



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY  
COURSE OUTLINE

1. **Course:** PHYS 691.23, Effective Scientific Writing for PhD Students -- Fall 2018

<b>Instructor Name</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Hours</b>
S01: ( F 12:00 - 12:50 in SB 146)				
Jo-Anne Brown	jocat@ucalgary.ca	403-220-8014	SB 527	After class, and as needed by appointment.

**Course Site:**

D2L: PHYS 691.x3 S01-(Fall 2018)-Effective Scientific Writing

**Department of Physics & Astronomy:**

Office: Science B 605

Phone: 403 220-5385

Email: phasoffice@ucalgary.ca

**Note:**

Students must use their U of C account for all course correspondence.

**a) Course Description**

This is a required, multi-component, program of courses for all graduate students in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. It is designed to assist students in improving their scientific oral and written communication skills. Each student must complete a minimum of three terms of Physics 691 during their graduate program, although the normal load is four terms, and additional terms may be required of students as-needed.

**(b) Course Learning Incomes**

This is a required course for incoming graduate students in Physics and Astronomy. Students will have at least an undergraduate degree, and therefore some experience with oral and written presentations.

**(c) Course Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, the students will be expected to be able to:

1. Formulate an effective abstract for their presentations and thesis by incorporating the 'magic 3' rule.
2. Propose a thesis outline for their work that has a 'closed' structure.
3. Critique a piece of written work and provide appropriate feedback.
4. Organize their life experience and accomplishments into an effective resume a/o CV.

**(d) Syllabus (Schedule is tentative)**

Lecture 1 Sept 14: Introduction to the course

Lecture 2 Sept 21: The Magic 3

Lecture 3 Sept 28: Visualizing a Paper

Lecture 4 Oct 5: Grammar and Writing Review  
Lecture 5 Oct 12: Writing Scholarship Applications  
Lecture 6 Oct 19: Writing an Abstract and Thesis Outline  
Lecture 7 Oct 26: Writing a Paper  
Lecture 8 Nov 2: Writing a Referee Report  
Lecture 9 Nov 9: Writing a Poster  
No Lecture Nov 16: Reading Week  
Lecture 10 Nov 23: Guest Lecture (Laleh Bahjet)  
Lecture 11 Nov 30: Writing a CV and Resume  
Lecture 12 Dec 7: Ask me class

## 2. **Requisites:**

See section [3.5.C](#) in the Faculty of Science section of the online Calendar.

## 3. **Grading:**

The University policy on grading and related matters is described in [F.1](#) and [F.2](#) of the online University Calendar. This is a PASS/FAIL course. In determining the overall grade in the course the following weights will be used:

1. Attendance.
2. Participation in class activities and discussion.
3. Demonstrated effort on all written exercises, including the referee report.

**More than 2 unexcused absences will result in a failure of the course.**

This course has a non-registrar scheduled final component.

## 4. **Missed Components of Term Work:**

The regulations of the Faculty of Science pertaining to this matter are found in the Faculty of Science area of the Calendar in [Section 3.6](#). It is the student's responsibility to familiarize himself/herself/themselves with these regulations. See also [Section E.3](#) of the University Calendar.

This is a pass/fail course, with an expectation of attendance and participation in class. More than 2 unexcused absences will result in a fail.

## 5. **Scheduled out-of-class activities:**

There are no scheduled out of class activities for this course.

## 6. **Course Materials:**

All lecture notes will be posted on D2L.

## 7. **Examination Policy:**

There are no exams for this course.

Students should also read the Calendar, [Section G](#), on Examinations.

## 8. **Approved Mandatory and Optional Course Supplemental Fees:**

There are no mandatory or optional course supplemental fees for this course.

## 9. Writing across the Curriculum Statement:

For all components of the course, in any written work, the quality of the student's writing (language, spelling, grammar, presentation etc.) can be a factor in the evaluation of the work. See also Section [E.2](#) of the University Calendar.

## 10. Human studies statement:

Students will not participate as subjects or researchers in human studies.

See also [Section E.5](#) of the University Calendar.

## 11. Reappraisal of Grades:

A student wishing a reappraisal, should first attempt to review the graded work with the Course coordinator/instructor or department offering the course. Students with sufficient academic grounds may request a reappraisal. Non-academic grounds are not relevant for grade reappraisals. Students should be aware that the grade being reappraised may be raised, lowered or remain the same. See [Section I.3](#) of the University Calendar.

1. **Term Work:** The student should present their rationale as effectively and as fully as possible to the Course coordinator/instructor within **15 days** of either being notified about the mark, or of the item's return to the class. If the student is not satisfied with the outcome, the student shall immediately submit the Reappraisal of Graded Term work form to the department in which the course is offered. The department will arrange for a re-assessment of the work if, and only if, the student has sufficient academic grounds. See sections [I.1](#) and [I.2](#) of the University Calendar
2. **Final Exam:** The student shall submit the request to Enrolment Services. See [Section I.3](#) of the University Calendar.

## 12. OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS:

- a. **Mental Health** The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre, [Mental Health Services Website](#)) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website ([Mental Health](#)).
- b. **SU Wellness Center:** The Students Union Wellness Centre provides health and wellness support for students including information and counselling on physical health, mental health and nutrition. For more information, see [www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre](http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre) or call [403-210-9355](tel:403-210-9355).
- c. **Sexual Violence:** The University of Calgary is committed to fostering a safe, productive learning environment. The Sexual Violence Policy (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>) is a fundamental element in creating and sustaining a safer campus environment for all community members. We understand that sexual violence can undermine students' academic success and we encourage students who have experienced some form of sexual misconduct to talk to someone about their experience, so they can get the support they need. The Sexual Violence Support Advocate, Carla Bertsch, can provide confidential support and information regarding sexual violence to all members of the university community. Carla can be reached by email ([svsa@ucalgary.ca](mailto:svsa@ucalgary.ca)) or phone at [403-220-2208](tel:403-220-2208).
- d. **Misconduct:** Academic misconduct (cheating, plagiarism, or any other form) is a very serious offence that will be dealt with rigorously in all cases. A single offence may lead to disciplinary probation or suspension or expulsion. The Faculty of Science follows a zero tolerance policy regarding dishonesty. Please read the sections of the University Calendar under [Section K](#). Student Misconduct to inform yourself of definitions, processes and penalties. Examples of academic misconduct may include: submitting or presenting work as if it were the student's own work when it is not; submitting or presenting work in one course which has also been submitted in another course without the instructor's permission; collaborating in whole or in part without prior agreement of the instructor; borrowing experimental values from others without the instructor's approval; falsification/fabrication of experimental values in a report. **These are only examples.**
- e. **Assembly Points:** In case of emergency during class time, be sure to FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF with the information on [assembly points](#).
- f. **Academic Accommodation Policy:** Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should contact Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the procedure for accommodations

for students with disabilities available at [procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf](#).

Students needing an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfill requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the Associate Head of the Department of Physics & Astronomy, Dr. David Feder by email [phas.ahugrd@ucalgary.ca](mailto:phas.ahugrd@ucalgary.ca) or phone 403-220-8127. Religious accommodation requests relating to class, test or exam scheduling or absences must be submitted no later than **14 days** prior to the date in question. See [Section E.4](#) of the University Calendar.

- g. **Safewalk:** Campus Security will escort individuals day or night (See the [Campus Safewalk](#) website). Call [403-220-5333](tel:403-220-5333) for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phones located at most parking lot pay booths.
- h. **Freedom of Information and Privacy:** This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP). Students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number on each subsequent page. For more information, see [Legal Services](#) website.
- i. **Student Union Information:** [VP Academic](#), Phone: [403-220-3911](tel:403-220-3911) Email: [suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca). SU Faculty Rep., Phone: [403-220-3913](tel:403-220-3913) Email: [sciencerep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:sciencerep@su.ucalgary.ca). Student Ombudsman, Email: [suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca).
- j. **Internet and Electronic Device Information:** Unless instructed otherwise, cell phones should be turned off during class. All communication with other individuals via laptop, tablet, smart phone or other device is prohibited during class unless specifically permitted by the instructor. Students that violate this policy may be asked to leave the classroom. Repeated violations may result in a charge of misconduct.
- k. **Surveys:** At the University of Calgary, feedback through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction ([USRI](#)) survey and the Faculty of Science Teaching Feedback form provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses. Your responses make a difference - please participate in these surveys.

**Department Approval:**

Electronically Approved

**Date:** 2018-09-07 14:21

**Associate Dean's Approval for out of regular class-time activity:**

Electronically Approved

**Date:** 2018-09-10 08:26