

SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION IN PSYCHOLOGY
PSYC02 LEC01 Summer 2008
Tuesdays 1 - 3 p.m. MW120

Instructor: Prof. Franca Placenza

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Office hours: Tuesdays 11a.m. – 1p.m.

TUTORIAL: Tuesdays 3 – 5 p.m. MW223 (T0001), MW140 (T0002)

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 APA style will also be a key criterion in evaluation of all written assignments.

In-Class 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 10-12 pages. More details on the assignment are presented in a supplementary handout.

Oral Presentation: You will give 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*	10
APA style: Research Report Mastery Test*	10
In-class writing assignment I	10
In-class writing assignment II	10
Oral presentation	10
Tutorial participation	5
Major writing assignment (see handout for breakdown)	25
Final examination	20

* "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.

IMPORTANT POLICIES

1. 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 noon on Aug. 1, which is the last day of classes for the summer 2008 term. In accordance with University regulations, no term work will be accepted after this date.

2. SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted as hard-copies, either in tutorial (*In-class writing assignment I, outline and draft for major writing assignment*) or in lecture (*Major writing assignment*). Emailed assignments will NOT be accepted. The only exception is *In-class writing assignment II*. The final draft of this assignment is due on Monday, June 30 (during reading week). This assignment should be emailed to me by 5pm on that day or earlier.

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.

June 3	In-class writing assignment I (during lecture)
June 10	Final draft of in-class writing assignment I due (submit in tutorial)
June 17	Outline for major writing assignment due (submit in tutorial) <u>AND</u> Term paper mastery test (during tutorial)
June 24	In-class writing assignment II (during lecture) <u>AND</u> Oral presentations (during tutorial)
June 30	Final draft of in-class writing assignment II due (submit to me by email)
July 8	Draft of major writing assignment due (submit in tutorial) <u>AND</u> Oral presentations (during tutorial)
July 15	Oral presentations (during tutorial)
July 22	Term Paper Mastery Test re-take (optional; during tutorial)
July 29	Final report of major writing assignment due (submit in lecture) Research Report Mastery Test (during tutorial)

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES

May 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course introduction: Review of syllabus • What is "Scientific Communication in Psychology" all about? • Why learn APA?
May 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of assignments and Mastering APA workbook • Types of manuscripts; Content and organization of a manuscript
May 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports of empirical studies
May 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading critically and evaluating research
June 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In-class writing assignment I</i> (1hour)

June 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature reviews • Outlines
June 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abstracts and How to choose a title • Tips on giving effective oral presentations
June 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In-class writing assignment II</i> (1 hour)
July 1	-- READING WEEK - NO CLASS --
July 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics of research and writing; Plagiarism
July 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Stanovich text, Ch. 1 - 9
July 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Film
July 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrap-up • Hand in final version of major writing assignment (in lecture)

SCHEDULE OF TUTORIALS

May 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No tutorial
May 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No tutorial
May 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library workshop
May 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of topic choice for major writing assignment with your TA; bring a hard copy of a literature review that you have conducted (i.e., list of citations from the primary literature)
June 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduling of oral presentations • Bring a copy of an empirical article for oral presentation (to be approved)
June 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture on References and Citations • Hand in final draft of in-class writing assignment I
June 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Term Paper Mastery Test</i> (1 hour) • Hand in outline for major writing assignment
June 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral presentations
July 1	----- READING WEEK (NO TUTORIAL) -----
July 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral presentations • Hand in draft of major writing assignment
July 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral presentations
July 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Term Paper Mastery Test re-take</i> (optional; 1 hour)
July 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Research Report Mastery Test</i> (1 hour)