ALEC 604: Writing for Professional Publication  
Texas A&M University  
Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications  
3 credits

Instructor:  
Dr. Gary J. Wingenbach  
218 Scoates Hall, 862-1507  
g-wingenbach@tamu.edu

Course Meeting Schedule: Wednesday, 4:00-7:00 p.m., Scoates 118  
Web Site: http://agcj.tamu.edu/604/index.html  
Office Hours: By appointment and walk-ins available

Prerequisites: It is helpful, but not necessary for you to have completed a thesis, dissertation, or research project for this course. If you do not have original research data for developing research conference papers, journal manuscripts, and popular press articles, data will be supplied to you.

Course Description: Scientific and technical writing, as evidenced through scholarly publications is not an innate skill; it is a learned ability. Current research shows that writing abilities are diminishing, especially among graduate students enrolled in agricultural and extension education programs. Students are expected to expand their discipline’s knowledge base through scholarly contributions to refereed journals and research conferences. An intensive scientific and technical writing course provides students with the necessary skills to compose manuscripts for research conferences and journal articles.

Course Objectives:  
1. Strengthen writing skills through additive research processes.  
2. Construct deductive and/or inductive arguments.  
3. Develop original research manuscripts for publication.  
4. Participate in collaborative peer-to-peer writing and editing teams.  
5. Submit one manuscript for review to a research conference or refereed journal.

Course Outcomes:  
- Review the required components or guidelines for manuscript publication.  
- Develop a comprehensive literature review for an identified research topic.  
- Use appropriate style and format required in the dissemination of research materials.  
- Write a manuscript for submission to a research conference or refereed journal.  
- Submit the research manuscript for internal review.  
- Submit the research manuscript for external review and publication.

Required Texts:  

Recommended Texts:  
Projected Course Outline/Topics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Tentative topics</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ethics in Publishing Research</td>
<td>APA Ch 1-2/App. C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Research Reviews/Calls for Papers</td>
<td>Selected refereed journals, (Hacker, R1-R2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Research Processes—Research Writing</td>
<td>APA Ch 1, (Hacker, C1-C2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>APA Style, Grammar, and Punctuation</td>
<td>APA Ch 3, (Hacker, G1-G6)</td>
<td>Rev. #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Manuscript Development</td>
<td>APA Ch 1, App. C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Literature Review</td>
<td>APA Ch 3, 4, 6 (Hacker, C3-C4)</td>
<td>Rev. #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Methodology</td>
<td>APA Ch 3, (Hacker, G1-G6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>References and Edits</td>
<td>APA Ch 4, (Hacker, APA1-APA4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Peer/Faculty Reviews</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Addressing Reviews and Revisions</td>
<td>APA Ch 7</td>
<td>Peer Rev.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Transforming Manuscripts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Submission for Publication</td>
<td>APA Ch 5/App. A</td>
<td>Revisions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Other Forms of Scholarship</td>
<td>APA Ch 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graded Activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th></th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journal Article Reviews (2)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>Grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature Review</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed Manuscript</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer/Faculty Reviews</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manuscript Revisions (faculty/peer reviews)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submission to Research Conference or Refereed Journal</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References:


*American Journal of Distance Education*  *Journal of Extension Systems*
*Journal of Agricultural Education*  *Journal of International Agricultural and Extension Education*
*Journal of Applied Communications*  *Journal of Leadership Education*
*Journal of Career and Technical Education*  *NACTA Journal*

**Faculty Senate Statement on Plagiarism and Aggie Code of Honor**

Scholastic misconduct is defined broadly as “any act that violates the rights of another student in academic work or that involves misrepresentation of your own work.” The handouts used in this course are copyrighted. By “handouts” I mean all materials generated for this class, which include but are not limited to syllabi, quizzes, exams, lab problems, in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem
sets. Because these materials are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy the handouts, unless I expressly grant permission. As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one’s own the ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you should have the permission of that person. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for the plagiarist destroys the trust among colleagues without which research cannot be safely communicated.

Texas A&M University students are responsible for authenticating all work submitted to an instructor. If asked, students must be able to produce proof that the item submitted is indeed the work of that student. Students must keep appropriate records at all times. The inability to authenticate one’s work, should the instructor request it, is sufficient grounds to initiate an academic dishonesty case.

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal
nor tolerate those who do.”

The Aggie Code of Honor is an effort to unify the aims of all Texas A&M men and women toward a high code of ethics and personal dignity. For most, living under this code will be no problem, as it asks nothing of a person that is beyond reason. It only calls for honesty and integrity, characteristics that Aggies have always exemplified. The Aggie Code of Honor functions as a symbol to all Aggies, promoting understanding and loyalty to truth and confidence in each other.

If you have any questions regarding plagiarism, please consult the latest issue of the Texas A&M University Student Rules, Part 1, Section 20 which can be found online at http://student-rules.tamu.edu. Any suspected instances of scholastic dishonesty will be investigated and resolved according to the procedures outlined in the new Aggie Honor System (http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor/).

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services with Disabilities in Room 126 of the Koldus Building. The phone number is 845-1637. Due to emergency evacuation requirements within the department, if you feel accommodations will be needed, the department requires you to fill out a disability information form and provide a class schedule for the current semester. This form will be supplied to the instructor and placed in the student file for easy accessibility in case an emergency should arise. The forms are available in the main office, 511 Harrington Tower.

Sexual Harassment

Texas A&M University is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, Texas A&M encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality, diversity, pluralism and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Students should contact the Office of the Dean of Student Life at 845-3113, or visit student rules at http://rules.tamu.edu/urules/300/340199ml.htm for more detailed information to file a sexual harassment complaint. You may also contact the College of Education and Human Development at 979-845-5311.