

ESM 438 - Presentation Skills for Environmental Professionals

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 synchronous sessions is mandatory. Participation and effort each week is evaluated; each week's work is worth 20% of your grade.

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**