Syllabus
Scientific Writing, Reviewing, and Editing
Wlf/Biol 694; 3 credits

Meeting Time:      T 2-5pm, 214 O’Neil
Instructor:        R. Terry Bowyer
Office:            310 Irving I
Office Hrs:        Monday 9-11am

Course Prerequisites: Graduate standing, permission of instructor, completed analysis of data set on which the paper will be based. Note: This course is limited to 8 students.

The purpose of this course is to teach graduate students the skills necessary to write, review, and edit manuscripts in the life sciences. This course will focus on defining the scope of the paper, its organization, clarity of presentation, and critical thinking. Methods and ethics of scientific reviewing and editing also will be considered. Each student will edit, review, and write a scientific manuscript with the course objective being a completed draft of the first thesis chapter.

Assignments:
2 written reviews, editing of the papers of others, and 2 written responses to reviewers (20 points)

1 final draft of the student’s paper (80 points)

Grading:
Straight percentage grading (e.g., 90-100% = A, etc.)

Required Text:
None

Recommended Readings:


**Tentative List of Topics (not necessarily covered in order)**

Getting ready to write
- Asking the right questions
- Sub-Division of data and LPUs.
- Know the literature
- Authorship
- Selecting an appropriate journal

Organizing the paper (each section will be discussed and some editing done in class).
- Title
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Study Area
- Methods
- Results (figures & tables)
- Discussion
- Acknowledgments
- Literature Cited
- Appendices

Elements of writing
- Title selection
- Hypotheses testing
- Consistency of organization
- Word use
- Focus on principles

Submitting the paper
- Exclusive publication; recommending reviewers and avoiding particular reviewers.

Review and Editing
- Editorial notations
- Writing a positive review
- Confidential comments to the editor
- Ethics of reviewing

Rewriting the paper
- Improving the draft
- Responding to reviewers