

## **First Year Seminar-SCIE113, Section 203, 2011-12 Term 2**

Instructor: Prof. Will Welch, Department of Statistics, UBC

**Seminars:** MWF, 3:00 pm, room IBLC155

Please feel free to speak up if I say something that you don't agree with or that makes you uncomfortable. I appreciate all feedback from you (speak to me after class, email or post on VISTA bulletin board). Please be considerate of other students: turn off your cell phone and listen while other people are speaking during in-class discussions.

**Guest speaker presentations:** Held Thursdays at 12:30 pm (STARTING JAN 5), every other week. All sections of SCIE113 come together in room B250 of the Chemistry building. Attendance is mandatory. Please check the course website for the different speaker dates throughout the term. Friday's class is cancelled on the weeks that we have a Thursday speaker.

**Office Hours:** 11:00-12:00 Wednesdays and 3:15-4:15 Thursdays or by appointment in Will Welch's office, room 366 in the LSK building. (If the door into the corridor leading to LSK 366 is locked, please let one of the staff in LSK 333 know that there's an office hour and they will let you in.)

**Unit Topics:** The course has 6 units; each has learning objectives, classes, and writing assignments.

Unit 1 - Nature of science

Unit 2 - Science as a way of knowing

Unit 3 - Presenting scientific arguments

Unit 4 - Evidence in a scientific worldview

Unit 5 - Scientific community

Unit 6 - Science and the global citizen

**Grades-** Note that there will be no final exam in this course!

Six 'Evidence Worksheets' - 1% each= **6%**

The Evidence Worksheets are note-taking assignments for the 'Science in Society' presentations, with a variety of critical thinking questions to guide students in analysis of argumentation from a scientific perspective. Due in class following the presentation.

Three In-class essays 2% each draft; 5% - 15% for revised submissions = **36%**

Students will draft three short essays on the ideas from the course using appropriate scientific writing skills. Essays will be marked for both scientific content and essay structure. Students will be given the opportunity to revise their essays based on feedback.

Three Calibrated Peer Reviews 5% - 9% = **21%**

Students will carry out calibrated peer review of example essays, provide feedback to their peers, and reflect on their own essays using the online Calibrated Peer Review system.

Term Project 2% revised outline; 5% draft; 15% final draft= **22%**

The students will write an argumentative essay, with feedback throughout the term, using the following prompt, "Identify a current controversy in science that interests you. State your opinion and present the evidence that justifies your position." The goal of this formative assessment is to encourage students' reflection on the place of science in their life and future, incorporating the course themes of the nature of science and science in society. The term project is expected to be an evidence-based argument that is motivated by the student's interests. Science librarians will provide instruction to students on how to research and access appropriate library resources.

Participation **15%**

Students will be assessed on completion of writing assignments, participation in class discussion, willingness to generate questions and explore ideas.

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**Course Website URL** = <http://www.vista.ubc.ca>

- The SCIE113 Vista site contains learning objectives for each unit, supporting material, required readings, discussion board. For Vista help, email Angela Lam, her address is [ang.dms@gmail.com](mailto:ang.dms@gmail.com).

**Section Website URL** = <http://www.stat.ubc.ca/~will/SCIE113>

- Contains news specific to our section. (This document is available there.)

**Calibrated Peer Review Website URL** = <http://cpr.elearning.ubc.ca>

- You will use SCIE113 Calibrated Peer Review site to elicit feedback on your three in-class essays. This feedback should assist you as you make your revisions. For CPR help, email Andrea Han, her address is [han@science.ubc.ca](mailto:han@science.ubc.ca)

**Course Package/Texbooks:** A course package with all required readings is available from the bookstore. There are no required textbooks. You should use a binder to organize additional in-class notes & handouts.

### **Policies:**

- All students are expected to participate by speaking in class, working in groups in a constructive and respectful manner, and by preparing for class (completing in-class assignments, assigned readings, and/or homework).
- Practice writing assignments will be considered part of the participation grade. It is the student's responsibility to be prepared for class with writing pieces and other assignments.
- Students who come to class unprepared (without assigned homework, for example) will be asked to leave and as a result will have marks subtracted from their participation grade.
- All writing submitted in this course should be the student's original work. Students should be aware of the UBC policy on academic integrity and plagiarism: (<http://www.library.ubc.ca/home/plagiarism/>) and adhere strictly to it for all writing in this course.
- Academic misconduct (or cheating) of any kind will not be tolerated. The consequence for academic misconduct will include a grade of zero for the assignment and possible expulsion from the course and suspension from the University.
- This is a writing intensive course with the goal of improving your scientific writing. You will be expected to complete practice assignments and in-class assessments using a pen and paper. No laptops are allowed during unit writing classes. Appropriate use of grammar and correct spelling is expected. You are encouraged to bring a dictionary as a spelling resource, hard copies only. Tutoring services are available from the UBC writing Centre if you need additional help:  
<http://www.writingcentre.ubc.ca/tutoring/index.html>
- Students will be asked to submit their term project to TurnItIn in order to verify originality.
- All assignments are due in class on the specified due date. Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 10% per day. Late evidence worksheets will not be accepted.
- Students who have physical illness or experience emotional stresses that cause them to miss classes or assignments should make those known to the instructor right away. Absences from unit writing classes and/or evidence worksheets (completed at speaker series) will be granted at the discretion of your instructor. There are no make-up opportunities for unit writing assessments, participation marks, or calibrated peer review activities or evidence worksheets. If you are absent or miss assignments, you should talk with your instructor who will discuss options with you. These options may include an adjustment of the weighting of your final mark (on a limited basis) to other activities in the course.
- Students with disabilities who have registered with the Disabilities Resource Center should notify the instructor.