



**Special Topics: Effective Writing for Science**  
**The University of Toledo**  
**Dept. of Environmental Sciences, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics**  
**EEES 4980/6980/8980 Spring 2015**

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<b>Office Hours:</b>	MW: Tues. & Thurs. 2:00-4:30 PM CM: Mon. 2-5, Weds 2-4 PM Or by appointment	<b>Term:</b>	Spring 2015
		<b>Class Location:</b>	BO 3020
		<b>Class Day/Time:</b>	Weds. 9:00-11:30 AM
<b>Office Location:</b>	MW: BO 3001-B, CM: BO 2007-B	<b>Credit Hours:</b>	3

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### **COURSE/CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

Special Topics: An advanced course covering some aspect of the environmental sciences not covered in the formal upper- division undergraduate curriculum. Students may repeat the course for different topics.

### **COURSE OVERVIEW**

Learn to write papers that get cited and proposals that get funded. This course is for anyone who wants to improve their scientific writing, is writing theses or proposals, or who may have to write on the job.

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**Upon completion of the course students will be able to:**

- Outline the overall structure of a paper or proposal to individual sections, paragraphs, sentences, and words.
- Create the core arguments of a paper or proposal
- Describe why some stories are engaging and memorable while others are quickly forgotten
- Describe the elements of story structure, showing how the structures scientists and researchers use in papers and proposals fit into classical models.

### **PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES**

None. Undergraduate enrollment by instructors' permission

### **REQUIRED TEXTS AND ANCILLARY MATERIALS**

*Writing Science* by Joshua Schimel (2011). Oxford University Press. ISBN: 978-0199760244

### **UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

UT is an equal opportunity educational institution. Please read [The University's Policy Statement on Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability Americans with Disability Act Compliance](#).

**Academic Accommodations:** The University of Toledo is committed to providing equal access to education for all students. If you have a documented disability or you believe you have a



disability and would like information regarding academic accommodations/adjustments in this course please contact the [Student Disability Services Office](#).

### ACADEMIC POLICIES

Students who violate the University's policy should expect disciplinary action. Students are expected to be familiar with and follow the University's policy on academic dishonesty, available at: <http://www.utoledo.edu/dl/students/dishonesty.html>.

### COURSE EXPECTATIONS

- Ask questions when you encounter something unfamiliar – chances are someone else has the same question.
- Participate in discussions and writing – this will count toward your grade.
- We expect you to do the assigned reading BEFORE CLASS, so that you're prepared for class.

### GRADING

You will be assigned a letter grade from A-F for this course. Your grade will be based on: your participation in class including in-class writing activities (20%), in-class peer review (20%), and homework writing assignments (80%). More details will be provided in class

**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE** To be updated based on progress during the semester

Date	Topic	HW DUE	Chapters DUE
14-Jan	Introduction to Course		
21-Jan	SUCCES	1	1-3
28-Jan	Four core story structures	2	4
4-Feb	The Opening & The Funnel	3	5-6
11-Feb	The Challenge	4	7
18-Feb	Action!	5	8
25-Feb	The Resolution	6	9
4-Mar	Internal Structure	7	10
11-Mar	Spring Break!	-	-
18-Mar	Paragraphs	8	11
25-Mar	Sentences	9	12
1-Apr	Flow & Energizing Writing	10	13-14
8-Apr	Words	11	15
15-Apr	Condensing	12	16
22-Apr	Editing	13	17
29-Apr	Wrap-up	14	18-20