

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT I
PLSC 710 (1 credit) - Fall

Instructor: Kirk A. Howatt

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Class Session: Tuesday 4:00, Loftsgard 102

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 8-12, or whenever you can find me

Bulletin Description: This course introduces students to professional society structure and function, mechanics of data presentation, and written discussion. Assignments will emphasize skills needed to complete a research proposal and prepare a research presentation.

Prerequisites: none

Course Objectives: After completing this course, students will:

- 1) Understand some of the professional ethics issues surrounding the ownership of research data and intellectual property
- 3) Be aware of typical errors in writing
- 2) Properly construct tables and figures
- 3) Have a better understanding of poster development for scientific meetings
- 4) Develop a research proposal for their individual thesis/dissertation

Text: Publications Handbook & Style Manual (ASA, CSSA, SSSA, Madison, WI)

Found at <https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/style> Then click on appropriate chapter title for your inquiry

Weed Sci.: <http://www.wssa.net> Then click on Publications, (appropriate journal), and Contributor Directions

On Being a Scientist: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in Research: Third Edition (Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy. National Academy Press, Washington, D.C.). Online.
<http://www.nap.edu>

Lecture Capture: Class sessions are recorded with the Yuja system and posted at the blackboard site. These are available for viewing if you miss a class or are traveling for your graduate research or assistantship responsibilities.

Special Needs: Any student with a disability or other special need, who needs accommodation in this course, is invited to share these concerns or requests with the instructor as soon as possible so it can be accommodated. Alternatively, students may contact the Disability Services Office in the lower level of the Library, Suite 17 (231-8463).

Military: Veterans and student soldiers with special circumstances or who are activated are encouraged to notify the instructor in advance.

Honor System:

The college of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources recognizes the ability of its students to govern themselves as mature individuals. The honor system has been functioning in the college since 1955 and provides students with a method of self-government during examinations and homework. All students in the college are required to uphold the honor system. Please visit: <http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/academics/honor-system-1>

The academic community is operated on the basis of honesty, integrity, and fair play. NDSU Policy 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct applies to cases in which cheating, plagiarism, or other academic misconduct have occurred in an instructional context. Students found guilty of academic misconduct are subject to penalties, up to and possibly including suspension and/or expulsion. Student academic misconduct records are maintained by the Office of Registration and Records. Informational resources about academic honesty for students and instructional staff members can be found at www.ndsu.edu/academichonesty. All work in this course must be completed in a manner consistent with NDSU University Senate policy, Section 335: Code of Academic Responsibility.

Grading procedure:

| Proposed products (due date): | | Grades will be assigned as follows: |
|-------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| Authorship (Sept. 10) | 15 | A - \geq 90% |
| Executive Summary (Sept. 17) | 15 | B - \geq 75 to 90% |
| Peer edit Exec. Sum. (Sept. 17) | 10 | C - \geq 60 to 75% |
| Outline for lit. rev. (Sept. 24) | 10 | D - \geq 50 to 60% |
| Titles (Oct.1) | 25 | F - below 50% |
| Citations (Oct. 15) | 15 | |
| Tables (Oct. 22) | 25 | |
| Peer review Proposal (Nov. 12) | 15 | |
| Figure (Nov. 26) | 10 | |
| Proposal (Nov. 26) | 75 | |
| Plan of Study (Nov. 26) | 10 | |
| Oral paper Abstract intro (Dec. 10) | <u>15</u> | |
| Total | 250 | |

Topics:

- Aug. 27 - Class Organization/Expectations, Components of Proposal
- Sept. 3 - Journal Searches and Writing Services, Authorship and When to Cite
- 10 - Executive Summary
- 17 - Peer Edit Executive Summary
- 24 - Titles
- Oct. 1 - Writing Style
- 8 - Citation Style
- 15 - Table Construction
- 22 - Table Review and Revision
- 29 - Posters: Format and Style
- Nov. 5 - Plan of Study, **Proposal Draft due for peer review**
- 12 - Peer Review Proposal
- 19 - Figure Development
- 26 - Figure Review and Revision
- Dec. 3 - Abstract Structure, Course Evaluation, etc.
- 10 - Peer review Abstract title and intro
- 17 - Final @ 10:30 am