1. Course Information
There will be six two-hour sessions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Words</td>
<td>Sept. 13, 2016</td>
<td>9:30-11:30</td>
<td>MSB346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sentences</td>
<td>Sept. 20, 2016</td>
<td>9:30-11:30</td>
<td>MSB346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Paragraphs</td>
<td>Sept. 27, 2016</td>
<td>9:30-11:30</td>
<td>MSB346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Editing and Translating</td>
<td>Oct. 4, 2016</td>
<td>9:30-11:30</td>
<td>MSB346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Writing a Scientific Research Paper I</td>
<td>Oct. 11, 2016</td>
<td>9:30-11:30</td>
<td>MSB346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Writing a Scientific Research Paper II</td>
<td>Oct. 18, 2016</td>
<td>9:30-11:30</td>
<td>MSB346</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Instructor Information
Course coordinator: Dr. Michael Boffa, 4245A Robarts Research Institute, x25222
(mboffa@uwo.ca)
Other instructors: Dr. Lynn Weir, 348 Medical Sciences Building, x84561
(lynn.weir@schulich.uwo.ca)

3. Course Description
The objective of this course is to prepare students for the writing of scientific documents such as
abstracts, manuscripts, and grant applications. During class, students are expected to actively participate
in the critique of writing samples provided by the instructors and to create writing samples for in-class
assignments.
The course comprises three sections:
• Mechanics of writing, including parts of speech, punctuation, and word usage (sessions 1 and 2)
• Style, including syntax, writing tools, and writing effective sentences and paragraphs (sessions 2 and 3)
• Scientific writing, including editing, writing for a lay audience, and creating a scientific paper (sessions 4-6)

4. Course Materials
Recommended texts:
• Essentials of Writing Biomedical Research Papers, second edition, by Mimi Zeiger
• The Little, Brown Handbook (Fowler and Aaron, 12th edition) (exercises):
• Elements of Style by William J. Strunk, Jr (Humphrey, New York, 1918) - now published online

Online resources:
• University of Ottawa – HyperGrammar (online course; advice; exercises):
  http://www.arts.uottawa.ca/writcent/hypergrammar/
• Purdue Online Writing Lab (online course; exercises): http://owl.english.purdue.edu/

Western resources:
• UWO Student Development Centre: GradWRITE! (1-on-1 meetings; writing workshops):
  http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/gradspostdocs/index.html

5. Methods of Evaluation
There will be six assignments. Students’ final grades on the course will be based on the sum of the six
assignments, using the weighting below. Assignments not submitted by the deadline will be given a mark
of zero.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment #</th>
<th>% of final grade</th>
<th>Date assigned</th>
<th>Date required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Sept. 13, 2016</td>
<td>Sept. 16, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Sept. 20, 2016</td>
<td>Sept. 23, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Sept. 27, 2016</td>
<td>Sept. 30, 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism-detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com)

**Plagiarism:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

As part of a successful graduate student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your graduate degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students, as part of their registration, receive membership in Western’s Campus Recreation Centre. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. Please check out the Faculty of Music web page http://www.music.uwo.ca/, and our own McIntosh Gallery http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/. Information regarding health- and wellness-related services available to students may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/

Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. Campus mental health resources may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html

To help you learn more about mental health, Western has developed an interactive mental health learning module, found here: http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/module.html. This module is 30 minutes in length and provides participants with a basic understanding of mental health issues and of available campus and community resources. Topics include stress, anxiety, depression, suicide and eating disorders. After successful completion of the module, participants receive a certificate confirming their participation.

**Helpful Resources @ Western for Graduate Students**

*Writing Support Centre* http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/  
*SDC’s Learning Skills Services*, Rm 4100  
WSS, www.sdc.uwo.ca/learning

LS counsellors are ready to help you improve your learning skills. We offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

*The Student Success Centre: http://success.uwo.ca/*