PSYA90H3

WikiScholar

Summer 2013

Wednesdays 10am – 12pm, SW316

Contact Information

Instructor: Rob Walker

Office: SW417

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Office Hours: By appointment (arrange via email or phone)

Course Description & Objectives

Becoming a professional researcher entails that you acquire and master many skills. Most importantly, you must be able to perform independent research and literature reviews, identify important information and questions, write proficiently about these issues, and ultimately present your findings to your peers as well as to the general public. WikiScholar is a tutorial-style course designed to help you develop these skills by working with experts in the various areas of Psychology and publishing your results to Wikipedia.

As Wikipedia increasingly becomes the go-to location for many topics, this course will allow you to take on the role of both student and educator, working collaboratively with students and TAs to examine, enhance, and create Wikipedia articles related to Psychology. Topics covered in this course include Cognitive Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Social Psychology, and Neuropsychology.

Course Requirements

1. Weekly attendance and participation (20%)
2. 8 short assignments (5% each – 30% total)
3. Presentations (20%)
4. Final Paper (30%)

1) Weekly attendance and participation (20%)

WikiScholar is a tutorial-style course and, as such, your attendance is mandatory. Most weeks you prepare a short written assignment (see below) and you must be ready to present it to your supervising TA, your group, and the class as a whole. You must also be ready to engage in class discussions and provide other students with feedback. In short, you are expected to be not only physically present in class but also mentally present and engaged.

2) 8 Short assignments (5% each – 30% total)

Each week you will select a Psychology-related article on Wikipedia and conduct a literature review of peer-reviewed articles in the UofT library. Your goal is to identify missing or inaccurate information on the Wikipedia article and to write a short paper that presents the information. Papers should be no more than one double-spaced page with 12pt Times New Roman font and 1 inch (2.54cm) margins. You are to bring a hard copy of the paper to class and submit it at the end of class along with a reference list in APA format. During class, you will present your assignment to your supervising TA and fellow group members who will provide you feedback. Once you and your group feel the paper is ready, you will post the information to the appropriate Wikipedia article along with a brief description of your changes on the article's "Talk" page. Only the best 6 of 8 assignments will count towards your final grade.

3) Presentations (20%)

You will present your research for the final paper (see below) to the class. Presentations should include PowerPoint or Keynote slides and will be 15 minutes long with 5-10 minutes for questions afterwards. You should include a general introduction to the topic and a description of what you have found through your literature review. When not presenting, you will provide feedback to the presenter in the form of questions, comments, and evaluation forms (I will provide these on the day of presentations).

4) Final Paper (30%)

Your final paper for this course will be a complete Wikipedia article. Your goal is to present a general overview of a specific topic in Psychology and publish this overview as a Wikipedia article. Papers should be no more than 10 double-spaced pages with 12pt Times New Roman font and 1 inch (2.54cm) margins. The paper is due by midnight on August 7th and should be submitted in PDF from to me via email.

Important Dates

Week 1 – May 8th
  • Course Introduction & Topic Selections

Week 2 – May 15th
  • Introduction to Wikipedia & Editing
  • Topic 1 - Assignment 1 Due

Week 3 – May 22nd
  • Topic 1 – Assignment 2 Due

Week 4 – May 29th
  • Topic 2 – Assignment 1 Due

Week 5 – June 5th
  • Topic 2 – Assignment 2 Due

Week 6 – June 12th
  • Topic 3 – Assignment 1 Due

Week 7 – June 19th
  • Reading Week - No class

Week 8 – June 26th
  • Topic 3 – Assignment 2 Due

Week 9 – July 3rd
  • Topic 4 – Assignment 1 Due

Week 10 – July 10th
  • Topic 4 – Assignment 2 Due

Week 11 – July 17th
  • Final Paper and Presentation Preparation

Week 12 – July 24th
  • Presentations 1

Week 13 – July 31st
  • Presentations 2

Week 14 – August 7th
  • Final Papers Due (No class)