

CLIMATE/SPACE 748 SEMINAR – STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Winter 2024

1 credit

Professor:

Dr. Allison Steiner
2517E Space Research Building
734.764.5150
alsteine@umich.edu

Time and Location:

T 10:30-11:30
North Campus: 2424 CSRB

Drop-In Hours: 9-9:30W; 3-3:30 TH

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This one credit seminar is designed to improve your ability to communicate your science through presentations. The course will help you develop skills to deliver a successful talk as well as communicate your research to a broad range of audience types.

TEXT: There is no required text for this course, however I have included one reference book from the atmospheric sciences (listed below, PDF on Canvas). As the semester progresses, I may post other resources and articles on Canvas.

Eloquent Science: A Practical Guide to Becoming a Better Writer, Speaker and Scientist, David M. Schultz, The University of Chicago Press, 2009.

GRADING: The grade for this course will be listed as Satisfactory/Not Satisfactory on your transcript. To earn a Satisfactory, you need to complete 8 out of the 10 assessment points below.

Assessment Points	Type	Date
1	Elevator Pitch	30 January
1	Short Format Presentation	20 February
2	AGU-Style Presentation	12/19/26 March
1	Poster Walk Summary (group)	9 April
4	Feedback Forms (4 times)	1/30, 2/20, 3/19, 4/9
1	Reflection	

ASSESSMENTS: There will be three types of assessments in this course:

- PRESENTATIONS (half of assessment):** Four of the assessments will be based on in-class presentations. For the first two presentations (Elevator Pitch on 1/30 and the Short-Format Presentation on 2/20), the grade will be binary (1 point if you do it, 0 if you do not). This will be the same format for the fourth presentation (the group Poster Walk Summary on 4/9). The third presentation (AGU-Style on the 19th and 26th of March) will be worth up to two points, scaled by your effort and incorporation of concepts of class principles (possible grades will be a 0, 1 or 2).
- FEEDBACK FORMS (half of assessment):** As you develop your presentation style, it is important to get feedback from your colleagues. You will provide feedback to your peers on their presentations through online Google forms; these will be reviewed by me

and provided in a condensed and edited format to the presenter. There will be four presentation days where you will fill out forms for each presenter; please bring laptops to class on presentation days to provide feedback while it is fresh in your mind.

3. **REFLECTION (final chance):** The final optional assignment of the course is a one-page reflection from you about what you have learned from the course. It will allow you to assess your strengths and weaknesses and synthesize the findings.

HOMEWORK POLICY: Homework assignments are not graded and are focused on collecting background information or presentation preparation.

HONOR CODE: This class is being taught through the College of Engineering, and thus all involved are subject to the College of Engineering Honor Code

<http://www.engin.umich.edu/students/honorcode/>

All policies apply, so please do not hesitate to ask questions.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Participants with unique learning needs are strongly encouraged to talk to the instructor as soon as possible to gain maximum access to course information. All discussions will remain confidential. The University of Michigan policy is to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have documented disability conditions (e.g., physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, or systemic) that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact UM Services for Students with Disabilities (<https://ssd.umich.edu/>) & instructor to discuss individual needs for accommodations.

STUDENT WELL-BEING: Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, mental health, alcohol or other drugs, identities, finances, etc. If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help is a courageous thing to do for yourself and those who care about you. If the source of your stressors is academic, please contact me so that we can find solutions together. For personal concerns, U-M offers many resources, some of which are listed at [Resources for Student Well-being](#).

COURSE POLICIES

Communication: Information about the course will be shared through (1) Canvas announcements and (2) a class Slack channel (link from the Canvas page). Unless your question involves a personal issue, please ask your question on Slack so that everyone can benefit from the response. For personal questions or late requests, please email me at alsteine@umich.edu and I will make every effort to respond to emails within a day.

Course Recordings: Course lectures and labs will be audio/video recorded and made available asynchronously. As part of your participation in this course, you may be recorded. If you do not wish to be recorded, please contact me (alsteine@umich.edu) the first week of class (or as soon as you enroll in the course, whichever is latest) to discuss alternative arrangements.

Class Absences: The course will rely on in-person interactions and attendance is expected for presentations and feedback. If you are not feeling well or are unable to attend, please

contact me by email **before class** and I will work with you to complete assignments on time. If you miss a presentation day due to illness or other extreme circumstances, feedback forms for your peers can be completed by reviewing the course recording, and your individual presentation will be rescheduled for the subsequent class.

Feedback to your Colleagues: As a presenter, it is important to get feedback from your colleagues. For each presenter and presentation day, I will prepare an online feedback form that you are required to fill out for all other individual presenters in the class. I will compile your feedback, edit if I think comments are unduly harsh, and present the anonymized comments to the presenter.

CLIMATE 748: Student Presentation Seminar: Winter 2024: Tentative Course Outline

Wk	Date	Topic	Reading	Homework
1	16 Jan	Class Introduction		
2	23 Jan	Elevator Pitch: Intro and Workshopping	Kwok 2013	Prepare pitch
3	30 Jan	Elevator Pitch: Presentations		
4	6 Feb	How to Give an Effective Presentation	Schultz Ch. 24	
5	13 Feb	Short Format Presentations: Workshopping	Schultz Ch. 25	Prep Presentation
6	20 Feb	Short Format Presentations: Presentations		
	27 Feb	<i>No class: Winter break</i>		
7	5 Mar	Back to Presentations: The Good and The Bad	Schultz Ch. 26	Prep Presentation
8	12 Mar	Medium Format Presentations: Presentations		
9	19 Mar	Medium Format Presentations: Presentations		
10	26 Mar	Medium Format Presentations: Presentations		
11	2 Apr	Poster Presentations: Small group discussion	Schultz Ch. 27	Poster Walk
12	9 Apr	Poster Presentations: Report back		
13	16 Apr	<i>No class (ALS out of town)</i>		
14	23 Apr	Other types of scientific communication	Schultz Ch. 30	

DESCRIPTION OF MAIN ASSIGNMENTS

Elevator Pitch: An “elevator pitch” is a brief overview of your professional and educational accomplishments and other information relevant to your career goals. The goal of this exercise is to prepare about how you present yourself to others.

Short Format Presentations: Short-format presentations will be quick, 1-minute and 1-slide presentations to get you ready for doing longer presentations. Topics will be selected by the student on a current-event scientific topic.

Medium Format Presentations: Medium-format presentations will be AGU-length style presentations of 10 minutes (8 minutes of talk, 2 minutes of questions). These will be based on your current Ph.D. research.

Poster Walk Report Back: We will form small groups (3-4 students) and tour posters that are hanging in the department. You will observe techniques for posters that you like best, and then make a sample poster layout that highlights some of your favorite techniques. These format-driven posters will be presented in class on April 9.