

PSYC02H: SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION IN PSYCHOLOGY
FallSession, 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* (8th 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.

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 ¹	10
APA Style: Research Report Mastery Test ²	10
Short Writing Assignments (5 each)	20
Classroom Presentation	7.5
Tutorial Participation	2.5
Outline of review article ³	2
Draft of review article ⁴	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. In accordance with University regulations, term work will not be accepted after the last day of classes in the fall session (December 4).

¹ 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.

² Same as for Term Paper Mastery Test

³ Full 2 points will be awarded for a bona fide submission.

⁴ Full 3 points will be awarded for a bona fide submission