

Department of Anthropology

University of Florida

ANG6930

Professional Skills in the Sciences

Spring 2021

Class Days and Time:

Tuesdays: 10:40-1:40

Office Location: Turlington Hall, B123

Instructor: Dr. Kim Valenta

Email: kimvalenta@ufl.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

Contacting the Instructor: I will be available to meet online with students for questions about the assigned readings, written or other course assignments, and general discussion. *Please do not hesitate to email me*; I will respond to emails received Monday-Friday within 24 hours, and by Monday morning at the latest to emails received on Saturday-Sunday.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to give graduate students training in professional skills of relevance to the sciences. It is hands-on, highly participatory, and the goal is to meet each graduate student where they are in their graduate progress. In short, you will learn the hard skills required in a life in the sciences – conferencing, publishing, grant writing, teaching, and project development.

Because this is a hands-on course, you will be developing your own personal research – either through the writing of a grant, or the writing of a manuscript for publication – depending on your personal preference, and where you are in the program.

Throughout the course, you will also be tasked with peer review – this is a critical, if overlooked, part of academic service. You will learn the ins and outs of peer review, and peer review response, and each help each other perfect your research products.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND WEIGHTS:

- **CV – 10%**
- **Mini challenge – 10%**
- **Grant or MS abstract – 5%**
- **Conference abstract – 10%**
- **Completed grant or publication – 25%**

- **Peer review – 15%**
- **Final talk – 25%**

Academic Accommodations – It is the students’ responsibility to request academic accommodations. Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Missed Exams & Assignments – Missed tests and assignments will automatically receive a score of zero. In the event of an emergency or illness before an exam, please contact the instructor (kimvalenta@ufl.edu) **BEFORE** the exam. Documentation **MUST** be provided before a make-up test will be scheduled.

Academic Integrity – During this course, students are expected to conduct themselves and to complete all work in accordance with the principles of honesty, accountability, fairness, and respect put forth by the University of Florida.

I provide the following links with detailed information on privacy, and accessibility.

- [Privacy PolicyLinks to an external site.](#)
- [AccessibilityLinks to an external site.](#)
- [Links to an external siteLinks to an external site.](#)

Student on-campus resources

There are several excellent academic and other resources on campus. Please see the link below for a comprehensive list. If you have difficulty identifying which resource you require, please do not hesitate to email the course instructor.

<http://www.ufadvising.ufl.edu/student-resources/> (Links to an external site.)

Student course evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner](#). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. [Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here](#).

Course schedule and readings

Date	Topic	Due	Notes
Jan 12	Introduction to the course		
Jan 19	Polishing your CV		

Jan 26	Identifying your core research questions – UpGoer 5	Updated CV	
Feb 2	Developing a research proposal OR publication		
Feb 9	Five minute mini challenge!	Five minute mini challenge!	
Feb 16	Writing from the reader's perspective		Guest speaker: Sally Bornbusch
Feb 23	Grantsmanship		
March 2	Publishing		
March 9	Conferencing + posters	Grant or MS abstract	
March 16	Public speaking and the art of the powerpoint	Conference abstract	
March 23	Collaborations	Final Talk Title Due	
March 30	Peer review	Completed grant or publication	
April 6	Research ethics	Filled out adviser form	
April 13	Teaching	Peer review of others' grant or publication	
April 20	Mini conference	Final talks	