

PSYCo2H: SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION IN PSYCHOLOGY

Summer 2017

Tuesdays 1300-1500 MW120

Instructor Anna Nagy
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Office Hours: Tuesdays from 1700-1800 hrs and by appointment
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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. (2013). *How to think straight about psychology* (10th ed.). Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

Introduction

Welcome to Psychology Co2! This course will teach the fundamentals of critical thinking and scientific communication in Psychology, which are skills that may be applied in a variety of settings. Most of the meetings will be workshop style, where discussion and questions are encouraged, both in class and in tutorials.

The course deals with how and why we communicate in psychology. The differences between scientific and non-scientific approaches to behaviour are stressed, and their implications for communication are explored. The focus is on improving the ability to obtain and organize information, and to articulate 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 a one page summary of an empirical article; and, the second assignment, a two page argumentative thought paper/critical analysis of a media article or video. For the second assignment, you must incorporate evidence from at least two peer reviewed academic articles, and present a logical informed opinion.

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 paper (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 tutorial, students will present research findings from an empirical article. The 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.

Debate and Mock Trial: As a class, we will choose two debatable topics (relevant to current events, and psychology) that we will examine critically. The goal is to practice constructing and developing evidence based perspectives, and to engage in meaningful debate using sound logic and reasoning. There is an opportunity to earn up to 4 bonus percent in the course (above your final grade).

The first exercise will be an actual debate, and will take place on
Full participation in the debate (attendance at preparation class, participation in debate, and submission of a relevant peer reviewed article and summary (short point-form notes of your contribution to the discussion)) will earn you up to 2% bonus marks in the course (i.e. up to +2% on your final grade).

The second exercise will be a mock trial, and will take place on
Full participation in the trial (attendance at preparation class, participation in trial, and submission of a relevant peer reviewed article and summary (short point-form notes of your contribution to the discussion)) will earn you up to 2% bonus marks in the course (i.e. up to +2% on your final grade).

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 Assignment 1	5
Short Writing Assignment 2	15
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

Psy Co2 Summer 2015--Important Dates**Week of:**

May 2: No Tutorials

May 9th: First tutorial with group leaders. Introduction and discussion of possible topics for major writing assignment

May 16^h (tentative): Library workshop

May 23: Last day (during your tutorial) for approval of empirical article for first short writing assignment

June 6: First short writing assignment due in tutorial
Last date for approval of empirical article for presentation.
Presentation dates to be scheduled in tutorial

Week of June 13-17 : READING WEEK – NO CLASS

June 20: Midterm #1 (Term Paper Unit)
Outline of research review paper due

June 27th: Assignment #2 due in class

July 4: debate

July 11th: Draft of Review Article due in tutorial.

July 18th: Midterm #2 (Research Report Unit)

July 25: Mock Trial

July 31: Final Review Paper due.

During Final Exam Period (August 8-19th): Final exam.

June 27, July 4, July 11, July 18, July 25: Student presentations in tutorial period.

Psychology Department Policies

Psychology Missed Term Work due to Medical Illness or Emergency Policy:

All students citing a documented reason for missed term work must bring their documentation to the Psychology Course Coordinator, Ainsley Lawson, **within three (3) business days** of the assignment due date.

**** All requests must be accompanied by the [Request for Missed Term Work form](http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW) **** (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>)

In the case of missed term work due to **illness**, only an **original copy** of the official [UTSC Verification of Illness Form](http://uoft.me/UTSC-Verification-Of-Illness-Form) will be accepted (<http://uoft.me/UTSC-Verification-Of-Illness-Form>). Forms are to be **completed in full**, clearly indicating the start date, anticipated end date, and severity of illness. The physician's registration number and business stamp are required.

In the case of **medical emergency**, an original copy of the record of visitation to a hospital emergency room should be provided.

In the case of a **death of a family member**, a copy of a death certificate should be provided.

In the case of a **disability-related** concern, an email communication should be sent directly to the Course Coordinator (psychology-undergraduate@utsc.utoronto.ca) from your Disability Consultant at AccessAbility Services. The course instructor should also be copied.

For U of T **Varsity athletic commitments**, an email communication should be sent directly to the Course Coordinator (psychology-undergraduate@utsc.utoronto.ca) from a coach or varsity administrator should be submitted, **in advance** of the missed work.

Documents covering the following situations are **NOT acceptable**: medical prescriptions, anything related to personal travel, weddings/personal/work commitments.

Your [request form](#) and [medical](#)/other documents must be submitted in person **within 3 business days** of the missed test or assignment. Forms should be submitted to **SW427C between 9 AM - 4 PM**, Monday through Friday. You will receive an email response from the Course Instructor / Course Coordinator detailing the accommodations to be made (if any). You are responsible for checking your official U of T email daily, as accommodations may be time-critical. The Course Instructor reserves the right to decide what accommodations (if any) will be made for the missed work.

Note that this policy applies only to missed term work (assignments and midterms). Missed final exams are handled by the Registrar's Office (<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/registrar/missing-examination>)

Failure to adhere to any aspect of this policy may result in a denial of your request for accommodation.

AccessAbility statement:

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 as soon as possible.

AccessAbility Services staff (located in Rm SW302, Science Wing) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations [416-287-7560](tel:416-287-7560) or email ability@utsc.utoronto.ca. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Turnitin

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.

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/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/ppjun011995.pdf>) 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; and
- When you knew or ought to have known you were doing it.

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; and
- When you knew or ought to have known you were doing so.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If students have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, they are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from their instructors or from other institutional resources.

Note:

You may see advertisements for services offering grammar help, essay editing and proof-reading. Be very careful. If these services take a draft of your work and significantly change the content and/or language, you may be committing an academic offence (unauthorized assistance) under the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*.

It is much better and safer to take your draft to the Writing Centre as early as you can. They will give you guidance you can trust. Students for whom English is not their first language should go to the English Language Development Centre.

If you decide to use these services in spite of this caution, you must keep a draft of your work and any notes you made before you got help and be prepared to give it to your instructor on request.

