

FW 514 Professional Development: Meeting Communications

1 credit

A/F

Purpose: Fisheries and Wildlife professionals use meetings of scientists, managers and stakeholders to communicate key findings and develop consensus recommendations for policy. This 1-credit experiential learning course will expose students to a scientific or management meeting in their chosen field (fisheries, wildlife, ecology or conservation biology) and get them to think about how meetings function as well as their content.

Format: Each student must identify a scientific or management meeting in their local area and commit to attending. For multi-day meetings, such as those of scientific societies, the student must attend for at least 2 full days. A written report is required that includes an interview with one of the organizers to discuss the purpose and goals of the meeting.

Learner Outcomes: Student who take this course will:

1. Identify the goals and objectives of a professional scientific meeting and the mission of the sponsoring agency, commission or society through research and interviews.
2. Summarize the scientific findings presented at the meeting.
3. Evaluate the communication and outreach efforts connected with the meeting and discuss improvements for disseminating meeting information to the public.

Assessment of Student Learner Outcomes will be through the written report, which includes a set of specific requirements designed around these Learner Outcomes (see Report Components, below).

The types of meetings that would typically be used for this course are:

1. Scientific Society meetings (e.g., American Fisheries Society, Ecological Society of America, Wildlife Society, Society for Conservation Biology, or local chapter meetings of these societies)
2. Working group meetings sponsored by agencies (e.g., Biological Review meetings for endangered species or habitat planning, Fishery Management Council meetings)
3. State or regional commission or agency meetings to provide information to stakeholders and the public (e.g., Town Hall meetings on local natural resource issues)

Course requirements:

1. Identify a professional meeting or conference in your local area and get approval for credit from the course instructor.
2. Attend the meeting in entirety (1 day meetings) or a minimum of 2 days (multi-day society meetings or regional council meetings).
3. Submit a report (see below) before the end of the final week of the term.

Assessment: There is only one assignment required for the course: a report on the meeting purpose, content, goals, organization and outreach. Students should review the report components before attending the meeting to assure that they will gather all of the information necessary.

Report Components:

1. Provide information on the meeting type, scope, location, and a link to the meeting website, if available. Include a short description of meeting format and note whether public comment was allowed.
2. Write a short summary of the purpose of the meeting and the primary mission of the Society or agency that is hosting the meeting.
3. Interview one of the meeting organizers or board members. What do they hope the meeting will achieve? What challenges do they identify in fisheries management that can be addressed by the meeting?
4. Provide a 3-4 page summary of the primary scientific findings presented at the meeting. If attending a conference, provide short summaries of a few talks that you found particularly stimulating.
5. Summarize how information from the meeting is currently disseminated to other scientists, stakeholders or the general public. Provide suggestions for how communication and outreach could be enhanced at the meeting or after the meeting. How should the meeting organizers share the results of their efforts with a larger community?

All together, the report should be 10 -12 pages, double spaced.

Grading rubric:

A: All components of the report present, excellent writing with strong topic sentences and well-organized commentary, evidence of a productive interview with the meeting organizer(s), and insightful commentary on the science presented and improvements for communication and outreach.

B: All components of the report present, good writing with clear topic sentences and complete proofreading, good commentary on the meeting and interview with the meeting organizer(s), some thoughts on communication and outreach.

C: Most components of the report present; good writing (complete proofreading) but organization lacking; evidence of a rushed or poorly conceived project with little effort, e.g., report is mostly descriptive rather than containing insightful discussion or commentary.

D: Report incomplete; writing poorly organized and/or contains spelling and grammatical errors; no commentary or suggestions for outreach and communication.

Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities:

Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Disability Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 737-4098.

Expectations for Student Conduct:

Student conduct is governed by the university's policies, as explained in the [Office of Student Conduct: information and regulations](#).

In an academic community, students and faculty, and staff each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment, whether online or in the classroom. Students, faculty, and staff have the responsibility to treat each other with understanding, dignity and respect. Disruption of teaching, administration, research, and other institutional activities is prohibited by [Oregon Administrative Rule 576-015-0015 \(1\) and \(2\)](#) and is subject to sanctions under university policies, [OSU Office of Student Conduct](#).

Academic Integrity — From the OSU Office of Student Conduct (<http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stucon/achon.htm>):

Academic dishonesty is defined as an intentional act of deception in which a student seeks to claim credit for the work or effort of another person or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic work. Academic dishonesty includes:

- CHEATING - use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information or study aids or an act of deceit by which a student attempts to misrepresent mastery of academic effort or information. This includes unauthorized copying or collaboration on a test or assignment or using prohibited materials and texts.
- FABRICATION - falsification or invention of any information (including falsifying research, inventing or exaggerating data and listing incorrect or fictitious references).

- ASSISTING - helping another commit an act of academic dishonesty. This includes paying or bribing someone to acquire a test or assignment, changing someone's grades or academic records, or

taking a test/doing an assignment for someone else (or allowing someone to do these things for you). It is a violation of Oregon state law to create and offer to sell part or all of an education assignment to another person (ORS 165.114).

- TAMPERING - altering or interfering with evaluation instruments and documents.

- PLAGIARISM - representing the word or ideas of another person as one's own OR presenting someone else's words, ideas, artistry or data as one's own. This includes copying another person's work (including unpublished material) without appropriate referencing, presenting someone else's opinions and theories as one's own, or working jointly on a project, then submitting it as one's own.

Engaging in any of the above described activities will not be tolerated and are grounds for dismissal from and a failing grade in this class. **YOU** are responsible for knowing the rules, regulations, and ethics associated with these policies; ignorance is not an acceptable excuse. For more information on plagiarism, please visit: <http://osulibrary.oregonstate.edu/instruction/classign/Plagiarism.html>. For more information on academic honesty, start at the OSU Office of Student Conduct website above.
