



University of Wisconsin – Stout

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Course Details

English 410-001
MWF @ 10:10 – 11:05
Harvey Hall 345

Words of Wisdom

“Write for a scientist in another field. Don’t underestimate your readers’ intelligence, but don’t overestimate their knowledge of a particular field. When writing about science, don’t simplify the science; simplify the writing.”

-- Julie Ann Miller,
Editor, *Science News*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to ENGL 410: Scientific Communication! Throughout this term, students will explore the rhetorical strategies and conventions that are vital for effective professional communication within a variety of scientific fields. Students will gather and disseminate data, compose technical reports, and design ethical infographics intended for both generalized and specialized audiences.

COURSE OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will have:

1. Designed and assembled professional scientific documents suited to a variety of purposes;
2. Developed a writing process well-suited to technical and scientific careers;
3. Described research methodologies and findings for interdisciplinary audiences;
4. Evaluated the viability of data sources and research materials;
5. Synthesized original research with the existing disciplinary discussions;
6. Created appropriate and effective data displays;
7. Demonstrated written and oral communication skills necessary to succeed within the scientific disciplines; and
8. Identified forums to disseminate their research for both print and electronic mediums.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

To succeed in this course, all students will require access to the following materials:

- Access to course readings and assignments via Canvas (UW-Stout’s LMS)
- Regular internet access outside of class

COURSE POLICIES

Email Policy: Professional communication skills are vital to success in college, as well as the workplace. To ensure accurate and efficient responses, please be sure your email includes the following:

- An appropriate subject line,
- A salutation that addresses me by name (e.g. “Professor Ruefman” or “Dr. Ruefman”),
- A clear and concise message, free of grammatical and typographical errors, and
- Closes with your name, class, and section number (e.g. John Doe, ENGL 410-001).

Laptop & Smartphone Policy: Students are expected to be engaged fully during the class meetings. We will be using laptops as a tool throughout this term, but students are expected to refrain from inappropriate activities online which may also be distracting to their peers. Such activities include playing games, watching YouTube videos, completing work for other courses, instant messaging, and checking email. **Students participating in this behavior will be marked absent for the day.**

Late Assignment Policy: **Late assignments will not be accepted without advanced approval and only in extreme circumstances.** Deadlines are a part of the professional world, and this class is no different.

Disability Accommodation: UW-Stout strives for an inclusive learning environment. It is the policy of the University of Wisconsin-Stout to provide, on a flexible and individual basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have documented disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. If you anticipate or experience any barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with me so that we can discuss ways to ensure full access. If you determine that additional disability-related accommodations are necessary, please contact the Disability Services Office located in room 120 in the Robert S. Swanson Library and can be reached at (715) 232-2995 or <http://www.uwstout.edu/disability>

Attendance Policy: Attendance is vital to student success. However, selfcare when an illness or emergency presents itself is also extremely important to protect the wellbeing of this community. For these reasons, students may miss up to 6 classes, without incurring an additional penalty. However, students are still responsible for the information that is missed. Excessive absences will be assessed as follows:

- 7th absence = final grade reduction of 10%
- 8th absence = final grade reduction of 20%
- 9th absence = automatic failure for the term

Academic Dishonesty Policy: Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Students who violate these standards must be confronted and must accept the consequences of their actions. The disciplinary procedures can be found on the [Student Academic Misconduct/Academic Discipline Procedure](#) website.

Writing Center: Students of all skill levels are encouraged to visit the Writing Center to discuss writing projects at any stage of development (including writing-intensive projects for classes other than those designated as “English”). Its primary location is in Harvey Hall, Room 174, though the center does offer tutoring services in the library and dormitories periodically throughout the term. **To schedule an appointment, or to learn more about the services offered, please call (715) 232-5284 or visit their website on the [Stout Cloud Gateway](#).**

ASSIGNED COURSEWORK

Job Application Packet: Draft, revise, and edit a cover letter and resume that are tailored for an actual job opening in a related field (entry-level or internship preferably). During this process, students will also be asked to discuss interview and job fair strategies **(20 points)**.

Interview Activity: To learn more about the type of writing that is used in their future professions, students must interview an individual currently working in a career related to their majors. Students will then produce memo-reports that describe the applied communication skills and technologies common to their future professions **(30 points)**.

Infographic PSA: Representing data in an accessible and ethical way for a general audience is essential to promoting science literacy. For this project, students will conduct research into a topic related to their professional goals. Students will then develop an infographic that will serve as a public service announcement, informing the general population of an important issue and persuading them to take some action **(20 points)**.

Independent Research Project: This term, students will gather data that relates to their own lives. They will conduct preliminary research, develop a research question, implement changes, and prepare a report that will discuss their data, findings, conclusions, and recommendations **(40 points)**.

Multimodal Presentation: Verbal dissemination of research is essential for promoting science literacy among the general population. For that reason, students will translate the findings of their research project into a formal presentation **(20 points)**.

In Class Activities: Peer workshops, discussions, and other in-class activities will be collected for a grade periodically throughout the term. These activities will take place during regularly scheduled class times and cannot be made up at any other time **(20 points)**.

GRADING CRITERIA

A = 93-100%	B+ = 87 – 89%	C+ = 77 – 79%	D = 60-69%
A- = 90 – 92%	B = 83-86%	C = 73 – 76%	F = <59%
	B- = 80-82%	C- = 70 – 72%	