

PSYO380A 001

Scientific Communication

Summer 2020, Term 2

University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus

Mondays/Thursdays, 1pm – 4:30pm

EME 1202

Instructor: Maya Pilin, M.A. (mayapilin@alumni.ubc.ca)

Office Hours: Mondays & Thursdays, 10:30 – 11:30am

Office Location: ART 280H

Overview: In this course, you will learn the basic modes of scientific communication that will allow you to successfully communicate findings within psychological science. You will learn to do so by practicing writing for various formats. Classes will include lectures explaining the expectations and goals of various formats (i.e. what information needs to be included on a poster presentation?) as well as in-class practice activities.

Course Description: Theory and practice in using abstracts, posters, articles, presentations, and other modes of communication to disseminate research findings.

Detailed Course Description and Objectives: After completing this course, my goal is that you be more comfortable in communicating your scientific findings in a variety of ways. In order to learn how to do this, we will focus on two main objectives:

1. Micro-Writing: Learning the basics of grammar, sentence structure, and APA style, and how to craft clear sentences and paragraphs for scientific communication.
2. Macro-Communication: Learning the structure and components of several modes of scientific communication, including presentations, literature reviews, and articles.

Required Readings: You are not required to buy a textbook for this course. It may be useful to purchase a copy of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th Edition) (ISBN: 978-1433832161). However, you will not be completing any readings from this book and the majority of information it covers can be accessed for free online.

Course Requirements:

Below are the course requirements on which you will be evaluated:

Mini In-Class Assignments	30%
Midterm	15%
In-Class Peer Review	20%
TED Talks	15%
Final Assignment: Helping Dr. Pitt	20%

Mini In-Class Assignments: You will be asked to complete a total of 9 in-class assignments. You may choose 8 of these assignments to be marked and one to be excluded from your final grade. If you miss a class, any in-class assignment missed that day will be counted towards your one exclusion. The in-class assignments will be short and will involve practicing writing in various formats or short grammar exercises. For example, you may be asked to write a 100-word abstract. Assignments are to be handed in at the end of class. The writing assignments will be marked on a rubric and the grammar assignments will be marked using a grading key.

Midterm: The midterm will test your knowledge of writing concepts covered in the micro-writing lectures. You will complete it during half of one class (90-minutes). The midterm may include multiple choice questions, grammatical exercises, and fill-in-the-blank questions, among others. The midterm will be focused on Week 1 of the course (Grammar, Punctuation, & APA Style: Lecture 1 and 2)

In-Class Peer Review: You will be asked to work with your peers and review their writing. You will be given a 'Pass/Fail' on the peer reviews but you will not be graded. In order to achieve full marks, you must complete 3 out of the 4 peer reviews. When completing the peer review, you will be asked to read a classmate's written work and provide feedback using a peer review template provided in class.

TED Talks: An important part of scientific communication is the ability to clearly present your research findings through an oral presentation. As part of your final grade, you will be asked to do a 5-minute presentation on a topic of your choice. You will not be graded on your knowledge of the topic; the rubric will focus strictly on your presentation skills as well as your presentation slides. You will be asked to hand in your slides as part of your assignment.

Helping Dr. Pitt: To test the writing skills you have acquired throughout the course you will be asked to hand in a final paper. The paper may take one of two forms: writing a press release & newspaper articles (based on the knowledge you have acquired in the Science & The Media lecture) or writing a brief report (based on the knowledge you have acquired in the Academic Publishing lecture and the Scientific Papers lecture).

UBC Grading Scale

Final grades will be calculated according to the Summary of Assessments table presented above.

Please note the following from the Academic Calendar:

Faculties, departments, and schools reserve the right to scale grades in order to maintain equity among sections and conformity to University, faculty, department, or school norms. Students should therefore note that an unofficial grade given by an instructor might be changed by the faculty, department, or school. Grades are not official until they appear on a student's academic record.

90 – 100 = A+

85 – 89 = A

80 – 84 = A -

76 – 79 =	B+
72 – 75 =	B
68 – 71 =	B -
64 – 67 =	C+
60 – 63 =	C
55 – 59 =	C -
50 – 54 =	D
00 – 49 =	F

Course Grading Policies: Cheating will not be tolerated. Cheating involves submitting work that is not a product of your own effort. Some examples of cheating are; copying from others, crib notes, and plagiarism. Plagiarism is misrepresenting the ideas or words of another as your own, or copying word-for-word from any source (even if you cite the source and/or change some of the words around). According to university policies depending on the seriousness of the offense, cheating will be punishable by either reduced points on the assignment, zero points for the assignment, or an “F” in the course. Further details about cheating are available at <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/okanagan/?tree=3,54,111,959> which is also appended below along with some additional information on avoiding plagiarism.

Reasonable accommodations are available when approved through the disability Resource Centre <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/okanagan/index.cfm?tree=3,293,867,0>. Please notify me by the end of the first week of class if you require any accommodations. Late notification may delay the requested accommodations.

UBC Okanagan Equity and Inclusion Office

UBC Okanagan is a place where every student, staff and faculty member should be able to study and work in an environment that is free from discrimination and harassment. UBC prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of the following grounds: age, ancestry, colour, family status, marital status, physical or mental disability, place of origin, political belief, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or unrelated criminal conviction. If you require assistance related to an issue of equity, discrimination or harassment, please contact the Equity and Inclusion Office.

UNC 227C 250.807.9291

email: equity.ubco@ubc.ca

Web: www.ubc.ca/okanagan/equity

Final Examinations

The examination period for Term X of Summer 201X is XXXX. Except in the case of examination clashes and hardships (three or more formal examinations scheduled within a 24-hour period) or unforeseen events, students will be permitted to apply for out-of-time final examinations only if they are representing the University, the province, or the country in a competition or performance; serving in the Canadian military; observing a religious rite; working to support themselves or their family; or caring for a family member. Unforeseen events include (but may not be limited to) the following: ill health or other personal challenges that arise during a term and changes in the requirements of an ongoing job.

Further information on Academic Concession can be found under Policies and Regulation in the *Okanagan Academic Calendar* <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/okanagan/index.cfm?tree=3,48,0,0>

Academic Integrity

The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work. Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) lead to the breakdown of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise and harsh sanctions are imposed. For example, incidences of plagiarism or cheating may result in a mark of zero on the assignment or exam and more serious consequences may apply if the matter is referred to the President's Advisory Committee on Student Discipline. Careful records are kept in order to monitor and prevent recurrences.

A more detailed description of academic integrity, including the University's policies and procedures, may be found in the Academic Calendar at

<http://okanagan.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,0>.

UBC Okanagan Disability Resource Centre

The Disability Resource Centre ensures educational equity for students with disabilities, injuries or illness. If you are disabled, have an injury or illness and require academic accommodations to meet the course objectives, please contact Earllene Roberts, the Diversity Advisor for the Disability Resource Centre located in Commons Corner in the University Centre building (UNC 227).

UNC 227A 250.807.9263

email earllene.roberts@ubc.ca

Web: www.ubc.ca/okanagan/students/drc

UBC Okanagan Ombuds Office

The Ombuds Office offers independent, impartial, and confidential support to students in navigating UBC policies, processes, and resources, as well as guidance in resolving concerns related to fairness.

UNC 227B 250.807.9818

email: ombuds.office.ok@ubc.ca

Web: <http://ombudsoffice.ubc.ca/ubc-okanagan-2/>

Health & Wellness

At UBC Okanagan health services to students are provided by Health and Wellness. Nurses, physicians and counsellors provide health care and counselling related to physical health, emotional/mental health and sexual/reproductive health concerns. As well, health promotion,

education and research activities are provided to the campus community. If you require assistance with your health, please contact Health and Wellness for more information or to book an appointment.

Web: www.students.ok.ubc.ca/health-wellness

SAFEWALK

Don't want to walk alone at night? Not too sure how to get somewhere on campus? Call Safewalk at 250-807-8076. For more information, see: www.security.ok.ubc.ca.

SVPRO:

A safe and confidential place for UBC students, staff and faculty who have experienced sexual violence regardless of when or where it took place. Just want to talk? We are here to listen and help you explore your options. We can help you find a safe place to stay, explain your reporting options (UBC or police), accompany you to the hospital, or support you with academic accommodations. You have the right to choose what happens next. We support your decision, whatever you decide.

Visit www.svpro.ok.ubc.ca or call us at 250.807.9640

Independent Investigations Office (IIO)

If you or someone you know has experienced sexual assault or some other form of sexual misconduct by a UBC community member and you want the Independent Investigations Office (IIO) at UBC to investigate, please contact the IIO. Investigations are conducted in a trauma informed, confidential and respectful manner in accordance with the principles of procedural fairness. You can report your experience directly to the IIO via email: director.of.investigations@ubc.ca or by calling 604.827.2060 or online by visiting investigationsoffice.ubc.ca

Course Schedule

Week 1	
Dates	<u>Topic:</u> Grammar and Punctuation <u>Due Today:</u> Mini-assignment #1
Dates	<u>Topic:</u> APA Style <u>Due Today:</u> Mini-assignment #2, Peer Review #1
Week 2	
Dates	<u>Topic:</u> Oral Communication <u>Due Today:</u> Mini-assignment #3, Peer Review #2
Dates	<u>Topic:</u> Science and the Media <u>Due Today:</u> Mini-assignment #4
Week 3	
Dates	<u>Topic:</u> Research Funding <u>Due Today:</u> Midterm
Dates	<u>Topic:</u> Outlining & Literature Searches <u>Due Today:</u> Mini-assignment #5
Week 4	
Dates	<u>Topic:</u> Literature Reviews <u>Due Today:</u> Mini-assignment #6, Peer Review #3
Dates	<u>Topic:</u> Experimental Papers <u>Due Today:</u> Mini-assignment #7
Week 5	
Dates	<u>Topic:</u> Academic Publishing <u>Due Today:</u> Mini-assignment #8
Dates	<u>Topic:</u> Visualizing Scientific Findings <u>Due Today:</u> Mini-assignment #9, Peer Review #4
Week 6	
Dates	<u>Topic:</u> Collaboration in Science <u>Due Today:</u> TED Talks (Day 1)
Dates	<u>Topic:</u> Pre-Writing and Post-Writing <u>Due Today:</u> TED Talks (Day 2)
FINAL ASSIGNMENT: HELPING DR. PITT DEADLINE – TBD	