

ESM 438

Instructor: Allison Horst

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Course Summary: ESM 438 (Presentation Skills for Environmental Professionals) is an intensive graduate-level course in which students will study, prepare and practice presentation skills with a focus on project defenses, presenting posters and research, and presentations for job interviews. Lectures will focus on clearly and effectively communicating quantitative and qualitative information to specific audiences. Emphases will be on visual presentation (e.g. slide formatting, clear presentation of quantitative information, etc.) and verbal communication (pacing, clarity, volume, tone, etc.), which students will hone during practice presentations and mock question/answer sessions in weekly discussions. In discussion sections, students will have opportunities to practice and receive feedback on presentations for group projects, defenses, professional conferences, and job interviews.

Course Text: No text required. Resources will be posted by the instructor. Lecture and discussion handouts will be provided and made available on GauchoSpace.

Expectations: Attendance in all lectures and weekly discussion section is mandatory. Students will be graded on attendance, participation in activities during lecture and discussion, submitted assignments, and a final presentation.

Lecture/Discussion Attendance:	35%
Lab Discussion/Participation:	50%
Final Exam:	15%

Activities: Student participation in activities in lectures and discussions is mandatory. Activities will include: preparing and giving practice presentations, mock Q&A sessions, exercises to improve posture, tone, pace, and volume (both individually and in groups), creating and editing slides and graphics, and providing constructive feedback.

Final Exam: In the 1-2 weeks following the final course lecture, students will schedule a 30-minute one-on-one meeting with Allison in which they will either:

- (a) Participate in a mock interview for a real advertised job position
- (b) Give a 20-minute presentation (mock defense) with 10 minutes allowed for questions
- (c) Give a 30-minute lecture on a topic of student's choice