

21W.732  
Spring 2007

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## Review Article

First version due in class in Ses #18

Workshop in Ses #19

Final version (**with abstract**) due in class in Ses #20

Minimum final length without abstract: 2200 words (8 pages)

Follow the guidelines set out by Penrose and Katz in section 4.2 of Writing in the Sciences: “Reviewing as a genre: The review article” (pp.85-87 in 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, pp. 76-77 in 1<sup>st</sup> edition).

Read this short section with care. The goal of the review article, as Penrose and Katz explain it, is “to describe what the field has learned so far: what, if any, consensus is developing, and what questions remain to be answered?” To accomplish this goal, you will need to draw on a broad array of recent articles in the field. In an ideal world (without endless p-sets and tests), you might aim for the comprehensiveness of the Blaser article on GCLOs and gastritis. For the purposes of this assignment, your review article must draw on a minimum of nine recent articles in the field you have chosen. The articles must present current research, not just a compendium of information on your topic.

While your pre-existing opinion on your topic should not affect your discussion of current findings, you cannot count on the findings to speak for themselves. You will need to organize and interpret the “trends and patterns” evident in recent studies. The impact of your review article will depend on your skills as a reader, thinker, and writer.

Your review article will not be considered complete unless you integrate precise references within the text and a comprehensive list of sources at the end. Section 4.7 of Writing in the Sciences provides guidelines for citing sources. You may choose either the Name-Year System or the Citation-Sequence System. The system you choose will determine the format of the list of works cited.

At the end of your article (after the list of sources), include a brief status report. This status report should help your readers understand your ambitions for the review article and your current concerns. Be sure to identify the type of journal and the audience that you envisioned as you were writing.

Bring four copies of first version to class plus 4 additional copies of the introductory section.

Bring one copy of the final version (with abstract) to class.