

**SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION IN PSYCHOLOGY (PSYC02H3 S LEC01)**

Course Syllabus – Winter 2015

**Instructor:** Anthony C. Ruocco, Ph.D., C.Psych

**Class Time and Location:** Wednesdays @ 11:00am-1:00pm in Social Sciences Building (MW), Room 140

**Office Hours and Location:** Tuesdays @ 11:00am-1:00pm in Science Wing, Room 513

**Email:** [anthony.ruocco@utoronto.ca](mailto:anthony.ruocco@utoronto.ca)

**Office Phone:** (416) 208-2762

**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 generally be made through Blackboard. Please monitor 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 1 (Mondays @ 3:00-5:00pm in AA204)~~**

Teaching Assistant: Leanh Dinh-Williams

Email: [leanh.dinh.williams@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:leanh.dinh.williams@mail.utoronto.ca)

**~~Tutorial 2 (Mondays @ 3:00-5:00pm in AA206)~~**

Teaching Assistant: Dean Carcone

Email: [dean.carcone@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:dean.carcone@mail.utoronto.ca)

**~~Tutorial 3 (Mondays @ 3:00-5:00pm in BV361)~~**

Teaching Assistant: Zoe Francis

Email: [zoelynnfrancis@gmail.com](mailto:zoelynnfrancis@gmail.com)

***Please note: Attendance at tutorials is mandatory.***

**Course Description and Objectives:**

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.

By the end of this course, students should be able to do the following:

1. Format written work according to guidelines described in the 6<sup>th</sup> 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 popular press articles 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.

**Course 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

**Lecture Schedule and Required Readings**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Required Readings</b>
1	January 7	Writing for the Behavioral and Social Sciences	<i>APA Publication Manual (6<sup>th</sup> 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 (6<sup>th</sup> Edition): Chapter 2 and Appendix: Journal Article Reporting Standards (pp. 245-253)</i>
3	January 21	Writing Clearly and Concisely	<i>APA Publication Manual (6<sup>th</sup> Edition): Chapter 3</i>
4	January 28	The Mechanics of Style	<i>APA Publication Manual (6<sup>th</sup> Edition): Chapter 4</i>
5	February 4	Displaying Results	<i>APA Publication Manual (6<sup>th</sup> Edition): Chapter 5</i>
6	February 11	Crediting Sources	<i>APA Publication Manual (6<sup>th</sup> Edition): Chapter 6</i>
READING WEEK			
7	February 25	<b>In-class Test #1:</b> 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 (6<sup>th</sup> 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> <a href="http://www.cpa.ca/cpsite/UserFiles/Documents/publications/Working_with_the_Media.pdf">http://www.cpa.ca/cpsite/UserFiles/Documents/publications/Working_with_the_Media.pdf</a>
10	March 18	The Publication Process	<i>APA Publication Manual (6<sup>th</sup> Edition): Chapter 8</i>
11	March 25	<b>In-class Test #2:</b> 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 5	First week of class – No tutorial	
2	January 12	Library workshop – during tutorial time in BV498	
3	January 19	Manuscript Structure and Content <b>Note: Presentation dates will be assigned during this tutorial.</b>	<i>Mastering APA Style: Student’s Workbook: Chapters 1 and 2; and Selected Learning and Integrative Exercises, from “Parts of a Manuscript” (pp. 32-37)</i>
4	January 26	Writing Clearly and Concisely	<i>Mastering APA Style: Student’s Workbook: Selected Learning and Integrative Exercises, from “Headings and Series” (pp. 38-41); “Guidelines to Reduce Bias in Language” (pp. 42-47); and “Grammar” (pp. 48-57)</i>
5	February 2	The Mechanics of Style	<i>Mastering APA Style: Student’s Workbook: Selected Learning and Integrative Exercises, from “Punctuation” (pp. 58-69); “Spelling and Hyphenation” (pp.70-73); “Capitalization” (pp.74-77); “Italics” (pp.78-79); and “Abbreviations” (pp. 80-83)</i>
6	February 9	Displaying Results	<i>Mastering APA Style: Student’s Workbook: Selected Learning and Integrative Exercises from “Tables” (pp.174-191)</i>
READING WEEK			
7	February 23	Review session for in-class test #1	<i>Mastering APA Style: Student’s Workbook: Selected Learning and Integrative Exercises, from pp. 84-93</i>

8	March 2	Crediting Sources	<i>Mastering APA Style: Student's Workbook: Selected Learning and Integrative Exercises, from "Quotations" (pp.84-87) and "Reference Citations in Text" (pp. 88-93)</i>
9	March 9	References	<i>Mastering APA Style: Student's Workbook: Selected Learning and Integrative Exercises from "Reference Lists" (pp. 94-101)</i>
10	March 16	<del>Student Presentations</del>	
11	March 23	<del>Student Presentations</del>	
12	March 30	<del>Student Presentations</del>	

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

### Course Evaluations:

10%	Participation ( <del>in tutorial</del> on Blackboard)
<del>10%</del>	<del>Presentation (in tutorial)</del>
10%	Assignment
20%	Test #1
<del>25</del> 0%	Test #2
<del>35</del> 0%	Term Paper

**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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 located 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 16, 23, or 30.~~

**Term Paper (350%):** 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 6<sup>th</sup>, 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 your term paper, students will need the **Class ID (9237849)** and **Enrolment Password (apastyle)**.

**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. their tutorial attendance, participation in tutorial discussions, and engagement with skill exercises (5%). Furthermore, during student presentation weeks, students must formulate one discussion question each for five other student presentations (5%). The discussion questions must include presentations from each of the three weeks of presentations.

- 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). The five discussion questions will be submitted to the teaching assistant in hard copy during the final tutorial session, using the Discussion Questions Form that will be provided.

**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 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

**In-class test #2 (250%):** 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 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

### **Policies for Assignments, Tests and Presentations in this Course**

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

**Missed in-class tests:** 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 observance. 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. Ruocco (SW513) 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. Ruocco 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. Ruocco 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](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. Ruocco 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.

### **Video and Auditory Recording**

For reasons of privacy as well as protection of copyright, unauthorized video or audio recording in classrooms is prohibited. This is outlined in the Provost's guidelines on *Appropriate Use of Information and Communication Technology*. Note, however, that these guidelines include the provision that students may obtain consent to record lectures and, "in the case of private use by students with disabilities, the instructor's consent must 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](mailto: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 Spring 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