

PSY C02H: SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION IN PSYCHOLOGY

Winter Session, 1999-2000

Lectures Mon. 5:00 - 7:00 in H214

Tutorials Mon. 11:00 - 1:00 in R3221/R3230, or
Mon. 7:00 - 9:00 in R3221/R3225

Instructor Professor Joan Foley
S409
(416) 287 7027
foley@scar.utoronto.ca
Office hours: Mon. 4:00 - 5:00, or by arrangement

Teaching Assistants

Nicholas Smith
S228A
(416) 287 7182
nicholas@psych.utoronto.ca
Office hours: TBA

Janelle LeBoutillier
S557
(416) 287 7470
janelle@scar.utoronto.ca
Office hours: TBA

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 work in upper level courses and to the thesis. It should, therefore, be taken as soon as possible following completion of PSY B01H and PSY B07H and concurrent with (or following) PSY C08H.

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 higher 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>
7 February	13 March
28 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 handouts.

	<u>Due Date</u>
Assignment 1: Summarize a chapter in the text.	17 January
Assignment 2: Summarize an empirical article.	31 January
Assignment 3: Write an abstract of a chapter in the text.	21 February
Assignment 4: TBA	6 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. Content and style will be equally weighted in the evaluation. Library research for this assignment will almost certainly involve using materials from libraries on the St. George campus. Training sessions in carrying out library research will be provided during tutorial hours on 10 January.

A "topic" outline of the review article is to be submitted to your tutorial leader no later than 28 February. What is required in a topic outline will be explained in class at a later date.

A draft of the review article is to be submitted to your tutorial leader no later than 13 March. The draft should be at least 6-8 pages long.

The final report is due by 5:00 p.m. on 31 March.

Classroom Presentations: You will give a presentation to your tutorial group summarizing your review article on either 20 or 27 March. The date 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	20
Classroom Presentations	5
Outline of review article	2
Draft of review article	3
Review Article (final manuscript)	25
Final Examination	25

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 granted before the time 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 Presentation. In the case of properly documented illness, the presentation may be rescheduled if time permits.

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

PSY C02H : Draft Lecture Schedule 1999-2000, Mon. 5 - 7

- M 3 Jan. Introduction to Course - course outline (objectives, format, evaluation)
 The Short Writing Assignments - handout re assignment #1
 The Major Writing Assignment - handout, complete information sheets re topics and tutorial assignments
 Styles of communication, improving your writing
 Mastering APA Style - using the Workbook and the APA Manual
- M 10 Jan. Assignment to tutorials and topics
 Stanovich, chapters 1 & 2: systematic empiricism and falsifiability
 Preparing for the Term Paper Mastery Test (TPMT): using the right word
- M 17 Jan. Types of journal articles and conventions of form (review articles, empirical articles, theoretical articles), organizing a review article
 Handout re assignment #2
 Preparing for TPMT: grammar
- M 24 Jan. Stanovich, chapter 3: operationism
 Preparing for TPMT: punctuation
- M 31 Jan. The Abstract
 Handout re assignment #3
 Stanovich, chapters 4 & 5: evidence
 Preparing for TPMT: quotations, references, citations
- M 7 Feb. Term Paper Mastery Test (first writing)
 The Outline, relationship to headings
 The Draft
- M 14 Feb. xxxxxxxx READING WEEKxxxxxxx
- M 21 Feb. Stanovich, chapters 6 & 7: causation
 Handout re assignment #4
- M 28 Feb. Term Paper Mastery Test (second writing)
 Stanovich, chapters 8 & 9: connectivity, converging evidence, multiple causation
- M 6 Mar. Preparing for the RRMT: numbers, statistics, tables, figures
 The Classroom Presentation (handout)
- M 13 Mar. Research Report Mastery Test (first writing)
 Ethics of Research and Writing
- M 20 Mar. Stanovich, chapters 10 & 11: probabilistic reasoning, clinical v. actuarial prediction
 Course evaluation
- M 27 Mar. Stanovich, chapter 12: psychology as a science, review of key concepts
 About the Final Exam