

SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION IN PSYCHOLOGY
PSYC02 LEC01 Winter 2008
Wed 12-2pm BV340

Instructor: Prof. Franca Placenza

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Office hours: Wed 2-4pm

TUTORIAL: Mon 3-5pm MW223, MW264, MW262, or HW408

This course deals with how we communicate in psychology. You will learn about the differences between scientific and non-scientific approaches to the study of behaviour, and their implications for communication. The focus of this course is on improving your 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.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- 1) American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- 2) Gelfand, H., & Walker, C.J. (2001). *Mastering APA Style: Student's Workbook and Training Guide* (5th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- 3) Stanovich, K. (2004). *How to Think Straight About Psychology* (8th ed.). Boston: Pearson.

ACCESSING COURSE MATERIALS

Course-related information including the course outline, lecture notes, and assigned readings will be provided on **Blackboard**. Blackboard is an on-line course management system much like the UTSC intranet. In order to access course materials on Blackboard, you must have an active UTORid. For help with activating your UTORid, please visit the Scarborough campus computing help desk (B-487). Each time you want to log on to the course site on Blackboard, you simply go to the University of Toronto homepage, and click on "**log-in to the portal**". Please note that all course-related material will be posted on Blackboard and not the UTSC intranet. It is, therefore, important that you figure out how to access the course materials on Blackboard at the beginning of the term.

COURSE COMPONENTS AND EVALUATION

APA Style: You will work toward mastery of APA style by doing the exercises and practice tests for the two units in "Mastering APA Style": 1) the Term Paper Unit and 2) the Research Report unit. A mastery test will be given for each unit and an opportunity will be given to re-write one or both tests. These tests will be written during tutorial times. Observation of style will also be a key criterion in evaluation of all written assignments.

In-Class Demand Writing Assignments: Over the course of the term, two writing assignments will be given during regular lecture time. The nature of each assignment will be described in advance and will involve a written response to a piece of text. The text, however, will not be provided in advance of the class scheduled for the assignment.

Major Writing Assignment: You will conduct a careful review of the primary literature on a topic of your choice. Possible topics will be selected from three distinct areas of research in psychology. The report will also include a critical analysis of the literature, and will be written in APA format in a maximum of 10 pages. More details on the assignment are presented in a supplementary handout.

Oral Presentation: Each of you will make a short 15-minute oral presentation in your tutorial. The presentations will focus on one of the empirical articles to be used in the major writing assignment and are to be presented within the framework of the topic selected for the literature review. More details on the assignment are given in a supplementary handout.

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 students wishing to attempt a second writing of the Research Report Mastery Test.

Breakdown of Evaluation

	(% of final grade)
APA style: Term Paper Mastery Test ¹	10
APA style: Research Report Mastery Test ¹	10
In-class demand writing assignment I	10
In-class demand writing assignment II	10
Oral presentation	10
Tutorial participation	5
Major writing assignment (see handout for breakdown)	25
Final examination	20

¹ "Items Correct" Score /10

- 26 or below 0/10
- 27-35 1 point per additional item correct
- 36 or more 10/10

If you choose to re-write either test, the higher of the two scores for that test will be counted toward your final grade.

POLICY ON MAKE-UPS AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

In-class Writing Assignments and Mastery Tests: Four components of the course evaluation will be completed during scheduled class times; two during regular lecture hours (in-class writing assignments) and two during tutorial hours (mastery tests). There will be **no make-up** for the mastery tests. If you miss either of the mastery tests, you may write the "re-write" test, with the score for that test counting toward your final grade.

If you miss either of the in-class writing assignments, you will have the opportunity to write a scheduled make-up writing assignment, provided that proper medical documentation is submitted to me within **one week** of the missed assignment. Late assignments will incur a deduction of **5% per day**. Assignments are considered late if they are received after 5pm on the due date. Late assignments will be accepted up until one week past the due date, after which they will no longer be accepted.

Oral Presentation: If proper medical documentation is provided, the presentation may be rescheduled, as class time permits. Such changes in scheduling will be carried out at the discretion of the tutorial leader.

Major Writing Assignment: Late papers will incur a deduction of 5% per day and will be accepted up until 5pm on Apr.3, which is the last day of classes for the winter 2008 term. In accordance with University regulations, no term work will be accepted after this date.

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DATES

In addition to the major dates and deadlines listed here, there are several smaller tasks you must complete in preparation for various tutorials (see Schedule of Tutorials below and listen for more specific instructions and reminders in tutorials). Also, you must pace yourself to complete the familiarization tests, exercises, and practice tests in advance of the Mastery Tests.

February 6	In-class demand writing assignment I (during lecture time)
February 11	Final draft of in-class writing assignment I due (submit in tutorial)
February 25	Term paper mastery test (during tutorial time) AND Outline for major writing assignment due (to be submitted in tutorial)
March 5	In-class writing assignment II (during lecture time)
March 3	Oral presentations (during tutorial time)
March 10	Final draft of in-class writing assignment II due (submit in tutorial) AND Oral presentations (during tutorial time)
March 17	Draft of major writing assignment due (submit in tutorial) AND Oral presentations (during tutorial time)
March 24	Term Paper Mastery Test re-take (optional; during tutorial time)
March 31	Research Paper Mastery Test (during tutorial time)
April 2	Final report of major writing assignment due (submit in class)

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES

January 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course introduction: Review of syllabus • What is "Scientific Communication in Psychology" all about? • Why learn APA?
January 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stanovich, Ch. 1 • Types of manuscripts; Content and organization of a manuscript
January 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports of empirical studies • How to choose a title
January 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop: Reading critically and evaluating research (with Dr. Nancy Johnston, Writing Clinic, UTSC)
February 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In-class writing assignment I</i> (1hour) • Literature reviews
February 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature reviews (continued) • Outlines
February 20	***** READING WEEK (NO CLASS) *****
February 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abstracts • Tips on giving effective oral presentations

March 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In-class writing assignment II</i> (1 hour)
March 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Figures and Tables • Ethics of research and writing; Plagiarism
March 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stanovich, Ch. 2, 3, 4, 5
March 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stanovich, Ch. 6, 7, 8, 9
April 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Film • Wrap-up • Hand in final version of major writing assignment (in class)

SCHEDULE OF TUTORIALS

January 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library workshop
January 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of major writing assignment and "Mastering APA" text
January 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be prepared to discuss topic choice for major writing assignment; bring a hard copy of a literature review that you have conducted (i.e., list of citations from the primary literature) • Scheduling of oral presentations
February 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring a copy of an empirical article for oral presentation (to be approved)
February 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand in final draft of in-class writing assignment I • Lecture on References and Citations
February 18	READING WEEK (NO TUTORIAL)
February 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Term Paper Mastery Test</i> (1 hour) • Hand in outline for major writing assignment
March 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral presentations
March 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral presentations • Hand in final draft of in-class writing assignment II
March 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral presentations • Hand in draft of major writing assignment
March 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Term Paper Mastery Test re-take</i> (optional)
March 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Research Report Mastery Test</i> (1 hour)
TBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Final Exam</i> (1.5 hours) • <i>Research Report Mastery Test re-take</i> (optional)