Alan Alda Center
for Communicating Science®

AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Spring 2021

**Course bulletin is subject to change*

GRADUATE 1-CREDIT CORE COURSES:

JRN 501 FOUNDATIONS OF SCIENCE COMMUNICATION I

In this team-taught, immersive science communication training, students will build skills to passionately communicate in a way that excites, engages, and encourages audiences to want to learn more about their work. Improvisational theater-based techniques are combined with message design strategies like distilling and storytelling, enabling healthcare professionals, scientists, and researchers to use strategy and spontaneity to execute powerful communication in any context.

- **JRN 501.01** – Tuesdays, March 16, 23, 30, and April 6; 3:00-6:20pm
  - Nancee Moes, Julia Hathaway - IN-PERSON, Melville Library W4550
- **JRN 501.02** – Thursdays, March 18, 25, April 1, and 8; 3:00-6:20pm
  - Nancee Moes, Julia Hathaway - IN-PERSON, Melville Library W4550

JRN 503 FOUNDATIONS OF SCIENCE COMMUNICATION II

In this immersive science communication training, participants who have completed JRN 501 will continue their foundations in science communication with explorations into engaging with key audiences and the media, as well as creating a presentation accompanied by compelling visuals.
Prerequisite: JRN 501

- **JRN 503.30** – Tuesdays, April 13, 20, 27, and May 4; 3:00-6:20pm
  - Lydia Franco-Hodges - Online
- **JRN 503.31** – Thursdays, April 15, 22, 29, and May 6; 3:00-6:20pm
  - Elizabeth Bojsza - Online

JRN 513 SCIENCE OF SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

The U.S. National Academies has paid increased attention to the "science of science communication," an interdisciplinary area of social science and humanities research and scholarship that spans a range of disciplines, including communication, psychology, decision science, mass communication, risk communication, health communication, political science, sociology, and science and technology studies, history, and others. This course is designed as an introductory survey course for graduate students in science, biomedical, engineering, and health disciplines to this interdisciplinary field. The key goal is to provide context on science communication research that can inform students' science communication practices. Specifically targeted to students who are not communication researchers, this essential overview will help students understand the importance of linking theory with practice when they communicate about their own research.

- **JRN 513.30** – Asynchronously Feb 1 - Mar 7
  - Claire Holesovsky, Peter Felsman - Online

GRADUATE 3-CREDIT CORE COURSE:

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 565.01** – Wednesdays, all semester, 4:25-7:15
    - Radha Ganesan, Louisa Johnson - Hybrid (Online with In-Person sessions)
    - IN-PERSON meeting dates: Feb 10, Feb 24, Mar 24, May 5

- **JRN 565.02** – Mondays, all semester, 2:40-5:30
    - Radha Ganesan, Nancee Moes - Hybrid (Online with In-Person sessions)
    - IN-PERSON meeting dates: Feb 8, Feb 22, Mar 22, May 3

GRADUATE ELECTIVES:

JRN 528 ENGAGING WITH JOURNALISTS

An overview for professionals and graduate students in the sciences designed to help them learn to engage effectively and responsively with journalists across media platforms: print, radio and TV. Students will explore how journalism delivers scientific news and information to broad audiences and learn how to work with and help journalists develop accurate and purposeful stories. To make the lessons experiential, students will respond to journalistic requests for interviews and information (oral and written) in mock interactions with real print, radio and television journalists.
Prerequisite: (JRN 501 + 503 + 513) or JRN 565

- **JRN 528.30** – Tuesdays, all semester, 9:45-12:35
    - Pablo Calvi - Online

JRN 575 SPECIAL TOPICS IN SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

A seminar course on a current topic in science communication. May be repeated as the topic changes, but cannot be used more than once to satisfy requirements for the Advanced Graduate Certificate in Communicating Science. Spring 2021 Topic: Building Digital Audiences.
Prerequisite: (JRN 501 + 503 + 513) or JRN 565

- **JRN 575.30** – Thursdays, all semester, 3:00-5:50
    - Sree Sreenivasan - Online

JRN 587 INDEPENDENT STUDY

Intensive study of a special topic or intensive work on a reporting project undertaken with close faculty supervision. May be repeated. (0-6 credits)

JRN 588 GRADUATE INTERNSHIP

Students participate in an appropriate internship with an organization or institution devoted to the program content themes of science, health, environment or technology. The work must involve skills related to the educational goals of the program. Student interns will report regularly to a faculty member and will complete an internship project, including a portfolio of work done. (0-6 credits)

JRN 599 PROJECT WORK IN SCICOMM (CAPSTONE)

With the mentorship of a faculty advisor, participants propose, plan, and execute a capstone project in science communication. This project-based course applies what graduate students have learned about science communication into a real-world context. Examples include but are not limited to: competing in science communication competitions, creating podcasts, and outreach to schools like "Science Unplugged." Each student will participate as a peer coach for one other student. Preference for enrollment will be given to students who have already completed 9 credits towards the Advanced Certificate in Science Communication.
Prerequisite: JRN 565 or (JRN 501 + JRN 503 + JRN 513) and at least one 3-credit elective course.

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES:

JRN 365 TALKING SCIENCE

This is a 3-credit course 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 365.30 – Tuesdays, all semester, 4:45-7:35
    - Josh Rice - Online
- JRN 365.31 – Thursdays, all semester, 3:00-5:50
    - Louisa Johnson - Online
- JRN 365.32 – Wednesdays, all semester, 4:25-7:15
    - Lydia Franco-Hodges - Online