Course: Successful Scientific Writing  
Term: Summer Quarter 2014  
Professor: Erin Haynes, DrPH, MS  
Email: erin.haynes@uc.edu

Course Objectives
Dr. Paul Siegel developed this course to enable public health and health care professionals to 1) communicate the findings of their research and investigations more effectively, and 2) expedite publication of their manuscripts. After completing this course, you will be able to:

- Identify and describe the basic sections of a scientific article, the purpose and organization of the sections, and the elements that comprise them
- Identify and use the principles of style for writing in public health and epidemiology
- Apply effective approaches to the process of writing and publishing an article in a peer-review journal
- Use effective strategies for dealing with requests of journal editors and reviewers

Course Requirements
1. **Textbook**
2. **E-learning Modules**
   This course contains e-learning modules, which are HTML files that include audio, video, and short answer questions. The short answer questions are not graded; instead they provide you with opportunities to practice and apply your new writing skills. If you start a module, you may close it and return to finish it later. Because these modules communicate with Blackboard to track your progress (and depending upon the speed of your Internet connection), they may take a few minutes to load. You’re responsible to complete at least one module per week; however, feel free to work ahead.
3. **Live AdobeConnect Session* “Titles”**
   There will be a synchronous online session to revise titles. Each student will submit a title for the class to review and critique. Post your title in a Discussion Board forum named “Titles.”
   To participate in the session, you need:
   1. Access to a computer and an Internet connection
   2. Speakers or headphones
   3. Webcam for video participation (not required, but highly recommended)
   4. An internal microphone (most computers have them) or a desktop microphone
   5. A link will arrive via a Blackboard email with the meeting online location.
4. **Class Assignments**
   Students will participate in several class exercises throughout the course. Students will:
   1) Post an introduction of themselves. A picture is preferred, but not required.
   2) Rewrite three poorly constructed sentences and post their revisions.
   3) Read and consider how to revise a poorly written abstract (posted on Blackboard).
   4) Rewrite a poorly written title and post your revision.
   Deadlines for assignments are described below. Assignments are due by midnight on the date provided.

Grading
In order to receive a “Pass” for this course, you must complete all modules and participate in all three class activities. All modules and assignments should be completed as outlined below.
## Weekly Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Modules</th>
<th>Assignments and Readings</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Complete the <strong>Course Overview module</strong> and <strong>Module 1: Course Introduction</strong>&lt;br&gt;Total time: approx. 30 minutes</td>
<td>Create &amp; post your personal introduction on the Discussion Board&lt;br&gt;Read <em>The Elements of Style.</em></td>
<td>Monday, July 7</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Complete <strong>Module 2: Abstract</strong>&lt;br&gt;Total time: approx. one hour</td>
<td>Revise the three revised sentences posted on Blackboard</td>
<td>Monday, July 14</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Complete <strong>Module 3: Introduction</strong>&lt;br&gt;Total time: approx. 25 minutes</td>
<td>Post your abstract on the Discussion Board under the “Abstract” Forum.&lt;br&gt;Read and provide constructive feedback for at least two of the abstracts (not your own).</td>
<td>Monday, July 21&lt;br&gt;Monday, July 28</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Complete <strong>Module 4: Methods</strong> (30 mins)&lt;br&gt;<strong>Module 5: Results</strong> (45 mins)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Complete <strong>Module 6: Discussion</strong> (30 mins)&lt;br&gt;<strong>Module 7: Title</strong> (30 mins)</td>
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<td>6-8</td>
<td>Complete <strong>Module 8 (three parts): The Publication Process</strong>&lt;br&gt;Total time: approx. one hour, 35 minutes</td>
<td>Post your title on the Discussion Board under the “Titles” forum.&lt;br&gt;Adobe connect session</td>
<td>Monday Aug 4&lt;br&gt;Wednesday, Aug 6 NOON</td>
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### Email Policy

Please direct content questions to the instructor. Emails will be answered as soon as possible. If you have a question about Blackboard or issues with the modules, please refer to the help documentation located in the [Online Student Guide](#). Additionally, Blackboard Support is available every day of the week at 513-556-1602 or blackboard@uc.edu.

### Academic Ethics

The faculty of the Department of Environmental Health believe that the conduct of a student registered or taking course in the Department should be consistent with that of a professional person. All students in this course will be expected to conduct themselves with complete integrity. All work by the student will be the work of that student, unless otherwise referenced.