Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
PSYC 2010 3.0 F: WRITING IN PSYCHOLOGY
Tuesday/2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m./ Ross South 201
Fall 2024

CONTACT INFORMATION
Course Instructor: Dr. J. Varghese
Office Hours: By appointment
Email: jeanmv@yorku.ca

T.A.	Group	Email	Office Hour
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
All assignments will be submitted online on eClass.

COURSE WEBSITE
All course materials 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 F 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 lecture slides should be used for educational purposes of PSYC 2010.03 F F2024 only and as a means for enhancing accessibility; 2) students do not have

permission to duplicate, copy and/or distribute the lecture slides 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. Demonstrate 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
Course Engagement a) Mini-reflections b) Writing Exercises c) Essay Components	Weekly on various dates; due dates are specified in the course outline, on eClass and in the calendar of due dates	20%
Essay Components 1-4 Assignment	October 8	20%
Essay Components 1-6 Assignment	November 5	20%
Best Writing Exercise	November 26	10%
Final Essay	December 3	30%
Total		**100%**

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS
1) **Mini-reflections**
   Mini-reflections must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on lecture dates from Week 2 to Week 11. These reflections will be based on questions regarding your learning experience throughout the course.

2) **Writing Exercises**
   From Week 2 to Week 10, you will be writing on a topic related to the lecture. For further information about the 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 Week 2 to Week 10, you will be expected to submit a particular component of your essay on eClass. For further information about the essay components and deadlines, see *Essay Components Guide* on eClass.

4) **Essay 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 components bundle assignments.

CLASS FORMAT AND ATTENDANCE POLICY
This course will be delivered in person. The lecture slot includes a weekly lecture and small-group work. The small-group work begins with Lecture 2. Students are expected to attend classes and take part in the small-group work. The small-group work provides an opportunity to receive peer feedback for the individual essay components

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 2024-25

MISSED TESTS/MIDTERM EXAMS/LATE ASSIGNMENT
For any missed quiz or late assignment, students MUST complete the following online form which will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office.
HH PSYC: Missed Tests/Exams Form. Failure to complete the form and contact the course instructor within 48 hours of the original deadline will result in a grade of zero for the missed quiz or late assignment.

There are no late submissions allowed for any of the engagement assignments (essay components, writing exercises and mini-reflections). Late submissions may be allowed for the major assignments (1-4 Bundle Assignment, 1-6 Bundle Assignment, the Best Writing Exercise and the final essay) with a late penalty of 10% per day (including weekends). In special circumstances, deadlines for submission of these major assignments can be extended. Please contact the course instructor for permission and extension.

ADD/DROP DEADLINES
 For a list of all important dates please refer to Undergraduate Fall/Winter 2024-2025 Important Dates

	Fall (Term F)	Year (Term Y)	Winter (Term W)
Last date to add a course **without permission** of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	September 18	September 18	January 20
Last date to add a course **with permission** of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	October 2	October 16	January 31
Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	November 8	February 7	March 14
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – see note below)	November 9 – December 3	February 8- April 4	March 15 -April 4

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.

INFORMATION ON PLAGIARISM DETECTION
All major assignments will be submitted via *Turnitin*. All writing in this course must be students' original writing and original to the course.

ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY
Phones should be turned off or set to silent during the lecture. Please leave the lecture hall to make calls. The use of electronic devices should be limited to note-taking and accessing course material so as not to distract other students.

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](#)

Test Banks

The offering for sale of, buying of, and attempting to sell or buy test banks (banks of test questions and/or answers), or any course specific test questions/answers or essays is not permitted in the Faculty of Health. Any student found to be doing this may be considered to have breached the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. In particular, buying and attempting to sell banks of test questions and/or answers or essays may be considered as "Cheating in an attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation" (article 2.1.1 from the Senate Policy) and/or "encouraging, enabling or causing others" (article 2.1.10 from the Senate Policy) to cheat.

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. It is **your** responsibility to ensure that we receive your messages. **Please 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-malil folder and follow up with us.