

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
TECHNIQUES OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH - BIOL 5305 - FALL SEMESTER 2009



PROFESSOR: Jim Zech
Office: 218 Warnock Science Building
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OFFICE HOURS: By appointment or T: 11:00 - 11:50 A.M.; 1:00 - 1:50 P.M.; MWF: 9:00 - 10:50 A.M.



TIME AND PLACE: MWF: 8:00 - 8:50 a.m.; 206 WSB



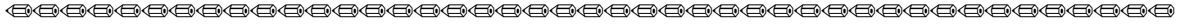
TEXT (?): A Style Manual (optional)
Rosalind Franklin: The Dark Lady of DNA. Brenda Maddox (not optional!)
Various Papers! (not optional!)



CLASS TOPICS/ASSIGNMENTS:

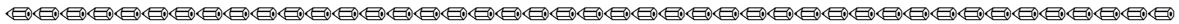
INTRODUCTION
WELCOME TO GRADUATE SCHOOL!
HOW TO BE A GOOD GRADUATE STUDENT
SECRETARIAL RESPECT
CV BUILDING
SERVICE LEARNING
WHY SUL ROSS?
SCIENTIFIC METHOD
ADVISOR SHOPPING
COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION
FILL OUT A DEGREE PLAN
RESOURCES
JOURNALS AND THEIR STYLE
CONSIDER JOINING A SOCIETY
PAPER DISCUSSION
BOOK DISCUSSION - MS FRANKLIN
WRITING, WRITING, WRITING, WRITING, WRITING, AND MORE WRITING!
WORDS IN PRINT ARE FOREVER, CHOOSE THEM WISELY
REWRITES - IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL!
CONSISTENCY
STYLE MANUALS
AUTHOR ABBREVIATIONS
GRAMMAR: Y'ALL VS YOUS GUYS
TO COMA OR SEMI COLON?
A THESAURUS IS NOT A TYPE OF DINOSAUR!
TWO OF THE FOUR AGREEMENTS
EXAM BUILDING AND TAKING
THE COMPUTER IS MY FRIEND
RESEARCH PAPER
THE OVERLOOKED ABSTRACT
FIGURES AND TABLES
TEACHING TRICKS
POWER POINT AND BEYOND
RESEARCH PAPER SYMPOSIUM: SPEAKING, SPEAKING, SPEAKING!
ATTEND A MEETING
TALK CRITIQUE
CLOUDS: ICE CREAM CASTLES OR BLOCK THE SUN?
TO THESIS OR NON (OR MINI?)
REQUIRED, TRANSFER, AND UNDERGRAD FOR GRAD CREDIT HOURS
RESEARCH REALITY
THE PROPOSAL: IS IT REALLY JUST A WASTE OF TIME?
THESIS TIME LINE
SAMPLING
COLLECTIONS: WHY SRSC AND NOT SRSU?
COLLECTING
BE TRUE TO YOUR SCHOOL (THE GRASSHOPPERS STAY HERE!)
FIELD SEASONS - ONE IS NEVER ENOUGH!
WRITE A GRANT PROPOSAL
GRADUATION 101 - YES THERE ARE DEADLINES!
COMPS: YES, YOU SHOULD STUDY

APPLY FOR A JOB
LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION
INTERVIEW SKILLS - DO I REALLY NEED THAT BLUE SUIT?
KEEPING THE JOB
QUITTING THE JOB
DEVELOPING A REFERENCE MANUAL



FEATURES:

ASSIGNMENT SHEETS
THINGS MY ADVISOR NEVER TOLD ME/LIFE LESSON #398
Z-BREAK



DATES TO CONSIDER:

21 AUG: HUMAN RESOURCES GRADUATE STUDENT ORIENTATION (2:00 - 4:00; UC 202)
7 SEPT: NO CLASSES - LABOR DAY
25 SEPT: LAST DAY TO APPLY FOR MAY 2010 GRADUATION
16 SEPT: ACADEMIC SKILLS, LIBRARY, 2ND FLOOR CLASSROOM/Z-BREAK - WORK ON PROJECTS
18 SEPT: ACADEMIC SKILLS, LIBRARY, 2ND FLOOR CLASSROOM/Z-BREAK - WORK ON PROJECTS
6 NOV: LAST DAY TO DROP ANY CLASS WITH A W
23 NOV: NO CLASS -THANKSGIVING
25 NOV: NO CLASS -THANKSGIVING
27 NOV: NO CLASS -THANKSGIVING
4 DEC: REFERENCE MANUAL IS DUE (DURING CLASS)
7 DEC: FINAL EXAM, 8:00 a.m. - MS. FRANKLIN DISCUSSION



POINT DISTRIBUTION: IT'S NOT ABOUT POINTS, IT'S ABOUT COMPLETION!

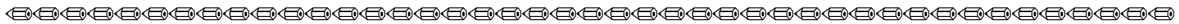


GRADING:

Your final grade in Techniques will be determined by completion (to my satisfaction) of all assignments. Complete them all equals an A. Don't complete them all equals an F. An F equals retake the course (its required for the degree!).



ABSENCES: Contact me ahead of time.
PAPERS/BOOKS: Read them and be ready to contribute to the discussion!
PRESENTATIONS: Practice, reading is *NOT* acceptable.



COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students are expected to choose and advisor, and complete a degree plan;
Students will demonstrate effective library research skills;
Students will develop scientific writing skills;
Students are expected to plan, organize, and develop a thesis;
Students shall develop professional presentation skills; and
Students are expected to critique different professional presentation skills.



DISABILITIES INFORMATION:

Qualified students with disabilities needing academic or other accommodations to ensure full participation in the programs, services and activities at SRSU should contact the Disability Services Coordinator, in University Center 211, Box C-171, Alpine, TX 79832 (432-837-8178).