



ESM 438 Syllabus

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Course summary: ESM 438 (Presentation Skills for Environmental Professionals) is an intensive graduate-level course in which students will study, prepare and practice presentation skills with a focus on project defenses, presenting posters and research, and presentations for job interviews. Lectures will focus on clearly and effectively communicating quantitative and qualitative information to specific audiences. Emphases will be on visual presentation (e.g. slide formatting, clear presentation of quantitative information, etc.), nonverbal skills (posture, gestures, eye contact, etc.) and verbal communication (pacing, clarity, volume, tone, etc.), which students will hone during practice presentations and mock question/answer sessions in weekly discussions. In discussion sections, students will have opportunities to practice and receive feedback on presentations for group projects, defenses, professional conferences, and job interviews.

Course text: No text required. I will post all necessary course materials to Gauchospace. Lecture and discussion handouts will be provided and made available on Gauchospace.

Expectations: Attendance in all lectures and weekly discussion section is mandatory. Students will be graded on attendance, participation in activities during lecture and discussion, submitted assignments, and a final presentation.

Lecture/Discussion Participation (10% each lab):	50%
Assignments:	25%
Final Exam:	25%

Attendance special note:

This is a 5-week intensive course requiring active participation in every lab and lecture, and attendance in all lectures and labs is mandatory. Missing one class (lecture or lab) results in your grade automatically being reduced to a maximum A-; missing two classes (any combination of lecture or lab) automatically results in a maximum grade of B.

Activities: Student participation in activities in lectures and discussions is mandatory. Activities will include: preparing and giving practice presentations, mock Q&A sessions, exercises to improve posture, tone, pace, and volume (both individually and in groups), creating and editing slides and graphics, and providing constructive feedback. You will be graded on your participation in lectures and labs as a **presenter** and as an active **audience member providing feedback**

Final Exam: In the 1-2 weeks following the final course lecture, students will schedule a 30-minute one-on-one meeting with Allison in which they will either:

- Participate in a 30-minute mock interview for a real job position
- Give a 30-minute presentation (mock defense) with 10 minutes allowed for questions
- Give a 30-minute lecture on a topic of student's choice, with 10 minutes allowed for questions

COURSE POLICIES:

- Assignments submitted late will only be accepted within one week of the due date, and will be worth 50% of the original score. **Homework submitted more than one week after the original due date will not be accepted.**
- Lab attendance is mandatory
- There will be no make-up assignments/midterms/quizzes or opportunities for extra points or extra credit due to low scores
- Cheating/plagiarism will result in 0 points awarded for the assignment or midterm/quiz/exam and disciplinary action according to UCSB policy
- If you are worried about your overall grade and/or passing the class, it is **your** responsibility to reach out to us to discuss your concerns