

**SYLLABUS****PHA6936****Scientific Writing****1 Credit Hour****Fall 2020****OBJECTIVES**

This course provides a platform for second year doctoral students of the graduate program of the Department of Pharmacodynamics to work with his/her research mentor and the rest of the faculty of the department to write a literature review or an original research article on a topic relevant to the student's dissertation research.

Upon completion of the course, students will have learned the entire process of writing a literature review or an original research article ranging from topic selection, journal selection, journal format, literature gathering, data analysis and presentation, scientific communication through written words, to submission of the finished product to a scientific journal for peer review and consideration for publication.

**FACULTY**

<b>Instructor</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Email</b>
Dr. Guillaume de Lartigue	P2-27	GdeLartigue@cop.ufl.edu
Dr. Jason Frazier	P2-29	frazier@cop.ufl.edu
Dr. Lance McMahon	P1-20	lance.mcmahon@cop.ufl.edu
Dr. Brandon Warren	P1-27	brandon.warren@cop.ufl.edu
Dr. Daohong Zhou	BG-003F	zhoudaohong@cop.ufl.edu

**Course Coordinator:** Dr. Bin Liu

**Students**

<b>Mentee</b>	<b>Mentor</b>
Julio Zyarth Gonzalez	Dr. McMahon
Jordan Howard	Dr. Frazier
Hua Nan	Dr. Zhou
Todd Sahagian	Dr. Frazier
Bo Sortman	Dr. Warren
Mingxin Yang	Dr. de Lartigue

**FORMAT AND REQUIREMENT**

Students may choose to write a literature review or an original research article. The student's mentor must approve the choice prior to commencing this project.

- 1) Rules governing the preparation of a literature review:
  - a. The review should focus on a specific topic or field that is relevant to the research interest of the mentor and should be a scientific summary of original and peer-reviewed research literature.
  - b. Mini reviews, commentaries and letters to the editors are not suitable for this assignment.

- c. For background and introduction, up to three (3) recent articles could be referred to but extensive reiteration of the content of any of the review articles is prohibited.
  - d. The review article has a word limit of 10,000 excluding figures and tables. Up to three (3) each original summative figures/cartoons and/or tables are allowed.
  - e. Where applicable, original research articles that span the entire timeline of the field should be referred to.
  - f. A plagiarism analysis report on the final product needs to be submitted along with the review.
  - g. If the student intends to submit the literature review for consideration for publication in a peer-reviewed journal or as a book chapter, the format and the style of the journal or book should be followed.
- 2) Rules governing the preparation of an original research article:
- a. The article should focus on a specific topic or field that is relevant to the research interest of the mentor.
  - b. The student will be the first author or co-first author of the article and the article should be based on experimental data collected primarily by the student and the other co-first author(s).
  - c. The student is required to be involved in the entire process of the article writing process.
  - d. The article should be targeted for submission for consideration for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.
  - e. Both full-length research article and brief/rapid communications are acceptable. Commentaries, letters to the editors or conference abstracts are not appropriate for this assignment.
  - f. The format, style and content of the article will be governed by the chosen journal's Instructions to the Author.
  - g. A plagiarism analysis report on the final product needs to be submitted along with the article.

## EVALUATION

- a. If the literature review or original research article is submitted to a scientific journal for peer review for consideration for publication or to an editor of a book for review and consideration for publication in a book, review by the department faculty members is not required. However, submission to the journal has to occur on or before **December 1, 2020**. Proof of timely and official submission in the form of acknowledgement by the Journal or book editor is required and needs to be submitted to the course coordinator on or before December 1, 2020. Timely submission will result in the receiving of 80% of total grade, given by the course coordinator.
- b. **Failure to submit the article to a peer reviewed scientific journal by the deadline (i.e., December 1, 2020) will result in receiving an incomplete grade for the semester. A three-month grace period will be granted such that article needs to be submitted to a peer reviewed scientific journal by March 1, 2021 in which case a 15% deduction in total grade points will be applied. Failure to submit the article by the extended deadline (March 1, 2021) will result in the student receiving a 30% deduction in total grade points.**
- c. The literature review article will be reviewed and graded (80% of total grade) by two department faculty members selected by the course coordinator.

## CRITICAL TIMELINE

- a. Students will meet with the course coordinator to discuss the scope, requirement and logistics of the writing process in the first week of the Fall semester (August 31-September 4, 2020).
- b. Individual students will work with his/her research mentor to decide whether a literature review or original research article will be written.
- c. The student will then submit the following information, in writing, to the course coordinator by the end of the second week of the semester (September 11, 2020, 5 pm):
  - (a). Type of article selected (literature review or original research article),

- (b). Intent to submit for consideration for publication by [December 1, 2020](#),
- (c). For submission for publication, the name of the journal and the type of article (full length review, book chapter, full length or brief/rapid communication type original research article),
- (d). Title of the article
- (e). An abstract of less than 250 words.
- d. Based on the information provided by the student, the course coordinator will start recruiting faculty members in the department with relevant expertise to serve as potential reviewers of the final product.
- e. The student will continue to work with his/her mentor to continue the writing process.
- f. The student will provide the Course Coordinator with an update on the progress of the writing process on [November 1, 2020](#).
- g. The final version of the article needs to be analyzed by a plagiarism program and a complete report needs to be submitted to the course coordinator, along with the complete article by [December 1, 2020](#).
- h. The course coordinator will send the review, if needed, along with the report to the relevant faculty members for their comments/critiques.
- i. The reviewers will send the grades, along with their comments and critiques to the course coordinator.
- j. The course coordinator will share with each student the reviewer's comments/critiques.

### **EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE**

Grades will be based on timely submission of the outline and the final review article along with the report, the quality of the outline and the grades given by the course coordinator or faculty reviewers.

Activity	Percentage
Timely submission of outline and final products	15%
Quality of outline	5%
Course coordinator/Reviewer grades	80%
	<b>100%</b>

### **Grading Scale**

Percent Grade	Letter Grade	GPA
≥ 93.0%	A	4.00
90.0% - 92.9%	A <sup>-</sup>	3.67
87.0% - 89.9%	B <sup>+</sup>	3.33
83.0% - 86.9%	B	3.00
80.0% - 82.9%	B <sup>-</sup>	2.67
77.0% - 79.9%	C <sup>+</sup>	2.33
73.0% - 76.9%	C	2.00
70.0% - 72.9%	C <sup>-</sup>	1.67
67.0% - 69.9%	D <sup>+</sup>	1.33
63.0% - 66.9%	D	1.00
60.0% - 62.9%	D <sup>-</sup>	0.67
< 60.0%	E	0.00

**PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

Students are expected to adhere to the University of Florida Honor Code “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity”. Academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade (i.e., E) for the entire course and additional consequences dictated by the University of Florida code of conduct.