

**Faculty of Health  
Department of Psychology  
PSYC 2010 3.0 B: WRITING IN PSYCHOLOGY  
Tuesdays and Thursdays/5:30-8:30 p.m./ Online  
Summer (S1) 2024**

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**This course will be delivered online. There are no on-campus activities associated with this course. The course will be delivered mostly in an asynchronous format with some synchronous sessions.**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Course Instructor: Dr. J. Varghese  
Office Hours: By appointment (via Zoom)  
Email: [jeanmv@yorku.ca](mailto:jeanmv@yorku.ca)

<b>T.A.</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Office Hour (via Zoom)</b>
TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

**COURSE PREREQUISITE(S)**

**Course prerequisites are strictly enforced.**  
HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology)

**COURSE CREDIT EXCLUSIONS**

Please refer to [York Courses Website](#) for a listing of any course credit exclusions.

**TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR TAKING THE COURSE**

You will need a high-speed, stable internet connection for the course. To attend an office hour or synchronous session via Zoom, you will also need a computer with webcam and microphone and/or a smart device with these features.

**COURSE WEBSITE**

All course information will be posted on eClass, unless otherwise indicated by the course instructor. The site will be your central access point for course materials.

**Course Materials Copyright Information:**

These course materials are designed for use as part of the HH/PSYC 2010 3.0 B course at York University and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law. Copying this material for distribution (e.g. uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of Copyright law. [Intellectual Property Rights Statement](#).

Please note that 1) the recordings should be used for educational purposes only and as a means for enhancing accessibility in PSYC 2010 B (S2024); 2) students do not have permission to duplicate, copy and/or distribute the recordings outside of the class (these acts can violate not only copyright laws but also [FIPPA](#) and intellectual property rights).

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course develops university-level writing and communication ability. Students will write about psychological content. However, this course aims to develop general written communication skills that are broadly transferable. Emphasis will be placed on learning to write coherent arguments and explanations. Students will learn how psychological texts present information to effectively communicate with a reader. Students will develop the capacity to critique and improve their own writing. Critical thinking and logical reasoning skills are taught and practiced for the purpose of improving written communication. By analyzing psychological writing, students will discover the form and structure of effective writing in Psychology. Readings and discussions will increase understanding of how to write effectively. Writing exercises will be used to practice principles and ideas discussed. Providing feedback on the writing of peers will increase students' capacity to reflect on and improve their own writing. Students will be guided, step-by-step, through the process of completing a larger writing assignment. Extensive feedback will be provided and multiple drafts of writing assignments will be completed. This course will prepare students for advanced writing assignments in upper-year university courses and contribute to overall progress towards the advanced level of literacy expected of an educated citizen. At the end of the course, students will be able to develop a written argument on a controversial issue in psychology.

### **Program Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the basics of scientific writing
2. Demonstrate effective written communication
3. Demonstrate the ability to think critically about written communication
4. Demonstrates an ability to locate and identify valid, credible, and rigorous psychological research
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the basics of referencing using APA style

### **Specific Learning Objectives:**

1. Demonstrate ability to cite sources appropriately according to APA standards
2. Place a claim into context within the relevant academic literature
3. Distinguish and effectively use different types of research literature (i.e. reviews, meta-analyses, individual studies etc.) to support an argument
4. Demonstrate proficiency with spelling, punctuation, grammar and sentence structure
5. Demonstrate ability to adhere to the conventions of academic writing in psychology
6. Develop a clear written claim statement and provide evidence from scholarly sources to support it
7. Structure academic writing to effectively communicate a claim and supporting detail with logical flow

8. Explore, consider, and refute alternative points of view in academic prose
9. Consider and communicate the implications of a claim
10. Give and receive peer feedback as part of a regular revision process
11. Appreciate the difference between conjecture and interpretation of data

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

There is no required textbook for the course. Required readings will be posted on eClass.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS**

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
a) Mini-reflections b) Writing Exercises c) Essay Components	Weekly on various dates; due dates are specified in course schedule	20%
Essay Components 1-4 Assignment	May 21	20%
Essay Components 1-6 Assignment	May 31	20%
Best Writing Exercise	June 11	10%
Final Essay	June 14	30%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

**DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS**

**1) Mini-reflections**

Mini-reflections must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on lecture dates from Class 2 to Class 11. These reflections will be based on questions regarding your learning experience throughout the course, and should take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. There are no make-up opportunities or late submissions for the mini-reflections. All of the due dates are indicated in the course schedule at the end of this course outline, on eClass and in the calendar of due dates (posted on eClass).

**2) Writing Exercises**

From Class 2 to Class 9, you will be writing on a topic related to the lecture. Submission will be through a discussion forum. You will then read a peer’s first draft and provide critical feedback. The deadlines for uploading drafts and feedback are fixed and cannot be extended. Therefore, there are no make-up opportunities for any of the writing exercises. All of the due dates are indicated in the course schedule at the end of this course outline and in the calendar of due dates. For a guide to writing exercises and deadlines, see *Writing Exercises Guide* posted on eClass.

**3) Essay Components**

Over the duration of the course, you will write an argumentative essay on a controversial issue in psychology. The work for this essay will be broken down into smaller assignments (Essay Components) that together will build to form the final essay. From Class 2 to Class 10, you will be expected to submit a particular component of your essay on eClass. In addition, you will have the opportunity to share your work on these

components in small groups, via Zoom, in order to receive peer feedback. Essay Components are due by 5:29 p.m. on lecture dates. The deadlines for essay components are fixed and cannot be extended. Therefore, there are no late submissions or make-up opportunities for any of the individual essay components. All of the due dates are indicated in the course schedule at the end of this course outline, on eClass and in the calendar of due dates. For further information about the essay components and deadlines, see *Essay Components Guide* on eClass.

#### **4) Essay Components Bundle Assignments**

Essay components will also be submitted via eClass for T.A. feedback and graded credit on two occasions:

- Essay components 1-4 Bundle Assignment
- Essay components 1-6 Bundle Assignment

#### **5) Best Writing Exercise**

At the end of the course, you will be asked to select your Best Writing Exercise, make any final revisions and submit it for evaluation.

#### **6) Final Essay**

The final essay builds on the work and feedback from the individual essay components and the 1-4 and 1-6 essay bundle assignments.

### **CLASS FORMAT AND ATTENDANCE POLICY**

This course will be delivered mostly in an asynchronous format with synchronous breakout sessions to receive peer feedback for the individual essay components.

The synchronous sessions will take place from 6:30-7:30 p.m. each lecture date, beginning on Thursday, May 11th. These small-group sessions provide an opportunity to receive peer feedback for the individual essay components. The T.A.s will hold their office hour during the third hour of the lecture slot (7:30-8:30 p.m.). The teaching team will be available throughout the lecture slot, via email, to answer any questions or provide clarification of course materials.

### **GRADING AS PER SENATE POLICY**

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests\* will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 89, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar – [Grading Scheme for 2023-24](#)

### **LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

For any late major assignment, students **MUST** complete the following online form which will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office. **For late assignments, fill out this form:**

[HH PSYC: Missed Tests/Exams Form](#). You must contact the course instructor before filling out the form. Failure to complete the form within 24 hours of the original deadline will result in a grade of zero for the late assignment.

Late submissions are allowed for the major assignments (1-4 Essay Components Bundle Assignment, 1-6 Essay Components Bundle Assignment, Best Writing Exercise and final essay). A late penalty of 10% per day (including weekends) will be applied. In special circumstances, deadlines for submission of these assignments can be extended. Please contact course instructor for permission and extension. No late submissions are allowed for the engagement assignments.

### **ADD/DROP DEADLINES**

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Summer 2024 Important Dates](#)

	<b>SU Term</b>	<b>S1 Term</b>
Last date to add a course <b>without permission</b> of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	May 28	May 13
Last date to add a course <b>with permission</b> of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	June 11	May 21
Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	July 23	June 3
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – see note below)	July 24 – Aug. 13	June 4 – June 17

### **Add and Drop Deadline Information**

There are deadlines for adding and dropping courses, both academic and financial. Since, for the most part, the dates are **different**, be sure to read the information carefully so that you understand the differences between the sessional dates below and the [Refund Tables](#).

You are strongly advised to pay close attention to the "Last date to enrol without permission of course instructor" deadlines. These deadlines represent the last date students have unrestricted access to the registration and enrolment system.

After that date, you must contact the professor/department offering the course to arrange permission.

You can drop courses using the registration and enrolment system up until the last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (drop deadline).

You may [withdraw from a course](#) using the registration and enrolment system after the drop deadline until the last day of class for the term associated with the course. When you withdraw from a course, the course remains on your transcript without a grade and is notated as 'W'. The withdrawal will not affect your grade point average or count towards the credits required for your degree.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY FOR STUDENTS**

York University takes academic integrity very seriously; please familiarize yourself with [Information about the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#).

It is recommended that you review Academic Integrity by completing the [Academic Integrity Tutorial](#) and [Academic Honesty Quiz](#)

### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

While all individuals are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to do so at a level of excellence, the university recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to do so. The university encourages students with disabilities to register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to discuss their accommodation needs as early as possible in the term to establish the recommended academic accommodations that will be communicated to Course Directors as necessary. Please let me know as early as possible in the term if you anticipate requiring academic accommodation so that we can discuss how to consider your accommodation needs within the context of this course.

<https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca/>

#### **Excerpt from Senate Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

1. Pursuant to its commitment to sustaining an inclusive, equitable community in which all members are treated with respect and dignity, and consistent with applicable accessibility legislation, York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs. This policy aims to eliminate systemic barriers to participation in academic activities by students with disabilities.

All students are expected to satisfy the essential learning outcomes of courses.

Accommodations shall be consistent with, support and preserve the academic integrity of the curriculum and the academic standards of courses and programs. For further information please refer to: [York University Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities Policy](#).

### **EMAIL COMMUNICATION**

Please use your York email address when communicating with the course instructor and T.A.s as messages from other addresses may not always be received and it is **your** responsibility to ensure that we receive your messages. **You should also save a copy of any message sent to the course instructor and/or T.A.s.** Please follow appropriate email etiquette (indicate the course number and section in the subject field, include a formal greeting and sign with your full name). You should receive a response within 48 hours. If you do not receive a response within 48 hours, please check your junk-mail folder and follow up with us.