



St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) Mumbai

Syllabus For 3rd Semester course in Science Communication **LIFE SCIENCE** (June 2015 onwards)

Contents:

Syllabus (theory) for Course:

SSCS0301

Science Communication Skills I

Template for theory question paper
Evaluation and Assessment Grid

Percent revision:

2015-16: No revision

2016-17: No revision

2017-18: No revision

2018-19: No revision

2019-20: No revision

2020-21: No revision

LIFE SCIENCE

S.Y.B.Sc.

Course No.: SSCS0301

Title: Science Communication Skills I

Learning Objectives:

The course aims to:

1. Introduce the students to the norms of formal academic writing.
2. Develop in students the ability to comprehend and utilize various scientific information resources.
3. Train students to create original literature while avoiding plagiarism.
4. Enable students to plan and write various types of academic assignments

Number of lectures: 15

I: Norms of Academic Writing (3 lectures)

1. Significance of scientific communication in academics and research
2. Choice of words in academic writing
3. Conventions in academic writing – tone, style, structure of an academic write-up
4. Assessing credibility of an information resource – facts versus opinions
5. Note-taking – methods and tools to aid note-taking in a class

II: Avoiding Plagiarism (3 lectures)

1. Plagiarism – definition and types
2. Self-plagiarism
3. Methods to avoid plagiarism
 - a. Summary writing
 - b. Paraphrase
 - c. Quotations
 - d. Citations
4. Software for similarity and plagiarism checks – TURNITIN, VIPER

III: Types of Scientific Literature (3 lectures)

1. Modes of scientific communication - news article, editorial, scientific report, review article, original research article, thesis, poster, oral presentation in a conference
2. Primary and Secondary Literature – Definition, distinguishing features and examples
3. Structure and format of specific examples – news article, review article, research paper, thesis, poster
4. Use of PUBMED, Google Scholar to conduct a literature search

IV: Planning and Writing Academic Assignments (3 lectures)

1. Writing an experiment for lab journal
2. Project Report
3. Writing an essay/assignment
4. Constructing Statement of Purpose

V: References and Bibliography

(3 lectures)

1. In-text citations
2. Reference writing in APA style
 - a. Textbook/book chapter as source
 - b. Research paper/Journal article as source
 - c. Websites
 - d. Citations
3. Constructing a bibliography
4. Reference management tools – ZOTERO, ENDNOTE

References:

1. Day RA, Gastel B, (2012) "How to Write & Publish a Scientific Paper" 7th Edition, *Cambridge University Press*.
2. Booth V, (2006) "Communicating in Science: Writing a Scientific Paper and Speaking at Scientific Meetings" 2nd Edition Reprinted, *Cambridge University Press*.
3. Matthews JR., Matthews RW, (2008) "Successful Scientific Writing: A Step-By-step Guide for the Biological and Medical Sciences" 3rd Edition, *Cambridge University Press*.
4. Yousuf A, Sidiq M, Acharya S, (2018) "Publish and Cherish – The Art and Craft of Publishing Scientific Research" 1st Edition, *Sara Book Publication*.

Template of Theory Question paper

Course: SSCS0301

CIA I – 10 marks, 30 mins.

Test

CIA II – 10 marks

Home assignment

End Semester exam – 30 marks, 1 hour.

Test on all topics

DEPARTMENT OF LIFE SCIENCE AND BIOCHEMISTRY					
Science Communication Course Life Science Exam Grid Semester 4					
Course	Exam	Knowledge and Information	Understanding	Application/Analysis	Total
0401	CIA I	4	4	2	10
	CIA II	4	4	2	10
	End semester	10	10	10	30