Scientific Writing (tentative)
(Fall Term, 2019)

Common lectures for the School of Multidisciplinary Sciences
SOKENDAI (The Graduate University for Advanced Studies)

2019 Fall Term

Time:
Thursday 16:30-18:00 (5th slot) and / or
Wednesday, 10:45-12:15 (2nd slot)

Place:
NII (National Institute of Informatics, Hitotsubashi):
   12F Lecture Room 1 (1212)
   (http://www.nii.ac.jp/en/about/access/)
NIPR (National Institute of Polar Research, Tachikawa):
   Conference Room 1 (D222)
   (http://www.nipr.ac.jp/english/mapsanddirections.html)

In principle, all the lectures can be attended at the student’s own campus.

Each lecture by Ms. Jones will be given twice, once at each campus – students should
attend one lecture from each pair, at the campus of their choice.

Lectures by Dept. of Informatics teachers and the evaluation sessions will be conducted
at NII, with video conferencing to NIPR. However, students are encouraged to attend
the lectures at NII.

Lecturers:
Prof. Ken Hayami (Department of Informatics)
Vis. Prof. Michael Houle (Department of Informatics)
Ms. Caryn Jones (ThinkSCIENCE Inc. & Department of Polar Science)
Schedule:

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<th>Lecturer</th>
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<td>Orientation / Reading 1</td>
<td>Hayami</td>
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<td>2.</td>
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<td>Reading 2</td>
<td>Hayami</td>
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<td>10.</td>
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<td>12/26 (Th)</td>
<td>No lectures</td>
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<td>Technical Writing T8</td>
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*Video conferencing to NIPR

Lecture Details:

(I) Technical Writing (8 lectures by Ms. Jones):
We focus on how to write effective research papers. We examine in detail: the roles and responsibilities of authors and other actors in the scholarly publishing industry; communicating effectively with the different actors; recent changes in scholarly publishing and the implications for authors; good practices that underpin effective
science writing (from conception of the research through writing, submission, and peer review to publication and beyond); avoiding and resolving common issues (plagiarism and self-plagiarism, authorship, copyright, predatory journals and conferences, etc.); establishing structure and logical flow; strategies and practical tips for writing clearly, accurately, concisely, and authoritatively; and self-editing and proofing.

All classes are interactive, involving practical exercises and encouraging problem-solving. Students complete a short writing assignment as part of this course.

(II) Robust Writing Strategies (3 lectures by Prof. Houle):
Strategies for scientific writing will be examined with regard to reducing the impact of writing errors on reader comprehension. The students will be asked to read the titles, abstracts and introductions of several real research papers of varying quality, and to critique them in light of organizational principles. Students will be encouraged to supply samples of their own technical writing for analysis by the class.

(III) Reading (3 lectures by Prof. Hayami):
We will read English articles, for example, from Nature or Science. Each student will be asked to read aloud a paragraph or two in turn, to summarize, and to answer questions related to it. This will be followed by discussions related to the article.