

Syllabus

Writing in the Sciences

- Massive Open Online Course, Coursera -
(3 ECTS)

Approved by
Academic Council
of the Master's Programme
Minutes AC2

1. **Author, lecturer** (e-mail, web-page)

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<https://www.coursera.org/instructor/~1367410>

2. **Course Description**

a. Pre-requisites

The course doesn't require special previous knowledge and competences.

b. Abstract

This course teaches scientists to become more effective writers, using practical examples and exercises. It includes: principles of good writing, tricks for writing faster and with less anxiety, the format of a scientific manuscript, peer review, grant writing, ethical issues in scientific publication, and writing for general audiences. The course is offered by Stanford University, the full outline is available here: <https://www.coursera.org/learn/sciwrite>

3. **Learning Objectives**

- Ability to write academic papers

4. **Learning Outcomes**

- Skills in preparing manuscripts
- Skills in communicating with audience

5. Course Plan

The course is structured in 8 main sessions:

Session 1: course and reviews key principles of effective writing

Session 2: writing with strong, active verbs.

Session 3: vary sentence structure and write strong paragraphs

Session 4: reviews the writing process

Session 5: reviews the sections of a scientific manuscript

Session 6: peer review process, as well as ethical issues in scientific publishing

Session 7: types of writing beyond original research manuscripts

Session 8: communication with broader audiences

6. Reading List

a. Required

Announced by teachers

b. Optional

Additional announced by teachers

7. Grading System

10 point grading system is applied. After attending the MOOC a certificate is issued. The certificate has to be submitted to the study office immediately after completion of the course. After successful completion of the course an examination is undertaken.

Prerequisite for attending the examination is submission of the certificate to the study office. The examination grade is the final grade for the course.

Final control: oral group exam after final lecture (30 minutes (E))

The overall course grade (G) (10-point scale) is calculated as a sum of

$G = E$

Summary Table: Correspondence of ten-point to five-point system's marks

Ten-point scale [10]
1 – unsatisfactory 2 – very bad 3 – bad
4 – satisfactory 5 – quite satisfactory
6 – good 7 – very good
8 – nearly excellent 9 – excellent 10 – brilliant

8. Course Assignments

To be announced by teachers.

9. Examination Type

Examination is held as group oral examination. Up to 5 students form one group.

10. Methods of Instruction

Massive Open Online Course

11. Software Support, including Open-Source Database Software

Not applicable

12. Special Equipment

Not applicable