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### Writing for Sciences

Michael Coppola  
*CUNY City College*

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# The City College of New York

**ENG 21003 - E**  
**WRITING FOR SCIENCES**  
**FALL 19      ROOM: TBA**  
**M W 2 PM – 3: 15 PM**

**MICHAEL COPPOLA**  
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**Office Hours: M 1PM - 2 PM**

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to act as a composition course that interacts cohesively with your scientific pursuits at City College. What does that mean? It means that this course will teach you not only how to write more effectively in general, but also how to write more effectively as someone who plans on engaging with various scientific fields and courses of studies. We will engage in certain assignments that are hallmarks of advanced composition classes, such as short essays, but we will also focus in large part on writing geared toward your academic interests. There will be a great deal of in-class discussion and group work. There will also be a great deal of writing that manifests itself in various forms.

## **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- acknowledge your and others' range of linguistic differences as resources, and draw on those resources to develop rhetorical sensibility
- enhance strategies for reading, drafting, revising, editing, and self-assessment
- negotiate your own writing goals and audience expectations regarding conventions of genre, medium, and rhetorical situation
- develop and engage in the collaborative and social aspects of writing processes
- engage in genre analysis and multimodal composing to explore effective writing across disciplinary contexts and beyond
- formulate and articulate a stance through and in your writing
- practice using various library resources, online databases, and the Internet to locate sources appropriate to your writing projects
- strengthen your source use practices (including evaluating, integrating, quoting, paraphrasing, summarizing, synthesizing, analyzing, and citing sources)

## **REQUIRED MATERIAL: This is a zero-cost textbook class.**

- Online access to The *New York Times* Science Section (published every Tuesday)
- All other supplemental essays & handouts will be supplied by instructor and posted online including articles, writing composition guides and rubrics
- There will be a City College Blackboard and Academic Commons site for this class. All documents will be posted to Academic Commons:
- <https://21003efall19.gc.commons.cuny.edu>

APA Guide:

- [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/apa\\_style/apa\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/general\\_format.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html)
- [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/apa\\_style/apa\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/types\\_of\\_apa\\_papers.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/types_of_apa_papers.html)

## ASSIGNMENT GRADE WEIGHTS

- Letter of Introduction 5%
- 3 Informative Article Reviews (5 % each) 15%
- Scientific Controversy Position Paper Proposal 5%
- Annotated Bibliography 5%
- Scientific Controversy Position Paper 25%
- Final Project
  - Paper 15%
  - Presentation 15%
- Digital Portfolio 15%

## FULL ASSIGNMENTS

### Formal Letter of Introduction

Write a formal letter of introduction to me. Describe your background and interest in science. Reflect on its relevance to your life and the world at large. Tell me some of your goals for this semester and beyond.

**(2-3 pages, 12 pt. font Business letter format.)**

### 3 Informative Reviews

Using your subscription to the *New York Times*, and access to peer-reviewed articles on the CCNY Library database, you will be asked to read an article, summarize its contents, and respond to the information presented in the article. You will update the reader about the state of knowledge on a focused science topic or research issue. The goal is to inform readers about a science discussion without taking a position on the issues. There will be 3 Informative Reviews: 1) Paradigm Shift/Shaping Scientific Knowledge 2) Scientific Ethics 3) Scientific Argument

**(2-3 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt. font, APA Literature Review Format)**

### Research Proposal for Scientific Controversy Position Paper

In preparation for your paper, you will prepare 3 short research proposal drafts to present for peer review before deciding on 1 to expand to a more robust final proposal draft to serve as a guide for your paper. You will define the issue and your tentative thesis/position or working research question. Summarize and review the existing literature including counter-arguments.

**(600 words, double-spaced, 12 pt. font, APA citations for sources)**

### Annotated Bibliography for Scientific Controversy Position Paper

In preparation for your paper and done concurrently with your paper, you will write an Annotated Bibliography, a full list of your sources with APA citations followed by a summary, evaluation notes, commentary, explanatory notes about the relevancy to your research.

**(8 sentences per source, 6 sources, double-spaced, 12 pt. font, APA format)**

### Scientific Controversy Position Paper

Identify a controversy or problem in a scientific field or community that presents an opportunity to analyze the problem on a more specific level. Your paper will present this controversy using multiple sources, describing the issue

in detail as well as the various approaches to such an issue. Why is this controversy important? The overall objective is convincing readers to accept claims on debatable research issues. You will take a position using evidence, concessions, and counter arguments.

**(6-7 pages minimum (not including title, abstract, and references pages), double-spaced, 12 pt. font, 6 sources minimum, APA General Paper Format)**

### **Collaborative Research Project & Presentation**

This final assignment is comprised of two parts. You will be divided into groups in class. You will write a paper collaboratively and create a related PowerPoint presentation that your group will present to the class. Your paper will be proposing a solution to a Scientific Issue—Ethics Issue or Controversy. This solution is based on current research work in the field. You will need to describe and processes and this should be reflected in your presentation as well including visual elements. A Group Leader and group members will submit progress reports on divided work activities.

**(Paper: 6-7 pages minimum (not including title, abstract, and references pages), double-spaced, 12pt. font, 6 sources minimum, APA IMRD Paper Format. Presentation: 20 minutes plus Q and A)**

### **Digital Portfolio & Self Reflection**

At the end of the semester, you will be required to compile all of your final draft assignments onto a digital portfolio on Academic Commons, it will include a final reflection of you progress in the class and with the learning outcomes as evidenced by the assignments.

**(Portfolio will consist of abstracts and final revisions of all assignments: Letter of Introduction, 3 Informative Reviews, Proposal, Annotated Bibliography, Collaborative paper, and Slide presentation. Reflection: 4-5 pages, double-spaced, 12pt font. MLA Format)**

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### **Assignment Procedures**

All assignments requiring a first draft and missing the draft will be reduced 1 grade form final grade. All papers will require hard copies turned in. If you are absent, please email me the paper to get credit for having it in on time, an bring a hard copy next class. Any late papers will be reduced a half grade for every day late.

### **CCNY's Statement on Community Standards**

<https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/studentaffairs/community-standards>

### **Attendance**

Students are expected to attend every class session of this course and to be on time. You are only allowed 4 absences in this class. Over 4 absences and you will receive a WU. Excessive absences will negatively impact your grade. 2 early departures or lateness will equal 1 absence.

### **Student Support Services**

#### **Gateway Advising Center**, NAC 1/220

<http://www.ccny.cuny.edu/gateway/>

Students without a declared major can receive academic advising, especially if you have questions about your course of study, core requirements, etc.

#### **Access Ability Center Tutoring Services**, NAC

1/2182 <http://www.ccny.cuny.edu/accessability/>

Provides one-on-one tutoring and workshops to all registered students with learning or physical disabilities.

#### **SEEK Peer Academic Learning Center**, NAC 4/224 Phone:

212-650-5786; email: [seekpals@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:seekpals@ccny.cuny.edu)

Offers counseling and peer tutoring for students in need of academic and financial support who have registered for the SEEK Program.

Weekly Schedule. Subject to Change

<b><u>WEEK 1</u></b>	
W 1.28	Syllabus Review. In class exercises for <i>Letter of Introduction</i>
<b><u>WEEK 2</u></b>	
M 9.2	SCHOOL CLOSED
W 9.3	<b>1<sup>st</sup> draft of <i>Letter of Introduction</i> due</b> ; print for peer review Discuss Fischhoff's "The Sciences of Science Communication" Print, read, and annotate for class
TH 9.4	CLASSES FOLLOW MON SCHEDULE Post 300-words to BB: Why is Scientific Communication important to your scientific area of interest?
<b><u>WEEK 3</u></b>	
M 9.9	<b>Final draft of <i>Letter of Introduction</i> due</b> Annotation and essay structure review <i>IMRD</i> ; <i>Print IMRD Document from class site</i> Lecture and Discussion <i>Scientific Paradigm shift / Shaping of Scientific Knowledge</i>
9.11	Discuss Ahmed's "23 Years of the Discovery of Helicobacter Pylori..." Print, read, and annotate for class
<b><u>WEEK 4</u></b>	
M 9.16	<b><i>Informative Review Paper 1</i> due</b> ( <i>Paradigm Shift / Shaping Scientific Knowledge</i> ) Discuss Sharma's "Ethics in Science" Print, read, and annotate for class
W 9.18	Discuss Hoge & Appelbaum's "Ethics and Neuropsychiatric Genetics..." Print, read, and annotate for class
<b><u>WEEK 5</u></b>	
M 9.23	<b><i>Informative Review Paper 2</i> due</b> ( <i>Ethics in Science</i> ) Discuss <a href="http://dept.ceer.utexas.edu/methane/study/">http://dept.ceer.utexas.edu/methane/study/</a> <a href="https://www.austinsentinel.com/2016-04-15-university-of-texas-study-links-fracking-to-east-texas-largest-earthquake.html">https://www.austinsentinel.com/2016-04-15-university-of-texas-study-links-fracking-to-east-texas-largest-earthquake.html</a> Print, read, and annotate for class
W 9.25	Discuss Howath's "Methane Emissions and Climatic Warning Risk..." Print, read, and annotate for class
<b><u>WEEK 6</u></b>	
M 9.30	SCHOOL CLOSED
W 10.2	<b><i>Informative Review Paper 3</i> due</b> ( <i>Scientific Argument</i> ) Discuss Research Proposal and Annotated Bibliography
<b><u>WEEK 7</u></b>	
M 10.7	<b>Scientific Controversy Position Paper proposals drafts due</b> , 3 different topic proposals for peer review
W 10.9	SCHOOL CLOSED
<b><u>WEEK 8</u></b>	
M 10.14	SCHOOL CLOSED
W 10.15	Library Overview session. <b>MEET IN LIBRARY</b>
<b><u>WEEK 9</u></b>	
M 10.21	<b>Final Proposal Due</b> <b>Draft Annotated Bibliography with 4 sources due</b> for peer review Note taking exercises; Print 2 sources and bring to class
W 10.23	Discuss Smartphone and Climate Articles; Print, read, and annotate In class exercises and note taking techniques
<b><u>WEEK 10</u></b>	
M 10.28	<b>Draft of Scientific Controversy Position paper due</b> for peer review
W 10.30	Revision Exercises; bring draft with peer review notes to class

<b><u>WEEK 11</u></b>
M 11.4 <b>Final Draft of Scientific Controversy Position paper and Final Draft of Annotated Bibliography due</b>
Discuss Group project
Discuss Portfolio
W 11.6 Group project work/Conferences
<b>Academic Commons site URL due</b>
<b><u>WEEK 12</u></b>
M 11.11 Group project work/Conferences
W 11.12 Group Project work/Conferences
<b><u>WEEK 13</u></b>
M 11.18 Group Project work/Conferences
W 11.20 Group Project work/Conferences
<b><u>WEEK 14</u></b>
M 11.25 Group Project work/ Conferences
W 11.27 <b>Status Reports Due</b> from Group Leader and Group Members
<b><u>WEEK 15</u></b>
M 12.2 PRESENTATIONS Groups 1 and 2
W 12.4 PRESENTATIONS Groups 3 and 4
<b><u>WEEK 16</u></b>
M 12.9 PRESENTATION Group 5
Portfolio and Reflection work
W 12.11 Portfolio and Reflection work
<b><u>WEEK 17</u></b>
W 12.18 FINAL PORTFOLIO DUE