

Writing Research Articles  
Society for Economic Botany Course  
Syllabus for 2025

The Society for Ethnobotany is offering a course in writing research papers to student members and recent graduates. We hope this course will improve your writing skills and allow you to meet your peers in the Society – establishing part of your life-time ethnobotany peer network. The course will meet online using Zoom. Each class period will be 55-minutes long. Although the text is designed for both grants and research papers, the course is about research papers. You will get to keep the pdf version so you will be able to read about grants on your own if you wish.

**Course Schedule:** The course will meet once a week for 9 weeks (22 January 2025 to 19 March 2025, first assignment mailed on 15 January 2025). There will be two sections with 12 students per section. We are offering sections at 7 a.m. Eastern Time (New York) and 7 p.m. Eastern Time (New York) and hope that by offering the course at two times participants in any time zone can enroll.

**Cost:** The course is free and open only to members of the Society for Ethnobotany.

**Text:** Students will receive a free pdf copy of “Writing Science” by Joshua Schimel. Students will need to download free ebook software to use the pdf copy. Regular Adobe programs will not allow you to read the book.

**Certification:** Students who successfully complete the course will receive a Certificate of Completion.

**Expectations:** YOU SHOULD NOT BE IN THIS COURSE IF YOU CANNOT MAKE THE NECESSARY TIME COMMITMENT. Each week there will be a written assignment that will be peer-reviewed by other students. If you apply you should be ready to read, write, and submit your work by Saturday before the next Wednesday. You will be assigned the work of another student and you must complete your review by Monday at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Because other students depend on your participation your attendance is mandatory. You are allowed only one absence. Most of the class period will be spent discussing student work. It is assumed you are minimally competent with Zoom. Unless bandwidth is a problem you are expected to use video. The language of instruction is English.

**Instructor:** Blair Orr, [blairorr@ymail.com](mailto:blairorr@ymail.com) (ymail, not gmail) CV is [here](#).

**Class Schedule: (NOTICE: THIS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED OF CHANGES.)**

6 December 2024 Enrollment Application closes.

13 December 2024 All Applicants notified as to whether or not they are accepted. Accepted applicants receive instructions as to how to download ebook and ebook software.

15 January 2025 Assignment 1 emailed.

18 January 2025 Assignment 1 due at 11:59 p.m. eastern time (New York). Send your assignment to your review student and the instructor.

20 January 2025 Review due to assigned student and instructor by 11:59 p.m. eastern time (New York).

22 January 2025 First class meeting. Zoom link will be sent the Wednesday before the class meeting. Assignment 2 emailed after class.

25 January 2025 Assignment 2 due at 11:59 p.m. eastern time (New York). Send your assignment to your review student and the instructor.

27 January 2025. Review due to assigned student and instructor by 11:59 p.m. eastern time (New York).

29 January 2025 Second class meeting. Zoom link will be sent the Wednesday before the class meeting. Assignment 3 emailed after class.

1 February 2025 Assignment 3 due at 11:59 p.m. eastern time (New York). Send your assignment to your review student and the instructor.

3 February 2025. Review due to assigned student and instructor by 11:59 p.m. eastern time (New York).

5 February 2025 Third class meeting. Zoom link will be sent the Wednesday before the class meeting. Assignment 4 emailed after class.

8 February 2025 Assignment 4 due at 11:59 p.m. eastern time (New York). Send your assignment to your review student and the instructor.

10 February 2025. Review due to assigned student and instructor by 11:59 p.m. eastern time (New York).

12 February 2025 Fourth class meeting. Zoom link will be sent the Wednesday before the class meeting. Assignment 5 emailed after class. **NOTE: This week's assignment does not have a peer review part.**

17 February 2025. Assignment due to instructor by 11:59 p.m. eastern time (New York).

19 February 2025 Fifth class meeting. Zoom link will be sent the Wednesday before the class meeting. Assignment 6 emailed after class.

22 February 2025 Assignment 6 due at 11:59 p.m. eastern time (New York). Send your assignment to your review student and the instructor.

24 February 2025. Review due to assigned student and instructor by 11:59 p.m. eastern time (New York).

26 February 2025 Sixth class meeting. Zoom link will be sent the Wednesday before the class meeting. Assignment 7 emailed after class.

1 March 2025 Assignment 7 due at 11:59 p.m. eastern time (New York). Send your assignment to your review student and the instructor.

3 March 2025. Review due to assigned student and instructor by 11:59 p.m. eastern time (New York).

5 March 2025 Seventh class meeting. Zoom link will be sent the Wednesday before the class meeting. Assignment 8 emailed after class.

8 March 2025 Assignment 8 due at 11:59 p.m. eastern time (New York). Send your assignment to your review student and the instructor.

10 March 2025. Review due to assigned student and instructor by 11:59 p.m. eastern time (New York).

12 March 2025 Eighth class meeting. Zoom link will be sent the Wednesday before the class meeting.

**Note: No assignment for next week.**

19 March 2025 Nineth class meeting. Zoom link will be sent the Wednesday before the class meeting. This class period is a short lecture on PowerPoint presentations.