofconduct/>). This Code is based on the assumption that all persons must treat one another with dignity and respect in order for scholarship to thrive.

### Students with Disabilities

Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by Disability Access Services (DAS). If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained official approval, please contact DAS at 541-737-4098 or at <http://ds.oregonstate.edu>. DAS notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations.

### Reach Out for Success

University students encounter setbacks from time to time. If you encounter difficulties and need assistance, it’s important to reach out. Consider discussing the situation with an instructor or academic advisor. Learn about resources that assist with wellness and academic success at [oregonstate.edu/ReachOut](http://oregonstate.edu/ReachOut). If you are in immediate crisis, please contact the Crisis Text Line by texting OREGON to 741-741 or call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

### Religious Holidays

Oregon State University strives to respect all religious practices. If you have religious holidays that are in conflict with any of the requirements of this class, please see me as soon as you can so that we can make alternative arrangements.