Scientific Writing

(Fall Term, 2025)

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

2025 Fall Term

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

NOTE: all lectures will be made ONLINE

- **Each professor will send you their own Zoom/Webex/Teams link**

Lecturers:
Mr. John Zepernick (ThinkScience)
Prof. Megumi Kaneko (Informatics Program)
Assoc. Prof. Stephen Wu (Statistical Science Program)
Assis. Prof. Philip Wellnitz (Informatics Program)

Schedule:

No.	Date	Content	Lecturer	Place: ONLINE
1.	10/16 (Th)	Robust Writing 1	Kaneko	
2A.	10/22 (W)	Technical Writing A1	Zepernick	
2B.	10/23 (Th)	Technical Writing B1	Zepernick	
3A.	10/29 (W)	Technical Writing A2	Zepernick	
3B.	10/30 (Th)	Technical Writing B2	Zepernick	
4A.	11/05 (W)	Technical Writing A3	Zepernick	
4B.	11/06 (Th)	Technical Writing B3	Zepernick	
5B.	11/13 (Th)	Reading 1	Wu	
6A	11/19 (W)	Technical Writing A4	Zepernick	
6B.	11/20 (Th)	Technical Writing B4	Zepernick	
7.	11/27 (Th)	Reading 2	Wellnitz	
8A.	12/03 (W)	Technical Writing A5	Zepernick	
8B.	12/04 (Th)	Technical Writing B5	Zepernick	
9.	12/11 (Th)	Robust Writing 2	Zepernick	
10.	12/18 (Th)	Reading 3	Zepernick	
11.	12/25 (Th)	No lectures		
12.	1/08 (Th)	Robust Writing 3	Zepernick	
13A.	1/14 (W)	Technical Writing A6	Zepernick	
13B.	1/15 (Th)	Technical Writing B6	Zepernick	
14A.	1/21 (W)	Technical Writing A7	Zepernick	
14B.	1/22 (Th)	Technical Writing B7	Zepernick	
15A.	1/28 (W)	Technical Writing A8	Zepernick	
15B.	1/29 (Th)	Technical Writing B8	Zepernick	

(Note: A=Group 1 and B=Group 2, to be defined after the first class)

Lecture Details:

(I) Technical Writing (10 lectures by Prof. Zepernick):
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 text recycling, 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 (2 lectures by Prof. Kaneko and Prof. Zepernick):
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. Wu, Prof. Wellnitz and Prof. Zepernick):
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.