

Course syllabus

Course title	Communication skills
Instructor(s)	Monika Aksamit-Koperska PhD
Contact details	mkoperska@gmail.com
Affiliation	
Course format	class
Number of hours	15 hours
Number of ECTS credits	2 ECTS credits 15h – in class 25h – reading & analyzing video content in preparation for class & assignments 20h – preparing assignments
Brief course description	In this hands-on course students develop their practical, communicative and public engagement skills. They will be introduced to different approaches to communication and learn how to disseminate scientific ideas clearly and effectively in oral and written form using different methods and media and targeting various audiences.
Full course description	The ability to communicate complex ideas in a clear and engaging way is paramount for success in science and industry alike. This course develops the students' science communication and public engagement skills under expert guidance. By writing a popular science article, making a short movie and designing a science museum exhibit students explore different media and learn to communicate with various audiences. They learn to identify key pieces of information, estimate the required methodological detail and practice ways to present experimental results clearly. They also revise and deepen their knowledge of key principles and studies in cognitive neuroscience.
Learning outcomes	By the end of the course the students should: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) be able to present the results of a scientific study clearly in both written and spoken form (K_U06) 2) be aware of ethical and legal issues concerning intellectual property in the context of science communication and public engagement (K_W10, K_W11) 3) understand the necessity to continuously update one's knowledge and understanding of the subject (K_K01) 4) work well in a group (K_K03)

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- 5) identify the audience's needs and communicate knowledge accordingly and with respect (K_K04, K_K07)
 - 6) be able to present complex ideas clearly without sacrificing important information (K_K06)
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Learning activities and teaching methods	Classes will involve some lecturing but will largely revolve around discussion and practical exercises. There will be three pieces of marked homework: two individual pieces of work (article and movie) and one group project. Students will be expected to read and watch the material provided.
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List of topics/classes and bibliography	<p>Useful books:</p> <p>Aines & Aines (2019). <i>Championing Science: Communicating Your Ideas to Decision Makers</i>. Kindle.</p> <p>Class topics:</p> <p>The course will be divided in 3 parts, each ending with an assignment. The parts will focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) writing an engaging, popular scientific article, 2) audio-visual communication 3) scientific demonstration.
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Assessment methods and criteria	Students are expected to pass each component of the course: 40% - popular science article (individual work) 40% - short, few-minute video (individual work) 20% - designing a science museum exhibit/festival demonstration (group work)
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Attendance rules	Attendance is a compulsory to pass the course. Two absences are allowed. Any additional one requires a note from a doctor or an exceptional personal circumstance. No more than 3 absences are permitted.
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Prerequisites	N/A
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Academic honesty	Students must respect the principles of academic integrity. Cheating and plagiarism (including copying work from other students, internet or other sources) are serious violations that are punishable and instructors are required to report all cases to the administration.
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Remarks	
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