

WINTER 2025

BIO9216: The Third Reviewer: Navigating Through the Review Process.

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This course will introduce students to the peer-review process largely using the field of Ecology and Evolution to explain the process. Students will learn by doing, workshop-style.

Topics fall into two broad categories:

(1) Pre-submission Preparation. Everything you need to know to get your manuscript in the pipe. These steps are not as straightforward as they may sound and there are many details to consider. I will walk you through that process. Some items include the editorial structure of journals, how to choose a journal, write a cover letter, how to respond to the letter, how to answer comments from reviewers in your resubmission, when you should and should not appeal a decision.

Expected cap of 12 students. Given the highly interactive nature of this course, assignments will be determined according to class size. However, to give you a bit of an idea, these assignments were done previously.

1. Pre-submission Assignment: Write the cover letter: You need to get your manuscript past the gatekeeper

– the Editor. Rejection can occur WITHOUT a review, so cover letter must convince the editor that the manuscript is worth reviewing. You will write a cover letter based on a paper already published in the literature. We will workshop it to ensure it will make an impression.