

IMPORTANT: This syllabus form should be submitted to OAA (gsbs_academic_affairs@uth.tmc.edu) a week before the start of each semester.

NOTE to STUDENTS: If you need any accommodations related to attending/enrolling in this course, please contact one of the Graduate School's 504 Coordinator, Natalie Sirisaengtaksin, PhD. We ask that you notify GSBS in advance (preferably at least 3 days before the start of the semester) so we can make appropriate arrangements.

<p>Term and Year: Summer 2026</p> <p>Course Number and Course Title: GS03 1111: Scientific Writing for Grant Proposals</p> <p>Credit Hours: 1</p> <p>Meeting Location: Hybrid (Lecture & Mock study section: in person; Workshop: online)</p> <p>Building/Room#: MSE R433/R233</p> <p>Teams/Zoom Link: https://uthealth.zoom.us/j/99108630191 (Dr. Gorfe) https://uthealth.zoomgov.com/j/1616921771 (Dr. Kwartler) *Note: we may use Teams as UTHealth no longer supports Zoom.</p>	<p>Program Required Course: Yes</p> <p>Approval Code: Yes</p> <p>(If yes, the Course Director or the Course Designee will provide the approval code.)</p> <p>Audit Permitted: Yes</p> <p>Classes Begin: June 8, 2026</p> <p>Classes End: August 10, 2026</p> <p>Final Exam Week: N/A</p>
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Class Meeting Schedule:

NOTE: All lectures are in person and Workshops are online.

Day	Time
Monday and Thursday	10:00 11:30 a.m.

<p>Course Director Name and Degree: Xiaodong Cheng, PhD Title: Professor Department: Integrative Biology and Pharmacology Institution: UTHealth Houston Email Address: xiaodong.cheng@uth.tmc.edu Contact Number: 713-500-7487</p> <p>Course Co-Director/s: Name and Degree: Alemayehu (Alex) Gorfe, PhD Title: Professor Department: Integrative Biology and Pharmacology</p>	<p>Instructor/s</p> <p>1. Xiaodong Cheng, PhD Institution: UTHH Email Address: xiaodong.cheng@uth.tmc.edu</p> <p>2. Alemayehu (Alex) Gorfe, PhD Institution: UTHH Email Address: alemayehu.g.abebe@uth.tmc.edu</p> <p>3. Callie Kwartler PhD Institution: UTHH Email Address: Callie.Kwartler@uth.tmc.edu</p>
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Institution: **UTHealth Houston**
Email Address: alemayehu.g.abebe@uth.tmc.edu
Contact Number: **713-500-7538**
NOTE: Office hours are available by request. Please email me to arrange a time to meet.
Teaching Assistant:
N/A
Name and Email Address

Course description:
“Scientific Writing For Grant Proposals” is a one-credit mini-course offered every summer term, which will fulfill the GSBS writing requirement. The class will meet twice per week. Subject matter will include formal lectures on writing the major sections of an NIH fellowship and workshops to review student submissions. The final classes will be mock study sections with peer review. This course may be most useful for second-year students preparing for their qualifying examination and potential fellowship applications.

Textbook/Supplemental Reading Materials (if any)
• N/A

Course Objective/s:
Upon successful completion of this course, students will learn the craft of grantsmanship. Learn what it means to develop a research project that is significant, innovative, and feasible.

Specific Learning Objectives:

1. Learn the components and content of an NIH fellowship.
2. Learn to effectively write each of the major sections of a predoctoral fellowship.
3. Develop critical thinking skills and learn how to effectively express ideas clearly.
4. Learn how to provide effective feedback on peers’ grants and to participate in a study section.
5. Learn how to respond to critiques of your proposal and revise it to make it better.

Student responsibilities and expectations:
Course Requirements

The course will be graded Letter Grade (A-F) . Grading will be determined by attendance, timely submission of grant subsections, and active participation in class. If a student is not able to attend a class, Dr. Cheng, Dr. Gorfe, or Dr. Kwartler *must* be notified beforehand.

Assignments

- Specific Aims (SA) section: **due on June 25 by 5 pm**
- Revised SA section: **due on July 3 by 5 pm**
- Significance, Innovation, and Rigor (SIR) section: **due on July 9 by 5 pm**
- Revised SIR section: **due on July 16 by 5 pm**
- Approach section: **due on July 23 by 5 pm**
- Full proposal: **due on August 1 by 5 pm**

Grading System: **Letter Grade (A-F)**

Student Assessment and Grading Criteria :

Percentage	Description
Homework (40%)	Submission of complete grant subsections on time
Presentation (20 %)	Written peer review critiques and mock study section presentation of grants
Participation and/or Attendance (40 %)	Class attendance and active participation in workshops

CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Duration (Hour(s) taught by lecturer)	Lecture Topic	Lecturers
Monday, June 8	1.5 hrs.	Lecture 1: Course Introduction;	Cheng
Thursday, June 11	1.5 hrs.	Lecture 2: Specific Aims (SA)	Cheng
Monday June 29	1.5 hrs.	SA Workshop #1	Gorfe/Kwartler/Cheng
Thursday, July 2	1.5 hrs.	Lecture 3: Significance, Innovation, and Rigor (SIA)	Cheng
Monday July 6	1.5 hrs.	SA Workshop #2	Gorfe/Kwartler/Cheng
Thursday July 9	1.5 hrs.	Lecture 4: Approach	Cheng
Monday July 13	1.5 hrs.	SIR Workshop #1	Gorfe/Kwartler/Cheng
Thursday July 16	1.5 hrs.	Lecture 5: Biosketch	Cheng
Monday, July 20	1.5 hrs.	SIR Workshop #2	Gorfe/Kwartler/Cheng
Thursday, July 23	1.5 hrs.	Lecture 6: Training Plan	Cheng
Monday July 27	1.5 hrs.	Approach Workshop	Gorfe/Kwartler/Cheng
Thursday, August 6	1.5 hrs.	Mock Study Section	Gorfe/Kwartler/Cheng
Monday, August 10	1.5 hrs.	Mock Study Section (if necessary)	Gorfe/Kwartler/Cheng