

Guidelines for Homework Assignments - EHS 100

General Requirements: There are 4 assignments. Each should be 1 to 2 pages in length, single spaced, 12 pt font, including figures and tables. We will be using the turnitin service. Turnitin scans documents and assigns a percent similarity score to published works and assignments from previous classes at UCLA and other universities to check for plagiarism. **You must cite all your sources of information** using an acceptable citation format such as MLA or APA. See the UCLA Graduate Writing Center webpage for help with citations: <http://gsrc.ucla.edu/gwc/resources/citation-styles.html>. You might also find a citation manager software such as EndNote or the bibliography function in Microsoft Office helpful.

EndNote: <http://www.endnote.com/>

MS Office: <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/word-help/create-a-bibliography-HA010067492.aspx>

Due Date: See the syllabus for the due date of each assignment. Turn in electronic copies using “turnitin” on <https://be.my.ucla.edu/classes.aspx> for EHS100. You do not have to hand in paper copies of assignments. Please see the last page of this document for turnitin.com instructions. A 5% penalty will be incurred for each day late beyond the due date.

1. Review of 1 journal article (2%)

Paper 1. Research Journal Articles- Must be a recent (**maximum of 5 years old**) peer reviewed scientific journal article. The topic of the paper must be relevant to the Environmental Health Science. You must choose an article that belongs to primary literature, review articles (secondary literature) and letters will not be accepted. Articles from non-scholarly magazines or publications will not be accepted. You can search for topics using Pub Med or Google Scholar. Popular journals in the field include, Environmental Health Perspectives, Journal of Environmental Health, and American Journal of Public Health. You may choose an Environmental Health related article in one of these journals, but are not limited to this list. If you find a paper in a journal that does not allow access try using the electronic journals feature on the Bio Med Library website [<http://www2.library.ucla.edu/libraries/biomed/index.cfm>]. UCLA computers have free access to open and print papers from many journals. Include in the write-up the following sections: Objective, Methods and Results. The discussion should be your conclusion of whether or not the results achieved the authors’ objectives. You must provide a full citation at the top of your paper so we can look up the article online. For help with citation styles see: <http://gsrc.ucla.edu/gwc/resources/citation-styles.html>.

Evaluating a Research Journal Article

Use the following headings.

OBJECTIVE

1. State the objective in the context of what was already known in the field.
2. What was the hypothesis being tested to achieve the objective?
3. Is the paper designed so it can test the hypothesis and achieve the objective?

4. Does the experimental design allow for testing the hypothesis, including showing the hypothesis is false?

METHODS

5. What methods were used to test the hypothesis? Were they adequate to both accept and reject the hypothesis
6. What were the controls used by the authors and were they appropriate?
7. What statistics was used to determine if differences between control and experimental groups were different?

RESULTS

8. What is the most important figure or table in the paper? Was it self contained so that you could understand it without having to refer to the text. Were the statistics clear?

DISCUSSION

9. Was the hypothesis accepted or rejected? Did the authors suggest the next logical step to further the development of knowledge in the area under investigation?

REFERENCE

10. Give complete reference for the paper you reviewed. Example: Caldwell D.J., Mastrocco F., Nowak, E., Johnston, J., Yekel, H., Pfeiffer, D., Hoyt, H., DuPlessie, B.M.and Anderson, P.D. . An Assessment of Potential Exposure and Risk from Estrogens in Drinking Water. Environmental Health Perspectives 118: 338–344, 2010.

2. Review of 1 research lecture (2%)

One or two page review of a research lecture relating to environmental health. The review should include a problem being addressed, methods, results and discussion. However if that was not the format of the lecture, the student should provide a summary of the lecture and a discussion. A research lecture refers to an oral presentation given by someone on their own research. You will find them advertised on campus as “seminars”, “lectures” or a “symposium”. On the class webpage there is a link to some suggested seminars. UCLA is a research university and nearly every department on campus has a regular seminar series or sponsors research lectures during the academic year.

3. Risk Assessment on chemical of choice (3%)

Write a one to two page assessment of a chemical of your choice. The student may choose any chemical. One way to do the assignment is to look for a chemical on the EPA risk assessment website: <http://www.epa.gov/riskassessment> or EPA IRIS site <http://www.epa.gov/iris/>. Select a substance and write a summary that contains the following:

- Substance or chemical and type (metal, PAH, etc)
- Use (solvent, pesticide, etc)
- Toxicology (absorption-sites:dermal,lung,etc),distribution, metabolized (P450, conjugation), excreted (breath, urine, feces)
- Pathological endpoint used in risk assessment to calculate NOAEL or benchmark dose

- Risk Assessment (NOAEL or benchmark value)
- RfD and how it was calculated
- Replacement chemicals if known
- Standards and regulations

You may also utilize the links on the class website: www.ph.ucla.edu/ehs/ehs100 and go to links. There are several websites that have databases of chemicals and contain useful information on those chemicals.

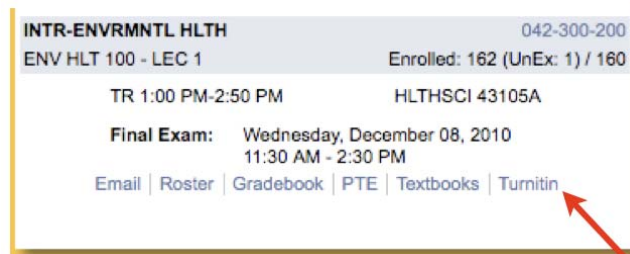
4. Proposal outlining a testable model of environmental injury (3%)

Paper 4: This is a thought experiment to illustrate that a scientific hypothesis must be able to be falsified. Select a health problem and some environmental agent or condition that you think will affect it. Then write a hypothesis and identify the design and methods that will provide data that can be subject to statistical analysis. The data can be theoretical. Organize the data in a format it can be analyzed statistically and state appropriate statistical test. Show that one set of data supports the hypothesis and the other falsifies it using your methods and statistical tests. Use the general outline for the write-up.

- A. description of a health problem
- B. a falsifiable hypothesis
- C. methods
 - methods used to provide quantitative data
 - Statistical methods to analyze data
- D. Results – present two sets of theoretical results.
 - one supporting hypothesis
 - falsifying the hypothesis
- E. Conclusion – state why one set of data support hypothesis and other falsified it.

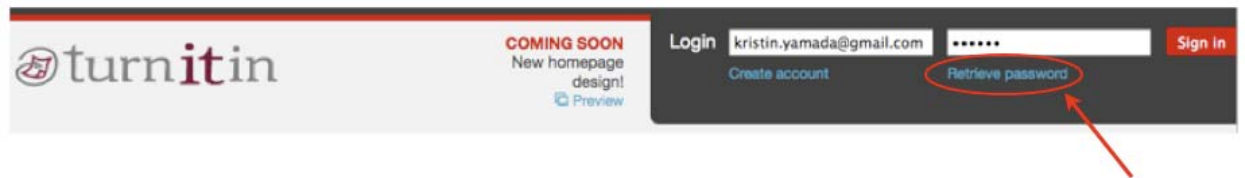
Turnitin.com Directions: You will submit all your assignments through this website. You must access turnitin.com through you MyUCLA page. Turnitin.com timestamps when you upload your assignments. All assignments are due at 11:59pm. It is imperative that you try and access turnitin.com before the due date of the first assignment so we can work out any logistical issues in advance.

Each student will need to access the page through their myUCLA account (<https://be.my.ucla.edu>). In the EHS100 box located in your study list, there is a link for “turnitin.” See figure below.



Click on the link and your web browser will be directed to the turn it in class page. If the link does not show up on your MyUCLA account, or you cannot access the class homepage, please contact Kristin at Kristin.yamada@gmail.com.

Students enrolling through University Extension or students without MyUCLA accounts will have to enroll in the course manually. Please email Kristin at Kristin.yamada@gmail.com to get turnitin.com access. Once you are enrolled, you should get an email from the Turn It In helpdesk with instructions and inviting you to join the EHS100 class. If you are new to turnitin.com, you will need to create a password. Simply enter your email address as your login and click retrieve password. You must use the email address that myUCLA has on file for you. Once you are set up, you can access the EHS100 page through myUCLA without logging in.



The rest should be self-explanatory. You will submit all your assignments through this website. Your assignments will be graded online and you will be able to view all comments and mark-ups.