

PSYCo2H: SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION IN PSYCHOLOGY

Winter 2013

Instructor Anna Nagy
Office Portable 0103, Room 123
Office Hours: Wednesdays from 2:30-3:30 pm and by appointment
E-mail: a.nagy@utoronto.ca

Required Books

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

Gelfand, H., & Walker, C.J. (2009). *Mastering APA Style* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Stanovich, K. (2009). *How to think straight about psychology* (9th ed.). Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

Introduction

Welcome to Psychology Co2! This is probably one of the most important courses that you will ever take. This course will teach you the fundamentals of critical thinking and scientific 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 PSYCo8H 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.

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 research review article (10 to 12 pages in length) 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: In their tutorials, students will make a short presentation of an empirical article. The empirical article should be one 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.

Midterms: Two midterm examinations (multiple choice and short answer) will be held in class during the term. The exams will cover the APA workbook material and lecture material.

Final Examination: A long-essay examination (2 hours) will be scheduled during the final exam period. This exam will incorporate lecture material and the Stanovich text.

Weighting of Evaluation Components

	Weight
Midterm #1--APA Style: Term Paper Mastery Test	10
Midterm #2--APA Style: Research Report Mastery Test	10
Short Writing Assignments (5 and 15 respectively)	20
Classroom Presentation	7.5
Tutorial Participation	2.5
Outline of review article	2
Draft of review article	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, or personal issues, 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.

Classroom Presentation. In the case of properly documented illness, the presentation may be rescheduled, as class time permits.

Term Paper. 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.

Psy Co2 Winter 2011--Important Dates**Week of:**

Jan 7th: No Tutorials

Week of Jan 14th: First tutorial with group leaders. Introduction and discussion of possible topics for major writing assignment

January 16th: Library workshop (see blackboard sign up sheet, room number, and further details)

Week of Jan 28th: Last day (during your tutorial) for approval of empirical article for first short writing assignment.

Week of Feb 4th: Last date for approval of empirical article for presentation.
Presentation dates to be scheduled in tutorial

February 13th: First short writing assignment due in class

Week of Feb 18th: READING WEEK – NO CLASS

Week of Feb 25th: Research review outline due in tutorial (Monday tutorial may make arrangements to submit electronically by Friday March 1)

Feb 27th: Midterm #1 (Term Paper Unit)

Week of March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1: Student presentations in tutorial period.

March 6th: Assignment #2 due in class

March 13th: Draft of Review Article due in class.

March 27th: Midterm #2 (Research Report Unit)

April 5th: Final Review Paper due.

During Final Exam Period (April 15th to April 30th): Final exam on Stanovich and lecture material.