

Cover Sheet: Request 13682

GEO4XXX Communicating Science

Info

Process	Course New Ugrad/Pro
Status	Pending at PV - University Curriculum Committee (UCC)
Submitter	Stephen Mullens stephen.mullens@ufl.edu
Created	2/25/2019 4:41:12 PM
Updated	1/10/2020 2:45:18 PM
Description of request	A new course is being created.

Actions

Step	Status	Group	User	Comment	Updated
Department	Approved	CLAS - Geography 011609000	Jane Southworth		2/28/2019
No document changes					
College	Recycled	CLAS - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	Joseph Spillane	Returned by department request	2/28/2019
No document changes					
Department	Approved	CLAS - Geography 011609000	Jane Southworth		9/23/2019
No document changes					
College	Recycled	CLAS - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	Joseph Spillane	The College Curriculum Committee recycles this request, with the following changes needed: 1) consider whether the course title should be discipline or field specific; 2) under prereqs, change "status" to "designation"; 3) the weekly schedule of assignments should cover 15 weeks; 4) under "Course Objectives" remove the public presentation item, as it is an assignment rather than an objective; 5) add a grading scale.	11/16/2019
No document changes					
Department	Approved	CLAS - Geography 011609000	Jane Southworth		11/22/2019
No document changes					
College	Approved	CLAS - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	Joseph Spillane		1/10/2020
No document changes					
University Curriculum Committee	Pending	PV - University Curriculum Committee (UCC)			1/10/2020
No document changes					

Step	Status	Group	User	Comment	Updated
Statewide Course Numbering System					
No document changes					
Office of the Registrar					
No document changes					
Student Academic Support System					
No document changes					
Catalog					
No document changes					
College Notified					
No document changes					

Course|New for request 13682

Info

Request: GEO4XXX Communicating Science
Description of request: A new course is being created.
Submitter: Stephen Mullens stephen.mullens@ufl.edu
Created: 11/22/2019 11:06:54 AM
Form version: 5

Responses

Recommended Prefix GEO
Course Level 4
Number XXX
Category of Instruction Advanced
Lab Code None
Course Title Communicating Science
Transcript Title Communicating Science
Degree Type Baccalaureate

Delivery Method(s) On-Campus
Co-Listing No
Co-Listing Explanation N/A
Effective Term Earliest Available
Effective Year Earliest Available
Rotating Topic? No
Repeatable Credit? No

Amount of Credit 3

S/U Only? No

Contact Type Regularly Scheduled

Weekly Contact Hours 3

Course Description An examination of techniques to communicate scientific knowledge and research to non-science audiences. Topics include quantitative and qualitative research methods, using narrative, discussing data and statistics, risk communication, and communicating with journalists and politicians. Readings, discussions, and projects facilitate understanding of best practices when communicating to people making evidence-based decisions.

Prerequisites Any GenEd course with a "B" or "P" designation.

Co-requisites None

Rationale and Placement in Curriculum This course will equip students with a deeper understanding of communicating natural science topics to non-science audiences. It is best for upper-level undergraduate students who have already taken a science course and have interest in the research process. It is a new course affiliated with the Department of Geography.

Course Objectives Compare and explain the differences between academic communication of quantitative and qualitative scientific methods.

Construct systematic narratives that aid science communications.

Evaluate communications from science organizations for their use of narrative.

Evaluate and translate p-values and statistically significant, nearly-significant, and non-significant results to the public.

Evaluate and understand risk, the importance of communicating risk, and how organizations engage in risk communication.

Understand and contrast principles for communicating with the public, media, and elected officials.

Course Textbook(s) and/or Other Assigned Reading Risk Communication: A Handbook for Communicating Environmental, Safety, and Health Risks, Regina E. Lundgren and Andrea H. McMakin, 2009

Houston, We Have A Narrative, Randy Olson, 2015

Academic journal articles that aid learning objectives.

Weekly Schedule of Topics 1-Quantitative Research Methods

2-Qualitative Research Methods

3-Using narrative in science

4-Tools for creating narratives for science communication

5-Communicating statistical significance

6-Risk communication introduction

7-Decision-making in crisis situations

8-Motivating action through calls to action.

9-Adapting and reaction to audiences, minorities, and critics

10-Narratives and data visualization

11-Creating and delivering risk communication

12-Educating the public on scientific topics

13-Engaging in outreach activities, in person and online

14-Communicating with journalists and elected officials.

15-Managing existing false and misleading information

Links and Policies Attendance

Class attendance is mandatory. Each unexcused absence will result in a 10 point reduction in the final grade. Excused absences are consistent with university policies in the undergraduate catalog (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>) and require appropriate documentation. Students who can demonstrate that they were unable to submit an assignment by the deadline due to an excused absence and who can provide appropriate documentation for the absence will be given a reasonable period of time to make up the late work.

Accommodations

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

Expectations of you

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all. UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Counseling and Wellness

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center:

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Writing Assistance

The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and

professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> or in 302 Tigert Hall for one-on-one consultations and workshops.

Grading Scheme 15% - Exam 1

25% - Exam 2

25% - Final Project

25% - Homework assignments

10% - Attendance

A	93.0-100
A-	90.0-92.9
B+	87.0-89.9
B	83.0-86.9
B-	80.0-82.9
C+	77.0-79.9
C	73.0-76.9
C-	70.0-72.9
D+	67.0-69.9
D	63.0-66.9
D-	60.0-62.9
E	0.0-59.9

Instructor(s) Stephen Mullens