

**PSY C02S: SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION IN PSYCHOLOGY
1995-96**

Meetings Tues. 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. in S128
 Thurs. 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. in R3205B
 and a 2-hour tutorial

Instructor Professor Joan Foley
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 Office hours TBA

Teaching Assistants

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Required Books

American Psychological Association. (1994). Publication manual (4th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.
Gelfand, H. & Walker, C. J. (1990). Mastering APA style. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
Stanovich, K. (1996). How to think straight about psychology (4th ed.). New York: Harper Collins.

Objectives

The purpose of this course is the development and enhancement of practical and professional skills based on current standard discourse in the field of psychology. The objectives are (a) to improve the student's ability to think scientifically, (b) to find, analyze and organize information, and (c) to communicate clearly, critically and effectively within the discipline.

Prerequisites

The course is limited to students enrolled in the Psychology Specialist Programme, for which it is a requirement. It is to be taken following completion of PSY B01, PSY B07 and PSY C08, and is recommended to be taken in the student's third year.

Assignments and Evaluation

APA Style: Students will work towards the mastery of APA Style by doing the exercises and practice tests in Mastering APA Style. Some time will be provided during tutorials to work on these exercises, to be supplemented by further work on your own. The *Term Paper Mastery Test* will be administered in class. There will be two opportunities to write and *the test may be taken a second time to improve the grade*. If you master this material early, you will be in a better position to do well on the writing assignments (see below). The *Research Report Mastery Test* will be administered as part of the final examination in the course.

Short Writing Assignments: These assignments will be 1-2 pages in length. There will be two practice assignments that will *not* contribute to your grade.

Nevertheless, it is important to do them because they will help you to prepare for other assignments; also, feedback will be provided so that you will develop a better sense of what is expected. During February and March there will be four short writing assignments that will be graded.

Practice Assignment 1: Summarize the organization of two review articles.
Practice Assignment 2: Summarize an empirical study.

Assignment 1: Summarize a chapter in Stanovich.
Assignment 2: Summarize an empirical study related to the review article.
Assignment 3: Summarize a theoretical study related to the review article.
Assignment 4: Write an abstract.

Major Writing Assignment: You will write a review article on a topic that will be agreed upon early in the course. You will have to do library research in order to complete this piece of work. Training sessions in conducting library research will be provided during tutorial hours early in the course; the research itself will be conducted in your own time. The article will be 10-12 pages in length and will be due by the last class.

Classroom Presentation: You will present an oral summary of your review article to your tutorial group during the last two or three weeks of term. The date on which your presentation will take place will be scheduled by your tutorial leader at least two weeks in advance.

Final Examination: The examination will be scheduled during the final exam period. The components of the final exam will be (a) the APA Style *Research Report Mastery Test*, (b) multiple choice questions based on the text by Stanovich, and (c) essay questions based on the text by Stanovich.

Deadlines and Weighting of Evaluation Components:

	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
*APA Style: <i>Term Paper Mastery Test</i>	10	12 ¹³ , 27 Feb
Short Writing Assignment 1	5	15 Feb
Short Writing Assignment 2	5	26 Feb
Short Writing Assignment 3	5	4 March
Short Writing Assignment 4	5	12 March
Classroom Presentation	5	25Mar/1/8Apr
Review Article	30	11 April
Final Examination	35	TBA
(*APA Style: <i>Research Report Mastery Test</i> : 10; Stanovich text: 25)		

*Grading on the APA Style *Term Paper Mastery Test* and *Research report Mastery Test* will be as follows:

Items correct	90% or more	10/10
	80-89%	7/10
	75-79%	4/10
	< 75%	0/10