ERTH 610    Graduate Speakers Seminar    Fall 2019

Instructor: James Foster (jamesfos@hawaii.edu; office: 818A; phone: x67875)
Time: Fridays 1:30-2:20 PM (with exceptions)
Place: POST 723
Organizational Meeting: Friday August 30 1:30 PM
Required Tools: Laulima, Google Docs, Standard Presenter Software or Standard Video Software

Purpose of Class: To provide an opportunity for graduate students to give short (12 minutes) AGU-style scientific talks in a friendly environment to improve their presentation skills (oral and images). You will receive feedback from other students and the instructor. Students who have already taken ERTH 610 three or more times (during either the M.S. or Ph.D. program) may choose instead to develop presentations explaining their research to the general public.

For the standard science talks each student shall:

1) prepare an AGU-length abstract (2000 character body + 300 character title)

2) prepare, practice and present a 12-minute presentation, with an additional 3 minutes devoted to questions from the audience. You should speak on a result of your research, no matter how humble or mundane you think it might be. If you are just beginning your research you may instead talk about your research plans, presenting your proposed objectives, the methods you will use, the possible outcomes, and how you might interpret them. You are required to attend the talks of others, and to evaluate each using the form provided, and entered into the Laulima online tool by midnight the following Sunday. The results of the students’ evaluations of a talk will be summarized by the instructor and delivered to the speaker. Moderators should meet briefly with the speakers immediately before the session to get titles and to ensure correct pronunciation of names. Moderators will introduce each speaker by their name and talk title plus some background information, keep time, give a 2 minute warning, a zero time cutoff signal, and moderate the question session. If a speaker runs over 12 minutes, that extra time is taken out of the question session. Moderators do not need to evaluate talks they moderate.

For the general public presentations each student shall:

1) prepare a flyer for your presentation suitable to be posted publicly.

2) prepare, practice and present either a) a 12-minute presentation, with an additional 3 minutes devoted to questions from the audience or, b) a narrated animation (aka video blog or vlog) presentation of similar length. Your presentation will be made/played to the class during regular Friday meetings and receive feedback from students and instructor as above. Coordinating with SOEST Outreach Coordinator Marcie Grabowski, you will then also either present the talk to a general public audience at, for example, a local middle or high school, or a local library, or in the case of a vlog, have it uploaded to one of the SOEST media platforms. You should present the results and context of your research, targeted to your designated audience (e.g. middle school vs high school students vs general public).

Logistics: You may use Microsoft Powerpoint, Apple Keynote or, if making a vlog, any appropriate video software such as QuickTime on Macs and Photos on Windows PCs. Speakers are required to bring their talks 15 minutes in advance of the class on a USB memory drive. Alternatively, you may login anytime as “guest” on the computer and put your talk into the “ERTH610” folder. Please give your talk file the name: LASTNAME_MMDD.ppt (where MM and DD correspond to numerical month and day). A sign up sheet for speakers and moderators will be passed around the first Friday we meet and then will be posted on the ERTH610 google drive. You must sign up for your talks by the end of Monday.

Reading: There is no required reading, but you will receive a few pdfs containing topics for discussion, words of wisdom about abstract writing and scientific talks.

Grading: Students may miss up to three Fridays with a valid excuse. If you are receiving a letter grade, you will get an “A” if you satisfy all the above requirements. For each talk that you miss in excess of
three, your grade will be bumped down by one letter. If you miss your own talk or moderator assignment your grade will be bumped down two letters!

**Office hours:** I am available by appointment to discuss the generalities of giving talks or for a debriefing after a talk is given. However, I will not go through a talk with you before you deliver it unless you are a non-native English speaker or really nervous about it.