

Advanced Communication in Science

11:374:435

Meeting time: Check Rutgers class schedule

Instructor: Mary L. Nucci, Ph.D.

Office: Cook Office Building, Room 214

Office Hours: By arrangement

Email: mnucci@sebs.rutgers.edu

Course description

Communication plays a fundamental role in science. Whether in policy discussions, public health directives, or science research itself, progress in the sciences proceeds through and is documented by acts of communication. From individual conversations to the mass media, from technical journals to textbooks, from lab notes to the Internet, communication creates and defines social issues and research findings. In this course, we will examine the institutional and intellectual contexts, processes, and practical constraints of life science communication within and across disciplines.

Learning goals

1. Understand the relationship of science communications to cultural systems.
2. Understand the purposes of different scientific written forms.
3. Understand how scientists communicate: systems, issues, and goals of scientific communications.
4. Be able to identify, access, and evaluate sources of science writing.
5. Improve critical thinking skills.
6. Develop greater fluency and confidence in reading and evaluating scientific literature.

Required texts

Reading materials will be made available on the Canvas course site.

Class protocol

Class begins promptly at 10:55 am. Be on time. If you have a conflict or an unavoidable reason to be late, please let me know in advance by phoning, texting or sending an email. Please silence your phones during class.

Online class protocol

If for some reason the connection (either yours to class or professor's to class) is cut off, you are expected to sign back in or wait for the connection. If there is an ongoing issue with the professor's connection, look for an email with instructions. If there is an ongoing issue with your connection, please email the professor at mnucci@sebs.rutgers.edu.

Due dates

I will NOT accept late assignments unless you speak to me in person or by phone no later than 24 hours BEFORE the due date. NO email or text communications will be considered. I am here to help you learn the material in the class, so if you need extra time for a legitimate (e.g., illness, family emergency, religious observation) excused absence or reason I will work with you. However, note that repeated requests will not be allowed.

Academic Honor and Integrity

Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. This includes the improper citation of materials from any source, including the Internet. Rutgers University Policy on Academic Integrity considers cheating, fabrication, facilitation of academic dishonesty, plagiarism, and the denial of access to others of materials or information as violations of academic integrity. All violations will be dealt with according to the rules laid out in the policy which can be found at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>, ranging from loss of class credit to expulsion depending on the level of the violation.

Attendance

Rutgers students are expected to attend all scheduled course meetings. University policy excuses absences due to religious observance or participation in Rutgers-approved activities, and permits students to make up work missed for these circumstances. If you will be absent from a class, lab, or exam for any reason, you need to report your absence through the Absence Reporting Website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>. The system will generate an email to me about your absence but the University recommends that you also contact me directly to let me know of your absence. I will take attendance at every class.

Key points to know:

- If you enter the class after I take attendance please make sure at the end of the class I mark you as present.
- Note that if you miss class, you will not receive the participation points for that class.
- More than 2 unexcused absences other than per Rutgers guidelines (an excused absence is illness with a doctor's note, family emergency, religious observation or Rutgers-sanctioned event with note) WILL result in a letter grade drop for your final grade.
- Only students with excused absences will be offered the opportunity to meet with me to review the class content.

Assignments and grading	
Reading responses (9 x 4 points)	36
Science café responses (3 x 3 points)	9
Science Comm Initiative seminars (4 x 3 points)	12
Subtotal	57 points
<u>Research project</u>	
Select a scientist	2
Bibliography	3
Bibliography analysis	8
Annotated bibliography	8
Interview questions	3
Interview	5
Final project proposal	2
Final project	12
Subtotal	43 points
TOTAL	100 points

A: 90-100 points; B: 80-89 points; C: 70-79 points; D: 60-69 points.

Extra credit

Extra credit can be earned through attendance and written response to approved events. Proof of attendance and response due one week after the event (no exceptions). A rubric will be provided.

Rutgers Support Systems

Basic Needs Resources

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, is urged to contact the Rutgers Student Food Pantry and/or the Dean of Students (contacts below). Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable doing so, as they may be able to provide additional support.

Rutgers Student Food Pantry

<http://ruoffcampus.rutgers.edu/food/>

848-932-5500

College Ave Student Center, Room 115 (126 College Ave).

Check their website for hours and additional locations. The Rutgers Student Food Pantry is dedicated to helping all Rutgers students in need of food, no questions asked. Students will be provided with groceries that typically last about one week.

Dean of Students Office

<http://deanofstudents.rutgers.edu/>

848-932-2300

88 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5:00pm

The Dean of Students Office at Rutgers University-New Brunswick provides solutions, services, and support to help students navigate Rutgers University. The Office serves as a student support network by providing advocacy, problem resolution, and critical incident intervention for those times when additional assistance is needed. Please call to schedule an appointment to meet with a representative from the Dean's office. Just In Case app

<http://codu.co/cee05e>.

Student Wellness Services

Just In Case Web App <http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.vpva.rutgers.edu/

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

Scarlet Listeners

(732) 247-5555 / <https://rutgers.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/scarletlisteners>
Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.

Class schedule (NOTE: Schedule subject to change at professor's discretion)

Week 1

Topic: Defining science communication.

Week 2.

Topic: Science communication and the nature of science

Week 3.

Topic: Communicating within the scientific disciplines

Week 4.

Topic: Science as communication

Week 5.

Topic: Science storytelling and jargon

Week 6.

Topic: Visualizing science

Week 7.

Topic: Science and politics

Week 8.

Topic: Funding science research

Week 9.

Topic: Science and the public: audience and science literacy

Week 10.

Topic: Formats of science communication

Week 11.

Topic: Role of scientists in society.

Week 12.

Topic: New directions in scientists communicating: social media, predatory publishing and open source publishing.

Week 13.

Movie screening and discussion

Week 14.

Careers in science communication. Final wrap up.