

PSYC02H: SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION IN PSYCHOLOGY  
Summer Session, 2005

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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. (2004). *How to think straight about psychology* (7th ed.). Boston: Pearson.

*Objectives*

The course deals with how we communicate in psychology, and why. The differences between scientific and non-scientific approaches to behaviour are stressed, and their implications for communication are discussed. The focus is on improving the student's ability to obtain and organize information and to communicate it clearly and critically, using the conventions of the discipline.

Skills acquired in this course are important to success in upper level courses, particularly for independent research courses and the thesis, and should be taken as early in the program as possible. Students will be reading the primary research literature, requiring the interpretation of research data; hence, PSYB01H and PSYB07H are prerequisites, and PSYC08H is a co-requisite for this course.

*Assignments and Evaluation*

APA Style: Students will work towards the mastery of APA Style by doing the exercises and practice tests for the two units in *Mastering APA Style*: the Term Paper Unit and the Research Report Unit. There will be two opportunities to write the test on each unit. Observation of style is also a criterion in the evaluation of all written assignments.

Short Writing Assignments: Each short assignment will be one page in length. Content and style will be equally weighted in the evaluation. Further details will be given in separate handouts.

Major Writing Assignment: Each student will write a review article comprising some 10 to 12 pages of text on a topic that must be approved in advance. Content and style will be equally weighted in the evaluation. Further details will be given in a separate handout. An *outline* and a *draft* are to be submitted by specified dates.

Classroom Presentation: Students will make a short presentation in their tutorial of an empirical article that will be included in the review article. The choice of article for presentation must be approved in advance. All students are expected to attend presentations by other students.

Final Examination: An examination of 1.5 hours will be scheduled during the final exam period, relating to the text by Stanovich. An additional hour will be provided for those who wish to attempt a second writing of the Research Report Mastery Test.

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## Weighting of Evaluation Components

	Weight
APA Style: Term Paper Mastery Test <sup>1</sup>	10
APA Style: Research Report Mastery Test <sup>2</sup>	10
Short Writing Assignments (5 each)	20
Classroom Presentation	7.5
Tutorial Participation	2.5
Outline of review article <sup>3</sup>	2
Draft of review article <sup>4</sup>	3
Review Article (final manuscript)	25
Final Examination	20

*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.

Outline and Draft: If no extension has been granted in advance, 1 point per day will be deducted.

Mastery Tests. Make-ups will be provided only in the case of properly documented illness. For the second writing of the Research Report Mastery Test, a make-up 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. If no extension has been granted in advance, 10% per day will be deducted. Extensions of one or two days may be granted for good reason. However, in accordance with University regulations, term work will not be accepted after the last day of classes in the summer session (August 6).

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<sup>1</sup> Items Correct Score/10

26 or below	0	
27 - 35		add 1 for each additional item correct
36 or more	10	

Score that will count will be the better of the two writings of the test.

<sup>2</sup> Same as for Term Paper Mastery Test

<sup>3</sup> Full 2 points will be awarded for a bona fide submission.

<sup>4</sup> Full 3 points will be awarded for a bona fide submission

***Important Dates (Revised May 9, 2005)***

**May 10: Tutorials meet in AC221:** Conducted by Teaching and Learning Services.

May 17: First short writing assignment due.

May 24: Approval of empirical article for second short writing assignment.

June 7: Second short writing assignment due.

June 14: TEST of Term Paper Unit.  
Approval of empirical article for presentation.

June 21: Third short writing assignment due.  
Outline of review article due.

July 5: Second writing of TEST of Term Paper Unit.

July 5, 12, 19 (26 if necessary): Student presentations in tutorial period.

July 12: Draft of review article due.

July 19: Fourth short writing assignment due.

July 26: TEST of Research Report Unit.

August 2: Final review article due.

During Final Exam Period (August 15-26, date and time TBA): Final exam on Stanovich +  
Second writing of TEST of Research Report Unit.