Course Bulletin Spring, 2016

Communicating Science courses are open to masters and PhD students in STEM disciplines. Tuition is covered for PhD students (fall or spring semesters) if they are currently supported full time by their program (TA/GA/RA or Fellow) and have a full Graduate Tuition Scholarship. Enrollment in the course requires pre-approval from your Graduate Program Director. Masters students can also enroll and pay tuition as normal. Register now through SOLAR (postdocs should email postdocs@stonybrook.edu). If you have questions, please email: AldaCenter@stonybrook.edu

1-CREDIT CORE COURSES:
The two core components of the Alda Center curriculum are Improvisation for Scientists and Distilling Your Message. We strongly recommend taking the core courses first.

JRN 501 COMMUNICATING SCIENCE: DISTILLING YOUR MESSAGE
Students learn to speak clearly and vividly about their work and why it matters, in terms non-scientists can understand. Includes a video interview with a journalist. Choose either Tuesday or Thursday section.
JRN 501 section 01 – Thursdays, Jan 28, Feb 4, 11, 18, 25; 5:30-8:20 pm, 1 credit. Melville Library, N-4072. Frey 316. Roxanne Khamsi & Carolyn Hall
OR
JRN 501 section 02 – Tuesdays, Apr 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3; 5:30-8:20 pm, 1 credit. Melville Library, N-4072. Frey 316. Christie Nicholson and Liz Bass

JRN 503 COMMUNICATING SCIENCE: IMPROVISATION FOR SCIENTISTS
This innovative course uses improvisational theater techniques to help students communicate more directly and responsively. It’s not about acting; it’s about connecting with an audience. Choose one of the following three sections:
JRN 503 section 01 – Tuesdays, Jan. 26, Feb. 2, 9 and 16; 5:30-8:20 pm, 1 credit. Frey 316. Louisa Johnson.
JRN 503 section 02 – Thursdays, Mar 3, 10, 24, 31, Apr 7; 3-5:50 pm, 1 credit. Tabler 110. Louisa Johnson.
JRN 503 section 03 - Mondays, Mar 21, 28, Apr 4, 11, 18; 5:30pm-8:20pm, 1 credit. Frey 326. Lydia Franco-Hodges

1-CREDIT ADDITIONAL COURSES:
JRN 502 COMMUNICATING SCIENCE: WRITING TO BE UNDERSTOOD
Students develop their ability to write about science or health for a public audience without “dumbing down” their material. The course focuses on such forms as letters to the editor, blogs and op-edits.
JRN 502 section 01 – Wednesdays, Jan 27, Feb 3, 17; 5:30-8:20pm, 1 credit. Melville Lib, N-4072. K. Lucenko
OR
JRN 502 section 02 – Mondays, Mar 21, 28, Apr 4, 11; 5:30 – 8:20 pm, 1 credit. Melville Lib, N-4072. J. Albanese

JRN 504 COMMUNICATING SCIENCE: USING DIGITAL MEDIA
How to use blogs, podcasts, video, Twitter and other forms of social media for two-way communication with different segments of the public. Includes hands-on instruction, tailored to students’ experience and development of a weekly blog.
JRN 504 section 01 – Monday, April 4, 11, 18, 25 and May 2; 5:30-8:20 pm, 1 credit. Melville Lib, W-4545. J Timmer

JRN 508 COMMUNICATING SCIENCE: ENGAGING KEY AUDIENCES
This course is for students who have taken either JRN 501 Distilling Your Message, or JRN 503 Improvisation for Scientists, and want to build on the skills introduced in those courses. Through role-playing and other exercises, students will practice communicating with key audiences, such as potential employers, students, journalists, and public officials.
JRN 508 section 01 – Tuesday, April 12, 19, 26, May 3; 5:30 – 9 pm, 1 credit. Staller Ctr Fine Arts Rm 0113. E. Bojsza

JRN 509 COMMUNICATING SCIENCE: PRESENTING SCIENCE UNPLUGGED
This course is for students that have taken JRN 501 Distilling Your Message and JRN 503 Improvisation for Scientists, and want the full experience of working in front of a live audience. With group meetings and private coaching sessions, students will hone science presentations into 10-minute talks for a lay audience on campus, and 25-minute talks for a high school or library audience. Students must begin the class with a prepared talk ready for
coaching and a clear and vivid short description for marketing purposes. Each student will participate as a peer coach for one other student and will be required to attend at least one other talk off campus. To see samples from our pilot workshops, click here:  http://www.AldaCenter.org/science-unplugged/

JRN 509 - Date, time, and location of initial group meeting to be announced by instructor, Valeri Lantz-Gefroh.

JRN 512 CREATING A VIDEO ABSTRACT
Using only their own iPhone (or a provided iPod Touch) students will learn how to shoot, write and edit a 3-minute video about their science. Beyond the technical, the course will also teach the skills of video story-telling.

JRN 512 – Wednesdays, Mar 23, 30, Apr 6, 13, 20, 27, May 4 from 11am-1pm. Melville Lib, N-4042. Graham Chedd

JRN 500 COMMUNICATING SCIENCE: INTRODUCTION TO NEWS MEDIA CONCEPTS AND INSTITUTIONS
How the U.S. news media work, with a focus on how they cover health, science, the environment and technology.

JRN 500 section 1 – Wednesdays, all semester, 5:30-8:20 pm, 3 credits. Melville Lib, N-4042. Rick Firstman

JRN 505 COMMUNICATING SCIENCE: CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY
How to reach and mobilize the community and key stakeholders on health- and science-related issues related to students’ research, outreach or community education objectives.

JRN 505 – Wednesday, Mar 9, 23, 30 and Apr 6; 4-7 pm, 1 credit. HSC Rm L3-066. E Kaplan-Liss & Al Jordan

JRN 612 / SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ELECTIVE: COMMUNICATING HEALTH SCIENCES
For medical, nursing and dental students, an introduction to effective communication.

JRN 612 – Wednesday, Mar 30, Apr 6, 13, 20, 27 and May 4, 11; 3-5 pm, 1 credit. HSC, Room TBA. Kaplan-Liss and Lantz-Gefroh

JRN 565 COMMUNICATING YOUR SCIENCE
This course is for graduate students in science, biomedical, engineering, and health disciplines who want to communicate effectively and responsively with multiple audiences, from peers and professors to potential employers, policymakers and the lay public. Students will focus on speaking about science clearly and vividly in ways that can engage varied audiences, especially those outside their own field. The class will include instruction and practice in connecting and finding common ground with an audience, defining goals, identifying main points, speaking without jargon, explaining meaning and context, using storytelling techniques, and using multimedia elements. The class will include improvisational theater exercises that help speakers pay close and dynamic attention to others, reading nonverbal cues, and responding freely without self-consciousness. As a culminating activity, students will develop and deliver an engaging short oral presentation on a scientific topic.

JRN 565 – Wednesdays, all semester, 4-6:50 pm, 3 credits. Roth Café Lounge 122. C. O’Connell & L. Johnson

FOR UNDERGRADUATES:

JRN 365 TALKING SCIENCE
This course is designed to help science majors learn to speak effectively and responsively with multiple audiences, from peers and professors to potential employers, policymakers and the lay public. Students will focus on communicating about science clearly and vividly, as well as develop skills that are central to oral communication on any subject. The techniques used include improvisational theater exercises that help speakers connect with an audience, paying close and dynamic attention to others, reading nonverbal cues, and responding freely without self-consciousness. Students will practice delivering their message effectively for different audiences, including defining goals, identifying main points, speaking without jargon, explaining meaning and context, responding to questions, using storytelling techniques, and using multimedia elements. Students will be videotaped at least once during the semester as part of the learning process. As a culminating activity, students develop and deliver an engaging short oral presentation on a scientific topic. This course requires active participation not only as speakers, but also as active listeners and constructive critics in a rigorous but supportive environment. Prerequisite: upper-division major in science, engineering, mathematics or health.

JRN 365 – Tuesdays, all semester, 10am-12:50pm, 3 credits. Roth Café Lounge 122. V. Lantz-Gefroh & N. Moes