GRAD5990-001 Graduate Special: Writing for Publication (Spring 2015) Requirements: Graduate standing and permission of Instructors
Professor Peter Barker, Department of the History of Science
George Lynn Cross Professor Ronald Schleifer, Department of English

In Spring 2015 the Graduate College will offer a writing seminar, “Writing for Publication” (GRAD5990-001), to all graduate students in hopes of instituting it as a regular offering to graduate students at OU. The chief goal of the seminar is to help students prepare articles that can be submitted for peer review and publication. The instructors have already presented this seminar successfully in Europe, Asia, and at the University of Oklahoma, from which more than one in three papers were accepted for publication. We would like to recruit students for this program from as many different disciplines as possible, and also find faculty from different disciplines who would like to join us in offering future interdisciplinary seminars in this program.

The Students. The seminar will offer two levels of participation. Students who wish to prepare an article for publication will register for 3 credit hours. Students who wish to learn about the writing and publication process, but not prepare an article at this time, may register for one credit hour. All students will be trained in writing peer reviews and abstracts.

Core students (3 credit hours) will submit a piece of their own work from a previous class, and will receive detailed commentaries and suggestions for revisions to a first and second draft from the instructors and participants (and a third final draft from the instructors). They will also be required to write peer reviews and abstracts for other students’ work. Academic directors of core students will be invited to attend the session at which the second draft of their student’s work is discussed. This process aims to conclude with the submission of the article for publication in a refereed journal. Up to 8 students may enroll as Core students.

Reading students (1 credit hour) will be required to attend and participate in the first session devoted to peer review and will be required to review two students’ papers and participate in the seminar when those papers are discussed (including writing reviews). Reading students are welcome to attend other sessions as well, and instructors – with or without their directors – will be available to discuss their work with them. Up to 16 students may enroll as Readers. Students taking the course for 1 credit hour will be given priority for future seminars as Core students.

Application Procedure
Preference will be given to students who have a draft paper ready for circulation and to students whose inclusion widens the range of scholarly disciplines represented in the seminar.

Core Students should send an email message to the Instructors including:
(1) the title and a short description of the paper (no more than three sentences)
(2) the relation of the paper to the student’s graduate work and the benefits the applicant hopes to achieve
(3) indicating whether or not they will be willing to be a “Reading” participant of the seminar.
They should also request a brief letter of support (this may also be sent as an email message) from the Chair of their Ph.D. or MA committee, which should attest to the student’s progress toward degree and the importance of the seminar to contributing to that progress and to the student’s professional development more generally. We also hope that students’ advisors will join in at least one of the instructor-student meetings to discuss revisions, perhaps the second or final meeting. In this way, the student’s director could bring disciplinary expertise to the meeting.

Reading Students: Students applying to be readers without applying for full participation status should send an email message to the Instructors including: (1) a brief description of their degree program and their progress toward degree. They should also request a letter from their Chair describing the benefits they will derive from the seminar. MA students as well as Ph.D. students are welcome. “Reading” students will be encouraged to apply as “Core” students in subsequent years.

Application Deadline. Applications should be received by November 1, 2014 and should be sent to both Professor Barker (barkerp@ou.edu) and Professor Schleifer (schleifer@ou.edu). Successful applicants will be notified by email of their acceptance and how to enroll online.