

PSY C02H: SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION IN PSYCHOLOGY

Winter Session, 2002

Lectures Mon. 4:00 - 5:00 & Wed. 4:00 - 5:00 in H408

Tutorials Mon. 11:00 - 1:00 in H308/B366, or
Fri. 11:00 - 1:00 in B359

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Teaching Assistants

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Required Books

American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication manual* (5th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

Gelfand, H., & Walker, C.J. (2001). *Mastering APA Style* (5th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Stanovich, K. (2001). *How to think straight about psychology* (6th 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 restricted to 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. It should, therefore, be taken as soon as possible following completion of PSY B01H and PSY B07H and concurrent with (or following) PSY C08H. Students intending to undertake a thesis should complete this course concurrent with PSYC08H and prior to beginning work on the thesis.

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*. There will be two opportunities to write each of two tests: the Term Paper Mastery Test and the Research Report Mastery Test. Credit earned will be based on your higher score on the two writings of each test; therefore, you have nothing to lose by re-writing.

<u>Items correct/40</u>	<u>Score/10</u>
37 or more	10
34-36	7.5
31-33	5
28-30	2.5
27 or less	0

Dates for Writing

Term Paper Mastery Test	Research Report Mastery Test
February 13	
March 27	
March 6	At final exam

Short Writing Assignments: These assignments will be one or 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 section of the text.	January 23
Assignment 2: Summarize an empirical article.	February 6
Assignment 3: Write an abstract of a section of the text.	February 27
Assignment 4: Critique a newspaper/magazine research report	March 20

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 in advance by your tutorial leader. Content and style will be equally weighted in the evaluation. More details will be given in a separate handout. The final report is due by 5:00 p.m. on April 3.

Outline: An outline of your review article is to be submitted to your tutorial leader no later than February 25. The full two points will be awarded to all students who submit their outline by the due date, and feedback will be provided by the tutorial leader.

Draft: A draft of the review article is to be submitted to your tutorial leader no later than March 13. The draft should be at least 6 pages long. The full three points will be awarded to all students who submit a draft by the due date, and feedback will be provided by the tutorial leader.

Classroom Presentation: You will give a presentation to your tutorial group on a topic that relates to your review. The date on which you will present will be scheduled by your tutorial leader. All students are expected to attend the presentations by other members of their group. In addition to a grade for the presentation, students will be provided with written feedback based on

comments contributed confidentially by other students as well as on the opinion of the 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 relating to 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: Term Paper Mastery Test	10
APA Style: Research Report Mastery Test	10
Short Writing Assignments (5 each)	20
Classroom Presentation	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. 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 for a given student. If an extension has been granted before the assignment is due, there will be no penalty for lateness. If no extension has been granted, assignments will not be accepted more than 2 days (48 hours) late and a late penalty of 10% per day will apply to short writing assignments, and 1 point per day will be deducted for the outline or draft.

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, as class time permits.

Review Article. A short extension may be granted for good reason. Unless an extension has been granted before the assignment is due, it will not be accepted after 5:00 p.m. April 5 and a late penalty of 10% per day will apply.