

**PSYC02H: SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION IN PSYCHOLOGY**  
Winter Session, 2006

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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.). Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

**Introduction**

Welcome to Psychology C02! This is probably one of the most important courses that you will ever take. This course will teach you the fundamentals of written communication, which are skills that may be applied in any setting. Discussion and questions are encouraged, both in class and in tutorials!

**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: There will be two short writing assignments. The first short assignment will be one page in length, and the second three pages 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 paper. 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.

### 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 and 15 respectively)	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. Please talk to the instructor or tutorial leader **before the due date** if you are having difficulties of any kind.

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, but of course you have two opportunities to write regardless. 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. Unfortunately, extensions for the final paper (of up to one week) require the approval of the Chair of Life Sciences and can be recommended only in the case of properly documented illness or other extreme adverse circumstances beyond the control of the student. Longer extensions require submission of a formal petition.

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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

***Psy C02 Fall 2006--Important Dates***

**Jan. 9: Tutorials meet in B469:** Conducted by Library and Writing Lab.

Jan. 16: First tutorial with group leaders (refer to web for group lists and classroom numbers).  
Introduction and discussion of possible topics for major writing assignment

Jan. 23: Last date for approval of empirical article for first short writing assignment.

Feb. 6: First short writing assignment due.  
Last date for approval of empirical article for presentation.

Feb 13: Outline of review article due.

Feb. 27: TEST of Term Paper Unit  
Second short writing assignment due.

Feb. 27, Mar. 6, 13, 20: Student presentations in tutorial period.

Mar 27: Second writing of TEST of Term Paper Unit.

Mar. 13: Draft of Review Article due.

Mar. 27: TEST of Research Report Unit.

Apr. 3: Final Review Article due.

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

## Psy C02 Winter 2006: Lecture Schedule

Monday		Wednesday	
Jan 9	Course Requirements Outline Instructions for review paper	11	What is science (Stanovich Ch1) Types of articles Writing a review article Using APA student workbook
Jan 16	Reading critically & carefully	18	Class exercise
23	Paragraphs	25	The Argument
30	Film	Feb 1	Film
Feb 6	Sentences & Punctuation	8	Writing an Outline; Abstracts
13	Ethics of Research & Writing	15	Citations & References
Feb 20-24 READING WEEK			
27	Term Paper Mastery Test	Mar 1	Stanovich Ch 2-3
Mar 6	Numbers & statistics; Tables & figures	Mar 8	Stanovich Chs 4-6
13	Test Re-Write	15	Stanovich Ch 7
20	Final Preparation of Manuscript for review paper	22	Stanovich Chs 8-9
27	Research Report Mastery Test	29	Stanovich Chs 10-11
Apr.3 Review of concepts in Stanovich			