

**IMPORTANT:** This syllabus form should be submitted to OAA ([gsbs\\_academic\\_affairs@uth.tmc.edu](mailto: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 Coordinators, Cheryl Spitzenberger or Natalie Sirisaengtaksin. 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: <b>Summer 2025</b></p> <p>Course Number and Course Title: <b>GS03 1111: Scientific Writing for Grant Proposals</b></p> <p>Credit Hours: <b>1</b></p> <p>Meeting Location: <b>Hybrid</b></p> <p>Building/Room#: <b>MSB B.621</b></p> <p>WebEx/Zoom Link: <a href="https://uthealth.zoom.us/j/99108630191">https://uthealth.zoom.us/j/99108630191</a> (Dr. Gorfe) <a href="https://uthealth.zoom.us/j/94118120906">https://uthealth.zoom.us/j/94118120906</a> (Dr. Zhu)</p>	<p><b>Program Required Course:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Approval Code:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>(If yes, the Course Director or the Course Designee will provide the approval code.)</b></p> <p><b>Audit Permitted:</b> Yes</p> <p>Classes Begin: <b>June 2, 2025</b></p> <p>Classes End: <b>July 17, 2025</b></p> <p>Final Exam Week: <b>N/A</b></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><b>Course Director</b> Name and Degree: <b>Xiaodong Cheng, PhD</b> Title: <b>Professor</b> Department: <b>Integrative Biology and Pharmacology</b> Institution: <b>UTHealth Houston</b> Email Address: <a href="mailto:xiaodong.cheng@uth.tmc.edu">xiaodong.cheng@uth.tmc.edu</a> Contact Number: <b>713-500-7487</b></p> <p><b>Course Co-Director/s:</b> Name and Degree: <b>Alemayehu (Alex) Gorfe, PhD</b> Title: <b>Professor</b> Department: <b>Integrative Biology and Pharmacology</b> Institution: <b>UTHealth Houston</b></p>	<p><b>Instructor/s</b></p> <p>1. <b>Xiaodong Cheng, PhD</b> Name and Degree Institution: <b>UTHH</b> Email Address: <a href="mailto:xiaodong.cheng@uth.tmc.edu">xiaodong.cheng@uth.tmc.edu</a></p> <p>2. <b>Alemayehu (Alex) Gorfe, PhD</b> Name and Degree Institution: <b>UTHH</b> Email Address: <a href="mailto:alemayehu.g.abebe@uth.tmc.edu">alemayehu.g.abebe@uth.tmc.edu</a></p> <p>3. <b>Michael Zhu, PhD</b> Name and Degree Institution: <b>UTHH</b> Email Address: <a href="mailto:michael.x.zhu@uth.tmc.edu">michael.x.zhu@uth.tmc.edu</a></p>
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<p>Name and Degree: <b>Michael Zhu, PhD</b></p> <p>Title: <b>Professor</b></p> <p>Department: <b>Integrative Biology and Pharmacology</b></p> <p>Institution: <b>UTHealth Houston</b></p> <p>Email Address: <a href="mailto:amichael.x.zhu@uth.tmc.edu">amichael.x.zhu@uth.tmc.edu</a></p> <p>Contact Number: <b>713-500-7538</b></p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> Office hours are available by request. Please email me to arrange a time to meet.</p> <p><b>Teaching Assistant:</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><b>N/A</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Name and Email Address</p>	
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**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 about writing the major sections of an NIH fellowship, and workshops to go over 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 how to effectively transmit ideas onto paper.
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 revising 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 or Dr. Gorfe, or Dr. Zhu *must* be notified ahead of time.

**Assignments**

- Specific Aims (SA) section: due on June 9 (Monday) by 5 pm
- Revised SA section: due on June 19 (Tues) by 5 pm
- Significance, Innovation, and Rigor (SIR) section: due on June 23 (Fri) by 5 pm
- Revised SIR section: due on June 28 (Sat) by 5 pm
- Approach section: due on July 5 (Sat) by 5 pm
- Full proposal: due on July 10 (Thurs) by 5 pm

**Grading System: Letter Grade (A-F)****Student Assessment and Grading Criteria :**

Percentage	Description
<b>Homework (40%)</b>	Submission of complete grant subsections on time
<b>Presentation (20 %)</b>	Submission of complete grant subsections on time
<b>Workshop or Breakout-Session (20 %)</b>	Attendance & active participation in Breakout-sessions
<b>Participation and/or Attendance (20 %)</b>	Class attendance and active participation in workshops

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Duration (Hour(s) taught by lecturer)</b>	<b>Lecture Topic</b>	<b>Lecturer/s</b>
<b>Monday, June 2</b>	<b>1.5 hrs.</b>	<b>Lecture 1/2:</b> Course Introduction; Specific Aims (SA)	<b>Cheng</b>
<b>Thursday, June 5</b>	<b>1.5 hrs.</b>	<b>Lecture 3:</b> Significance, Innovation, and Rigor (SIA)	<b>Cheng</b>
<b>Monday, June 16</b>	<b>1.5 hrs.</b>	SA Workshop #1	<b>Gorfe/Zhu/Cheng</b>
<b>Monday June 23</b>	<b>1.5 hrs.</b>	SA Workshop #2	<b>Gorfe/Zhu/Cheng</b>
<b>Thursday June 26</b>	<b>1.5 hrs.</b>	<b>Lecture 4: Approach</b>	<b>Cheng</b>
<b>Monday June 30</b>	<b>1.5 hrs.</b>	SIR Workshop #1	<b>Gorfe/Zhu/Cheng</b>
<b>Thursday July 3</b>	<b>1.5 hrs.</b>	SIR Workshop #2	<b>Gorfe/Zhu/Cheng</b>
<b>Monday, July 7</b>	<b>1.5 hrs.</b>	Approach Workshop	<b>Gorfe/Zhu/Cheng</b>
<b>Thursday, July 10</b>	<b>1.5 hrs.</b>	<b>Lecture 5/6:</b> Biosketch; Training Plan	<b>Cheng</b>
<b>Monday July 14</b>	<b>1.5 hrs.</b>	Mock Study Section	<b>Gorfe/Zhu/Cheng</b>
<b>Thursday, July 17</b>	<b>1.5 hrs.</b>	Mock Study Section (if necessary)	<b>Gorfe/Zhu/Cheng</b>