

SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION IN PSYCHOLOGY (PSYC02H3 S LEC02)

Winter 2015 Course Syllabus

Instructor: Jessica Dere, Ph.D., C. Psych.

Class Time and Location: Wednesdays, 1:00 - 3:00pm, in BV-264

Office Hours and Location: Wednesdays, 10:00 - 11:00am and 3:00 - 4:00pm, in SW-521

Email: jdere@utsc.utoronto.ca

Office Phone: (416) 208-2999

Required Textbooks:

1. American Psychological Association (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.
2. American Psychological Association (2009). *Mastering APA style: Student's workbook and training guide* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

Prerequisites: PSYB01H3 & [PSYB07H3 or (SOCB06H3) or STAB22H3]

Corequisite: PSYC08H3

Additional Material: Additional readings and/or other course material may be placed on the Blackboard course page over the course of the semester, and will be announced in class or tutorial.

*** Please note: Course announcements will be made through Blackboard. Students are responsible for monitoring the course website regularly for important announcements and updates. Class emails will also be sent through Blackboard; please make sure your listed email address is correct. ***

Tutorials and Teaching Assistants:

~~Tutorial 4 (Fridays @ 10:00am-12:00pm in BV359)~~

Teaching Assistant: Nathaniel Brown

Email: nat.brown@mail.utoronto.ca

~~Tutorial 5 (Fridays @ 10:00am-12:00pm in AC332)~~

Teaching Assistant: Adam Frost

Email: adam.frost@mail.utoronto.ca

~~Tutorial 6 (Fridays @ 10:00am-12:00pm in BV363)~~

Teaching Assistant: Matthew Quitasol

Email: matthew.quitasol@gmail.com

Please note: Attendance at tutorials is mandatory.

Course description: The purpose of this course is to demonstrate how we communicate in psychology and why. 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.

Learning objectives: At the conclusion of the course, students should be able to ...

1. Format written work according to guidelines described in the 6th Edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association;
2. Systematically search for scholarly articles using major research databases;
3. Critically evaluate the presentation of scientific information in the media, and the effective communication of information by psychologists;
4. Compare and contrast reports of psychological research from the popular press vis-à-vis original research reports; and
5. Summarize and synthesize scientific information on a given topic in psychology, and present this information clearly and concisely.

Class structure

This course will consist of weekly class sessions and weekly tutorials. Class sessions will largely be lecture-based, in order to introduce the weekly topic (as listed below). However, lectures will be supplemented with videos and other methods to help illustrate course material, and class discussion will be encouraged throughout. Weekly tutorials led by teaching assistants will complement lecture topics by providing hands-on practice and skill development, as well as support for the completion of assignments.

Important class dates:

January 28: Assignment due on Blackboard, by 11:59pm EST

February 25: In-class test #1

March 13: Presentations begin in tutorials

March 25: In-class test #2

April 6: Term paper due.

~~* Final tutorial will be held on Monday, April 6, 2015 due to Good Friday holiday.
Details to be discussed with T.A.~~

Lecture schedule and required readings

Week	Date	Topic	Required Readings
1	January 7	Writing for the Behavioral and Social Sciences	<i>APA Publication Manual (6th Edition): Chapter 1</i> <i>Mastering APA Style: Student's Workbook: Chapters 1 and 2</i>
2	January 14	Manuscript Structure and Content	<i>APA Publication Manual (6th Edition): Chapter 2 and Appendix: Journal Article Reporting Standards (pp. 245-253)</i>
3	January 21	Writing Clearly and Concisely	<i>APA Publication Manual (6th Edition): Chapter 3</i>
4	January 28	The Mechanics of Style	<i>APA Publication Manual (6th Edition): Chapter 4</i>
5	February 4	Displaying Results	<i>APA Publication Manual (6th Edition): Chapter 5</i>
6	February 11	Crediting Sources	<i>APA Publication Manual (6th Edition): Chapter 6</i>
READING WEEK			
7	February 25	In-class Test #1: APA Publication Manual, Chapters 1-5 and Appendix (pp. 245-253), and Student Workbook (pp. 1-83, and 174-191)	
8	March 4	References	<i>APA Publication Manual (6th Edition): Chapter 7</i>
9	March 11	Scientific Communication of Psychology Research in the Popular Press	<i>Canadian Psychological Association's Guide for Psychologists Working with the Media:</i> http://www.cpa.ca/cpasite/UserFiles/Documents/publications/Working_with_the_Media.pdf
10	March 18	The Publication Process	<i>APA Publication Manual (6th Edition): Chapter 8</i>
11	March 25	In-class Test #2: APA Publication Manual, Chapters 6-8, Student Workbook (pp. 84-101), and CPA Guide for Psychologists Working with the Media	
12	April 1	Special Topics	

Please note: The class schedule is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Tutorial schedule and required readings

Week	Date	Topic	Required Readings
1	January 9	First week of class – No tutorial	
2	January 16	Library workshop – during tutorial time, location to be announced	
3	January 23	Manuscript Structure and Content Writing Clearly and Concisely	<i>Mastering APA Style: Student's Workbook: Selected Learning and Integrative Exercises from pp. 32-57</i>
4	January 30	The Mechanics of Style <i>Note: Presentation dates will be assigned during this tutorial</i>	<i>Mastering APA Style: Student's Workbook: Selected Learning and Integrative Exercises, from pp. 58-83</i>
5	February 6	Displaying Results	<i>Mastering APA Style: Student's Workbook: Selected Learning and Integrative Exercises, pp. 174-191</i>
6	February 13	Review session for in-class test #1	
READING WEEK			
7	February 27	Crediting Sources	<i>Mastering APA Style: Student's Workbook: Selected Learning and Integrative Exercises, from pp. 84-93</i>
8	March 6	References	<i>Mastering APA Style: Student's Workbook: Selected Learning and Integrative Exercises, from pp. 94-101</i>
9	March 13	Student Presentations	
10	March 20	Student Presentations	
11	March 27	Student Presentations	
12	* Monday, April 6	Special Topics	

Please note: The tutorial schedule is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Evaluation

- Assignment: 10%
- ~~—Presentation in tutorial: 10%~~
- Participation ~~in tutorial~~ on Blackboard: 10%
- In-class test #1: 20%
- In-class test #2: ~~20~~ 25%
- Term paper: ~~30~~ 35%

Please note that there are no opportunities for extra credit to improve your grade at any time during this course or after the course is over.

Assignment (10%): Students must find a popular press news story that reports on a recent research study in the psychological literature. The story must be from an English-language newspaper, and must have been published in the past two years (i.e., after January 1st, 2013). Students must then find the original academic research article that is discussed in the popular press story, as well as five additional empirical articles on the same research topic. The assignment will consist of a properly formatted reference list containing these seven citations. Further details regarding this assignment will be provided in class and on Blackboard.

- Due date: January 28th, 2015, by 11:59pm EST. The assignment will be submitted electronically through Blackboard. No email or paper submissions will be accepted.

~~**Presentation (10%):** Students will present a 15-minute presentation during the tutorial that summarizes the original article and five additional empirical articles selected in the first assignment. The purpose of this assignment is for students to learn how to present research clearly and concisely with the effective use of visual aids (i.e., presentation slides). Further details will be discussed in tutorial.~~

- ~~• Dates: March 13th, 20th, or 27th, 2015.~~

Participation (10%): Students will be evaluated based on postings made on the course's Blackboard "Discussion Board". To earn participation marks, students must make five postings that include any combination of questions and/or responses pertaining to material for Test #2. The contents of the postings will not be marked.

- Due date: Postings must be made by 11:59pm EST on April 1, 2015. Postings must then be copied into a Word document and submitted via Blackboard. Include your name and student ID number at the top of the document. This is due by 11:59pm on April 6, 2015 (last day of classes).

In-class test #1 (20%): The first test will cover the APA Publication Manual, 6th Edition (Chapters 1—5, and Appendix, pp. 245-253) and Student's Workbook (pp. 1-83, and 174-191). The test will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions.

- Date: February 25th, 2015.

In-class test #2 (25%): The second test will cover the APA Publication Manual, 6th Edition (Chapters 6—8), and Student’s Workbook (pp. 84-101), and CPA Guide for Psychologists Working with the Media. The test will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions.

- Date: March 25th, 2015.

Term Paper (35%): The term paper will consist of a critical analysis of the popular press story selected in the first assignment, as well as a literature review integrating the empirical articles selected in the first assignment. The paper will be 8 pages long, not including the title page or reference page(s). Further details regarding the term paper will be provided in class and on Blackboard.

- Due date: April 6th, 2015, by 11:59pm EST. The term paper will be submitted electronically through Turnitin.com. No email or paper submissions will be accepted.
- Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.
- Steps for you to set up your own Turnitin.com account and submit papers are described on this web site:
<http://www.teaching.utoronto.ca/teaching/academicintegrity/turnitin/guide-students.htm>
- To submit the term paper, students will need the **Class ID (9245951)** and **Enrolment Password (apastyle)**.

Policies for Assignments and Examinations in this Course

Please Note: You must bring **photo identification** with you to each examination or you will not be permitted to write the examination.

Missed in-class test: A make-up test will be held approximately one week following the date of the original test. Students will be permitted to take the make-up test only if they were absent on the date of the test due to a verified illness, a serious family emergency (e.g., death of a close family member), or religious observances. For absences due to illness, students must provide a valid and complete **Verification of Student Illness or Injury** form. The form must indicate: (a) that the student sought medical attention on the day of the test; (b) the nature/timeline of the student's problem and the diagnostic tests that were performed; and (c) how the problem prevented the student from writing the test. Students who miss the test must submit their documentation within five business days of the test date either to Dr. Dere (SW521) or to the Department of Psychology's Administrative Assistant, Annie Kostadinova (SW427F). Students will then be informed whether or not their documents have been accepted. Students whose documents are not accepted, who do not contact Dr. Dere within five business days of the test, or who do not appear for the make-up test, will receive a grade of zero on the test.

Late submission of assignments: Unless you have legitimate documentation for a late assignment, 10% of the total value of the assignment will be deducted for each day that it is late. An assignment is considered late as soon as the due date and time passes (i.e., one minute past 11:59 EST), so you are strongly encouraged to submit your assignments early in order to avoid any technical delays. Difficulties with the Blackboard portal will not be accepted as a legitimate reason for a late assignment. If you have legitimate documentation to explain your late assignment (e.g., a valid and complete **Verification of Student Illness or Injury** form), you must contact Dr. Dere as soon as possible to discuss your situation and to establish a new deadline for your assignment.

The form for medical documentation can be found at the following link:

http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~registrar/resources/pdf_general/UTSCmedicalcertificate.pdf

Missed Presentations: Students who are absent on their assigned presentation date without legitimate documentation will receive a mark of zero for their presentation. If you have legitimate documentation to explain your inability to present on your assigned date, you must contact Dr. Dere and your assigned teaching assistant within five business days of the missed presentation (ideally, before your presentation date) to discuss alternative arrangements.

Grading: Any complaint about grading on an assignment, test or presentation should be made in writing to your teaching assistant within one week of receiving the graded material or as soon as is reasonably possible and should detail the point of contention.

Rights and Responsibilities

Copyright in Instructional Settings:

If a student wishes to tape-record, photograph, video-record or otherwise reproduce lectures, course notes/slides, or other similar materials provided by instructors, he or she must obtain the instructor's written consent beforehand. Without consent, all such reproduction is an infringement of copyright and is absolutely prohibited. In the case of private use by students with disabilities, the instructor's consent will not be unreasonably withheld.

Accessibility:

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the AccessAbility Services Office as soon as possible. I will work with you and AccessAbility Services to ensure you can achieve your learning goals in this course. Enquiries are confidential. The UTSC AccessAbility Services staff (located in S302) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations (416) 287-7560 or ability@utsc.utoronto.ca.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

On tests and exams:

- Using or possessing unauthorized aids.
- Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test.
- Misrepresenting your identity.

In academic work:

- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources (see <http://www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/>).

Some important dates for Winter 2015 semester (from UTSC Course Calendar):

January 18: Last day to add S courses (on ROSI only)

February 16: Last day to drop Y courses (on ROSI only) without academic penalty and have them removed from the transcript

February 16: Family Day Holiday (University closed)

February 17 - 21: Reading Week

March 22: Last day to drop S courses without academic penalty and have them removed from the transcript (on ROSI only)

April 3: Good Friday – University closed

April 6: UTSC Friday: Last day of classes and last day for submission of term assignments in S and Y courses that normally meet on a Friday.

April 7 - April 9: Study Break

April 9: Last day to drop UTSC S and Y courses (on eService only) and have them remain on the transcript with a grade of LWD indicating withdrawal without academic penalty. After this date grades are assigned whether or not course work is completed (with a '0' assigned for Incomplete work) and they are calculated into GPAs.

April 10 - 25: Final examination period

Grade Scale

NUMERICAL MARKS	LETTER GRADE	GRADE POINT VALUE
90 - 100%	A+	4.0
85 - 89%	A	4.0
80 - 84%	A-	3.7
77 - 79%	B+	3.3
73 - 76%	B	3.0
70 - 72%	B-	2.7
67 - 69%	C+	2.3
63 - 66%	C	2.0
60 - 62%	C-	1.7
57 - 59%	D+	1.3
53 - 56%	D	1.0
50 - 52%	D-	0.7
0 - 49%	F	0.0