

## **Guidelines for written work in MSE 481**

One purpose of the class is to enhance your scientific writing abilities. Towards this end, you will be writing about the articles you read in the various modules of the class. *For each module*, you will be required to submit three separate documents: a one-page summary, a two-page outline/summary, and a five-page final report. Each of these documents requires a slightly different style and approach, though all should utilize appropriate scientific writing style.

The one-page summary is simply a brief synopsis of the primary article(s) you read for the first week of the module. This can be in the form of a review, with complete sentences, or it can simply be a bullet-point list of the main points of the article(s). It doesn't require any special formatting, but it should include your name, your group number, the date submitted, the module number, and the article(s) read.

The two-page outline/summary is more than a simple synopsis, although it should cover points from all the articles you read. It should instead serve as a kind of outline for what your final report will become. Strive to move beyond a simple review of the articles, and instead attempt to synthesize the various points into a coherent narrative. At this point it doesn't have to be 100% complete, but it should use complete sentences and thoughts as much as possible, and indicate the general direction and content of the final paper. This paper should follow the formatting guidelines for this class, adapted from the Applied Physics Letters format, outlined in the course reader.

The final five-page report should be a complete and coherent scientific paper. Ideas and thoughts should be complete and well-developed. It should cover elements and ideas from all the relevant readings, with proper citations, yet it should be clearly a unique work with discussion and conclusions that transcend the individual articles. Proper formatting is critical here, as scientific journals are very rigid about their formatting requirements.