The Illuminating Discovery short course is a joint effort of the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery Illuminating Discovery Hub and the Morgridge Institute for Research. It teaches communication practices with a foundation based on the fundamentals of storytelling. The course is designed for advanced graduate students (i.e. dissertators) and postdoctoral fellows doing research in scientific fields and who are interested in developing materials for specific upcoming presentations (e.g. posters, slide decks, job talks, departmental seminars, etc.). Participants will learn and use visualization and presentation skills in real time to create products necessary for communicating research: a short talk (e.g., 3-min Thesis Talk or Flash Talk), a longer talk with slides, a research infographic or table of contents figure, and a poster design. The course will provide numerous opportunities to present to peers, faculty, and the public and will also teach participants how to give and receive peer feedback.

Previous students reported that this course transformed their communication practices and reported that the course showed them how to create posters and talks with much greater efficiency, ease, and effectiveness.

The course will meet for seven weeks, with each week consisting of one 1.5-hour class meeting and one 2-hours science communication lab. Students will be able to choose between two different lab sections.

Course meetings:

Class: Thursdays, October 10 to November 21, 3:30-5:00 pm
Laboratory: Thursdays, October 10 to November 21, 5:30-7:30 pm OR Fridays, October 11 to November 22, 8:00-10:00 am
Location: Illuminating Discovery Hub, Wisconsin Institute for Discovery, 220 N Orchard St., Madison, WI 53715
Register at: https://warf.wufoo.com/forms/illuminating-discovery-course/

Instructors:
Holly Walter Kerby (Story Design) is a chemist, researcher, and award-winning educator and playwright. She is the founder of NSF-funded Fusion Science Theater and Story Form Science (storyformscience.com). She invented the Story Form method and taught science communication with the Alan Alda Center for Science Communication as well as numerous NSF-funded centers.

H. Adam Steinberg (Visualizing Data and Presentation Techniques) is an artist and scientist, and owner of artforscience.com, which teaches researchers how to effectively communicate their scientific data. He has a wealth of experience teaching data visualization and science communication. His work has appeared on the covers of Cell, Science, and Nature, and in Lehninger Biochemistry and Lodish Molecular Cell Biology, among others.

For further information contact:
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