

HW0128

SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION I

Study Year: BMS Year 2; SBS Year 2; SSM Year 1; SPMS Year 1**Academic Unit:** 2 AUs**Pre-requisite:** HW0001 English Proficiency (co-requisite)**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this course are to teach students important elements of scientific communication, including:

- i. Basic academic literacy skills.
- ii. Foundation skills for scientific communication.
- iii. Communication skills for written and spoken scientific discourse.

CONTENT

The aim of the course is to enhance the abilities of science students in recognising and employing the conventions used by scientists in their field for communication in both academic and public settings. In this course, the emphasis is on such micro-skills in scientific communication as searching academic databases, critically reading scientific texts, citing from sources, composing scientific arguments and making effective presentations to a non-specialist audience. As this is a foundation course, it will ensure that science students are ready to engage with the more challenging skills of the second and more advanced scientific communication course that follows.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the students should be able to:

- i. Read scientific texts critically and cite them appropriately.
- ii. Produce short academic texts relevant to the field of science.
- iii. Make presentations on key scientific topics.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed by:

- i. 2 written assignments (an annotated bibliography and review paper) – 60%
- ii. 1 oral presentation (defining and explaining a scientific concept) – 25%
- iii. Class participation – 15%

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COURSE OUTLINE

S/N	Topic	Tutorial hours
1	Writing for a specialist/non-specialist audience	2
2	Defining and explaining scientific concepts	2
3	Searching academic databases	2
4	Reading scientific texts critically	2
5	Preparing for presentations	2
6	Making effective presentations	2
7	Writing from sources: summarising, paraphrasing and citing information	2
8	Writing annotated bibliographies	2
9	Writing a scientific review paper	2
10	Composing scientific arguments	2
11	Revising and editing	2
12	Course review: Reading, writing and presenting scientific discourse	2

TEXTBOOKS/REFERENCES

- i. *Scientific Communication I Course Pack*. Singapore: NTU Language and Communication Centre.
- ii. Further reference: Penrose, A. M., & Katz, S. B. (2010). *Writing in the sciences: Exploring conventions of scientific discourse* (3rd ed.). New York: Longman.