

PSY C02S: SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION IN PSYCHOLOGY  
1998-99

**Lectures** Mon. & Wed. 4:00-5:00 in R2512

**Tutorials** Mon. 11:00-1:00 in H402/R3230/S208 and another time T.B.A.

**Instructor** Professor Joan Foley  
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Office hours: Mon. 2:30-3:30 & Wed. 12:30-2:30

**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. (1998). How to think straight about psychology (5th ed.). New York:  
Longman.

**Objectives**

The course develops practical and professional skills based on current standard  
discourse in the field of psychology. The aim is to improve the student's ability (a) 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 intended for students enrolled in the Psychology Specialist  
Programme, for which it is required. The skills acquired in this course are relevant  
to upper level courses and to the thesis. It should, therefore, be taken as soon as  
possible following completion of PSY B01 and PSY B07 and concurrently with (or  
following) PSY C08.

## Assignments and Evaluation

**APA Style:** Students will work towards the mastery of APA Style by doing the exercises and practice test in Mastering APA Style. Credit earned for the *Term Paper Mastery Test* and for the *Research Report Mastery Test* will depend on your highest score on the two writings of the test:

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

### Dates for Writing

<i>Term Paper Mastery Test</i>	<i>Research Report Mastery Test</i>
8 February	22 March
22 February	At final exam

**Short Writing Assignments:** These assignments will be one to two pages in length. Content and style will be equally weighted in the evaluation. Further details will be given in separate hand-outs.

	<u>Due Date</u>
Assignment 1: Summarize a chapter in the text.	18 January
Assignment 2: Summarize an empirical article.	1 February
Assignment 3: Write an abstract of a chapter in the text.	24 February
Assignment 4: T.B.A.	10 March

Assignments are due by 5:00 p.m. on the due dates indicated.

**Major Writing Assignment:** You will write a review article of 10-12 pages of text on a topic that must be approved by your tutorial leader early in the course. Library research for this assignment is likely to involve using materials from libraries on the St. George campus. Training sessions in carrying out library research will be provided during class hours. Content and style will be equally weighted in the evaluation.

A "topic" outline of the review article is to be submitted to your tutorial leader no later than 1 March.

A draft of the review article is to be submitted to your tutorial leader no later than 15 March. The draft should be at least 6-8 pages long.

The final report is due on <sup>7</sup> ~~15~~ April.

**Classroom Presentations:** You will give two presentations: (a) an oral summary of an article in the literature (week of 1/8 March) and (b) an oral summary of your review article (week of 5 ~~15~~ April). The dates on which you will present will be scheduled by your tutorial leader.

**Final Examination:** The two-hour examination will be scheduled during the final exam period. It will contain both multiple choice and essay questions on the text by Stanovich. An additional hour will be provided for those students who wish to attempt a second writing of the *Research Report Mastery Test*.

## Weighting of Evaluation Components

	<i>Weight</i>
APA Style: <i>Term Paper Mastery Test</i>	10
APA Style: <i>Research Report Mastery Test</i>	10
Short Writing Assignments (5 each)	20
Classroom Presentations (5 each)	10
Outline of review article	2
Draft of review article	3
Review Article (final manuscript)	25
Final Examination	20

## Policy on Extensions and Lateness

Short Writing Assignments, Outline, Draft. Short extensions may be granted for good reason, such as illness, conflict of due dates with assignments for other courses, etc., but normally not more than once or twice for a given student. Unless an extension has been negotiated before the time that the assignment is due, a late penalty of 1 point per day off the maximum weighted value of the assignment will apply.

In no case will a short writing assignment be accepted after those of other students have been returned.

Mastery Tests. Make-ups will be provided only in the case of properly documented illness. In the case of the second writing of the *Research Report Mastery Test*, a make-up opportunity will be available only if there is a successful petition for a deferred examination.

Classroom Presentations. In the case of properly documented illness, the presentation will be rescheduled if class time permits.

Review Article. A short extension may be granted for good reason. Unless an extension has been negotiated before the time that the assignment is due, a late penalty of 4 points per day off the maximum weighted value of the assignment will apply.