**Scientific writing and graphics**  Winter 2019  
**ESS/ATMS 519, Ocean 518**

Instructors:  
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Website:  http://courses.washington.edu/ess519/

**Schedule:**  
**January 8**  
*Basic writing skills*  
Gopen & Swan (1990); Orwell (1946); McPhee (2013)

**January 15**  
*What’s wrong with how scientists write*  
Maddox (1986, 1990); Gregory (1992); Avery (1996); Camba (2000); Knight (2003); Powell (2012); Montgomery, Chapter 1; Greene, Chapter 1.

*Stylistic disagreements* (editorials from *The Economist*)

**January 22**  
*How the mind reads.* McIltyre (1997)  
Assignment for next week – write abstract for a conference or journal article and exchange with a partner.

**January 29**  
(1) *Student critiques* of each other’s abstracts  
(2) *Principles of scientific writing*  
Booth, Chapter 1; McDonnell (2017)

**February 5**  
*Principles of scientific writing*  
Greene, Chapters 2-11; Montgomery, Chapters 2-5  
Assignment for next week – make a story-board for a paper and share with a partner.

**February 12**  
*Student discussion* of each other’s paper story-board

**February 19**  
*Graphs.*  
Cleveland, Chapters 1-2; Cleveland & McGill (1985).  
Assignment for next week – make one or more figures for a journal article, and one or more figures for a powerpoint presentation, and share both with a class partner.

**February 26**  
*Graphs.* *Student critiques* of each other’s journal figures

**March 5**  
*Graphs.* *Student critiques* of each other’s powerpoint slides

**March 12**  
*Authorship and acknowledgement, and other ethical matters*  
Several letters and editorials from *Nature*

**March 21** (Thursday, final exam period).  
**Books:**

**General writing**

**Scientific writing**

**Graphs**

**Proposals**

**Grammar and usage**
Pinker, S., 2014: *Telling right from wrong*. Chapter 6 of *The Sense of Style*.
Short articles assigned:

for Week 1, October 3


for Week 2, October 10


Greene, R.L., 2017 (alias Johnson): Everybody has their opinion. [Singular ‘they’] Economist, 1 April, p. 78.


for Week 3, October 17

McIntyre, M.E., 1997: Lucidity and science, I: Writing skills and the pattern perception hypothesis. Interdisciplinary Science Reviews, 22, 199-216.
Additional articles (not assigned for class discussion).
[Most are from the “Careers” section at the back of Nature every week.]

Writing

Reviewing

Proposal writing

Job search

Living