

**Chemistry 360 Writing for Chemists**  
Spring 2012

**Class meetings:** MWF 8:00-9:10 AM in Salazar Hall C165  
**Textbooks:** *Write Like a Chemist*, M. Robinson, et al., 2008 (required).  
*The ACS Style Guide*, various authors and editions (optional).

**Instructor:** Dr. James Rudd  
**Office Hours:** MWF 9:10-10:00 AM, F 12:30-2:00 PM, or by appt  
**Contact Information:** (323) 343-2219, jrudd@calstatela.edu, ASCB 121A

**Resources:** MORE Programs Writing Support Office, Biological Sciences 160.  
University Writing Center, JFK Library, Palmer 1039A,  
MTWR 8:30 AM - 6:30 PM, F 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM,  
Saturday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (starting Week 4),  
(323) 343-5350, [www.calstatela.edu/centers/write\\_cn/](http://www.calstatela.edu/centers/write_cn/)

### Course Description

Chemistry 360 provides a formal introduction to scientific writing for students majoring in the sciences. Students practice writing in different scientific genres, with particular emphasis on writing a research paper and its various components such as the abstract, introduction, experimental, results, discussion, and reference sections. The course also includes lecture instruction and assignments in literature review, reading skills, poster presentations, oral presentations, and ethics in science.

### Course Objectives

The main objective of Chemistry 360 is to develop student knowledge of and ability in scientific writing. Related objectives include developing student understanding of how to search and read the literature and how to communicate scientific results in other formats besides a research paper, i.e., via oral and poster presentations.

### Tentative schedule

Week	Date	Topics	Reading due	HW due
1	2-Apr	Introduction to CHEM 360		
1	4-Apr	Literature Citations and References	WLC Ch17, (ACS pp. 173-229)	
1	6-Apr	Analysis of Writing	WLC Ch1	Quiz 1
2	9-Apr	Overview of the Journal Article	WLC Ch2 pp. 33-36 and pp. 44-52, (ACS pp. 17-25)	WLC Ex. 1.1-1.2
2	11-Apr	Style and Concise Writing	WLC Ch2 pp. 36-44, Appendix A	
2	13-Apr	Library Information Literacy I (Meets in Library)	TBA	WLC Ex. 2.5

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Reading due</b>	<b>HW due</b>
3	16-Apr	Methods Section	WLC Ch3, (ACS pp. 107-170)	WLC Ex. 3.1-3.2
3	18-Apr	Library Information Literacy II (Meets in Library)		
3	20-Apr	Library Information Literacy III (Meets in Library)		Annotated Bibliography
4	23-Apr	Methods Section II	WLC Ch16, (ACS pp. 107-170)	WLC Ex. 16.3
4	25-Apr	Peer Evaluation of Methods Section		Methods
4	27-Apr	Poster Presentations	WLC Ch9, Ch10 pp. 335-343	Methods
5	30-Apr	Results Section I	WLC Ch4, (ACS pp. 1-17)	Quiz 2
5	2-May	Results Section II	WLC Ch4, (ACS pp. 249-279)	WLC Ex. 4.1, 4.2, 4.5
5	4-May	Discussion Section	WLC Ch5	Quiz 3
6	7-May	Peer Evaluation of Results Section		Results
6	9-May	Discussion Section II	WLC Ch5	WLC Ex. 5.1
6	11-May	Introduction Section I	WLC Ch6	Results
7	14-May	Introduction Section II	WLC Ch6	WLC Ex. 6.2, 6.10
7	16-May	Abstract	WLC Ch7	Quiz 4
7	18-May	Peer Evaluation of Discussion Section		Discussion
8	21-May	Title and Resume	WLC Ch7	WLC Ex. 7.1-7.2
8	23-May	Finalizing and Editing I	WLC Ch18	Discussion
8	25-May	Finalizing and Editing II		
9	28-May	CSULA holiday - no class		
9	30-May	Peer Evaluation of Introduction Section		Introduction
9	1-Jun	Oral Presentations	TBA	Introduction
10	4-Jun	Ethics in Science	TBA	Annotated Bibliography
10	6-Jun	Review for Final Exam		
10	8-Jun	Finalize Paper		<b>Final Paper</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>11-Jun</b>	<b>Final exam 8:00 – 10:30 AM</b>		

## Grading

Your grade will largely be based on the following components:

Component	pts
Exercises (6 total)	60
Quizzes (4 total)	40
Annotated Bibliography (2 total)	20
Drafts (4 total)	40
Peer evaluations (4 total)	40
Final paper	100
Final exam	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>

Class attendance and participation will be considered in the final grade, and this course will be graded using the A-F, +/- scale. Students must turn in the Final paper and take the Final exam to avoid an automatic “F” in the course. The final exam will be based on the reading, lecture material, and homework problems.

## Assignments

The schedule gives the due dates for completing assignments, such as the reading, exercises, quizzes, peer evaluations, drafts of the final paper, and other work. WLC refers to the textbook *Write Like a Chemist* and ACS refers to *The ACS Style Guide*. “WLC Ex.” refers to the Exercises found in the WLC textbook chapters. Quizzes will be based on the reading, lecture material, and assignments. For sections of the final paper, each student will turn in individual work that will undergo review by your peers (classmates), similar to how papers and grants written by professional scientists undergo peer review. After peer evaluation, each student will turn in a revised draft of the section to the course instructor. The sections of the paper will be combined into the final paper (see below). Assignments not turned in by the beginning of class on the due date will be penalized.

## Final paper

A significant portion of your grade will come from your final research paper, including the drafts of various sections. Your research paper will be based on a topic provided in a canned research project, although you may choose an unrelated topic with instructor consent. You will turn in drafts of sections of the paper, revise them as necessary after peer review and my review, and combine them into the final paper. The final paper must be typed, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-point Times or Times New Roman font, and 6-12 pages in length. You may find a chemical formula drawing program to be helpful (check the Chemistry Department computer lab). The final paper will consist of the following sections:

1. Title
2. Your name and affiliation
3. Abstract
4. Introduction
5. Experimental
6. Results
7. Discussion
8. Acknowledgements
9. References

### **Writing and Plagiarism**

Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty are direct violations of intellectual and academic honesty and are prohibited by University policy, which you should review in the current University Catalog (<http://ecatalog.calstatela.edu>) in Appendix D Academic Honesty. In short, plagiarism can range from intentionally misrepresenting someone else's ideas as your own (easy to classify) to extensively quoting someone else while giving them credit but using their ideas to make your point (less easy to classify). Plagiarism by a student may constitute grounds for a failing grade, probation, suspension, or expulsion. Other resources to learn more about plagiarism can be found at:

<http://www.calstatela.edu/library/tutorial/new/Island10/Island10.html>

<http://www.plagiarism.org/>

### **Dropping, Incompletes, and Withdrawals**

Hopefully nobody drops this course. Before you consider withdrawing from a course, you should be aware of the University Policy on withdrawal: you are not allowed to drop a course because you have found the workload to be too heavy, or because you are getting a poor grade. It is your responsibility to be aware of all University policies and deadlines. Also, you should be aware that there are specific policies on the Incomplete grade. It is not automatically given; you must request it from your instructor who is not allowed to give an Incomplete grade unless certain conditions are met, such as the student must currently have a grade of C or better, and a justification based on illness, accident, or other emergency situation. Consult the schedule of classes and your University catalog for details.