

## Psychology 303: Writing in Psychology (Psychology of Language)

<b>Instructor:</b>	<b>Dr. Kara Morgan-Short</b>
Class information:	M, W 10:00-10:50, Lecture Center Building F F003
Office and Office Hours:	UH 1706, Mon 11:00 am-12:00 pm, Tues 3:00-4:00 pm, or by appointment
Phone:	312-996-5743
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<b>Teaching Assistants:</b>	
<b>Leah Dunleavy</b>	
Section:	F 8:00 am, BSB 115
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<b>Christie Yopst</b>	
Section:	F 9:00 am, SH 101
Office and Office Hours:	BSB 143, Fri 11:00 am-12:00 pm, or by appointment
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<b>Kate Brill</b>	
Sections:	F 10:00 am, LH 104; F 11:00 pm, TH 215
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<b>Dana Cole</b>	
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### Course Goals.

This course has two goals. The primary goal is to help you *improve your writing skills* and to *develop your ability to write a research proposal*, a common purpose of academic writing in psychology as well as in other professional pursuits. Perhaps the best ways to improve your writing is to practice writing, receive feedback on your writing, and to evaluate writing. You will do each of these in this class. In addition, we will discuss issues of scientific reasoning, such as critical thinking and argumentation and you will be asked to apply what you learn to your writing. For example, we will discuss how to critically read an empirical report, which will help you to critically read your own writing and improve the structure and argumentation of your own papers.

The secondary goal of the course is to explore issues about the psychology of language. We will focus on four central issues, which will give us a common ground for discussion, writing, and evaluating writing. The issues that we will explore are first language acquisition, second language acquisition, the cognitive effects of bilingualism, and examination of animal communication systems compared to human language. The end goal of this course is for you to produce a high quality *research proposal*, which is related to one of the above language issues, that presents an introduction, a review of the literature, a least two research questions, methods for addressing the research proposal and a statement of significance. This proposal will integrate APA guidelines and include an abstract.

### **Required Texts and Readings.**

Biens, B. C. & Beins, A. B. (2008). *Effective writing in psychology: Papers, posters and presentations*. Malden, MA: Blackwell (Abbreviation in syllabus: EWP)

American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, DC: Author. (Abbreviation in syllabus: APA)

Additional required readings will be posted on Blackboard and will need to be downloaded.

### **Writing Resources.**

**1. The Writing Center.** The Writing Center is located in 105 Douglas Hall. The phone number is 312-413-2206. The Writing Center staff will assist anyone who is interested in improving his or her writing skills, not just people who write poorly. See also [www.uic.edu/depts/engl/writing](http://www.uic.edu/depts/engl/writing).

**2. Online resources.** Additional online writing resources are posted for your convenience on Blackboard under 'External Links'.

### **Assignments and Grading.**

Assignments for the class are all directly related to the development of a final, complete research proposal. Grades will be based on your total points from the assignments listed below. Specific descriptions about each assignment will be posted on Blackboard under 'Assignments' and will be discussed in lecture. For each assignment, you must upload *an electronic copy of the assignment to Safe Assign in 'Course Assignments' on Blackboard before lecture/discussion* and turn in *one hard copy at the beginning of the lecture/discussion* on the day that it is due.

1. Thesis question (1 paragraph; 20 points; Due Feb 6)
2. List of references (10 references; 30 points; Due Feb 6)
3. Annotated bibliography (5 references; 50 points; Due Feb 17)
4. Draft of Introduction, Literature Review and Research Questions (9-10 pages; 75 points; Due March 12)
5. Draft of Methods and Significance (5-6 pages; 75 points; Due April 6)
6. Abstract (300 words; 50 points; Due April 13)
7. Final, complete proposal (14-16 pages; 150 points; Due April 30) including Introduction, Literature Review, Research Questions, Methods, and Significance. The Cover page, Abstract, References are not counted towards the page total. The final assignment must be *turned in with all previous assignments and a statement of revision*.
8. Attendance (50 points)
9. Extra credit opportunity (10 points): Set up and attend an appointment at the writing center you will receive 10 points extra credit points. When you are at the writing center, be sure to complete the form that asks for your name, class, and instructor – this is how the list of students who get extra credit will be generated. You are encouraged to set up an appointment early in the writing process as appointments may be more difficult to schedule later in the semester. You will receive extra credit only for one appointment, but of course you are free to use the services of the writing center to the greatest extent possible.

*NOTE regarding length of assignments:* Writing assignments include a *minimum to maximum* amount of pages (ex. 5-6 pages). If you do not meet the *minimum*, *10% of the points that you earn* on that

assignment will be deducted. In other words, if you earn 100 points on an assignment, 10 points would be deducted and your grade for that assignment would be 90 points. If you exceed the *maximum*, points will also be deducted, specifically *5% of the points that you earn for each page over the maximum*. For example, if you earn 100 points on an assignment, 5 points would be deducted for each page over the maximum.

Grade Assignments	Points Needed	Percent
Total points = 500	447 points and above will earn an A	90%
	397 points and above will earn a B	80%
	347 points and above will earn a C	70%
	297 points and above will earn a D	60%
	Below 297 will earn a F.	

**OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION.**

**1. Late work**

It is crucial that you turn in assignments on-time. You must upload *an electronic copy of the assignment to Safe Assign in 'Course Assignments' on Blackboard before lecture/discussion* and turn in *one hard copy at the beginning of the lecture/discussion* on the day that it is due.

Late assignments will be penalized 10% for each day (up to 24 hours) that it is turned in late. All assignments not handed in directly to the professor or the teaching assistant will have to be time stamped and signed in the psychology department. *The only late work that will be accepted without penalty will be work presented with a documented excuse (such as a documented case of illness or death in the family)*. In this case, you must contact the professor by email (and copy the TA) as soon as possible to document your excuse. ***Your TA cannot accept late work without penalty.***

**2. Absences**

Your presence is expected in all lectures and discussions. Attendance will be taken randomly 6 times in lecture and 6 times in discussion. You will be able to be absent once from lecture and once from discussion without penalty. After one absence, *only documented excused absences (such as a documented case of illness or death in the family) will not count against the points awarded for attendance*. In this case that you need to excuse an absence, you must contact the professor by email (and copy the TA) as soon as possible to document your excuse. ***Your TA cannot excuse absences.***

**2. Important dates and deadlines**

- January 9, Monday - Instruction begins; M Last day to cancel registration with a 100% refund of tuition and fees.
- January 16, Monday - Martin Luther King, Jr., Day. No classes.
- January 20, Friday - Last day to complete late registration; last day to add a course(s) or make section changes; last day to drop individual courses without receiving W (Withdrawn) grade on academic record via *Student Self-Service*.
- March 30, Friday - Last day for undergraduate students to use optional late drop in college office and receive grade of W on academic record.

RE: Dropping the course: Between the 3rd week and Friday of the 6th week, undergraduates are entitled to a total of four optional late drops during their enrollment at UIC. Students must see an LAS advisor on the 3rd floor of UH by appointment (996-3366) or during advising walk-in days.

- March 19-23, M–F Spring vacation. No classes.
- April 27, Friday - Instruction ends. Your final writing assignment (hard copy to your TA's mailbox and submitted to Safe Assign on Blackboard) is due on **Monday, April 30 @ 4 pm**
- April 30 – May 4, Monday – Friday - Final examinations. There is no final exam for this course.

### **3. Academic integrity**

All students are expected to uphold the standards of academic integrity. Instances of academic misconduct by students will not be tolerated. ***Any instance of academic misconduct will result in an automatic grade of 0 (zero) for the assignment and a possible failing grade for the course. I will also notify the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs and file an academic dishonesty charge that will be added to your permanent academic file.*** Procedures as defined in the *Student Disciplinary Policy* which is available online

(<http://www.uic.edu/depts/dos/docs/StudentDisciplinaryPolicy0809withpagenumbersandcov.pdf>) will be followed. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to: cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty/plagiarism, bribes, favors, threats, examination by proxy, grade tampering, non-original works.

### **4. Students with disabilities.**

Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Office of Disability Services (ODS). Please contact ODS at 312/413-2103 (voice) or 312/413-0123 (TTY).

### **5. Religious holidays.**

Every effort has been made to avoid scheduling examinations or requiring that student projects be turned in or completed on religious holidays. Students who wish to observe their religious holidays shall notify the professor (and the teaching assignment) by the *tenth* day of the semester of the date when they will be absent unless the religious holiday is observed on or before the tenth day of the semester. In such cases, the students shall notify the faculty member at least five days in advance of the date when he/she will be absent. The professor will make every reasonable effort to honor the request, not penalize the student for missing the class, and if an examination or project is due during the absence, give the student an exam or assignment equivalent to the one completed by those students in attendance. If the student feels aggrieved, he/she may request remedy through the campus grievance procedure.

### **6. Use of electronics in class.**

You are permitted to you use electronics in class, but *only* for the purposes of the class. You may view the course Blackboard site, readings related to the course, your own work for the course, etc. You may NOT view personal email, general internet sites, etc.

**Tentative Course Outline**

Date	Topic	Reading
<i>Week 1</i>		
Jan 9	Lect 1. Introduction to course	
Jan 11	Lect 2. Introduction to language issues	Text #1, 2
Jan 13	Disc. Introductions. Getting started. Formulating a thesis question.	EWP #1, 2
<i>Week 2</i>		
Jan 16	Lect 1. MLK DAY. NO CLASS.	
Jan 18	Lect 2. Overview topics 1 & 2; Visit from Writing Center	Text #3, 4
Jan 20	Disc. Prewriting – thesis question	
<i>Week 3</i>		
Jan 23	Lect 1. Overview topics 3 & 4	Text #5, 6
Jan 25	Lect 2. Critically summarizing published articles: Topic 1	EWP #5, R1.1
Jan 27	Disc. Finding and using reference materials. <i>Meet in Daley Library IDEA Commons classroom on the south end of the first floor</i>	EWP #3, APA#7
<i>Week 4</i>		
Jan 30	Lect 1. Critically summarizing published articles: Topic 2	R2.1
Feb 1	Lect 2. Overview of proposals in psychology. Guest speaker – Proposal writing outside of academia	Sample proposals 1 & 2
Feb 3	Disc. Workshop – References & APA style. <i>Come prepared: Bring list of at least 5 references</i>	
<i>Week 5</i>		
Feb 6	Lect 1. Synthesis and evaluation: Topic 3 <b>DUE: Thesis question / List of 10 references</b>	EWP#6, R3.1
Feb 8	Lect 2. Synthesis and evaluation: Topic 4	R4.1
Feb 10	Disc. Workshop – Article summary <i>Come prepared: Bring a 1-page type-written article summary.</i>	
<i>Week 6</i>		
Feb 13	Lect 1. The art of argumentation: Topic 4	EWP#9,10, R4.2
Feb 15	Lect 2. The art of argumentation: Topic 3	APA(27-29), R3.2
Feb 17	Disc. Pre-writing – Outlining Intro, Lit Review and RQs <b>DUE: Annotated bibliography for 5 references</b>	
<i>Week 7</i>		
Feb 20	Lect 1. Transitions and synthesis: Topic 2	R2.2
Feb 22	Lect 2. Transitions and synthesis: Topic 1	R1.2
Feb 24	Disc. Workshop – Cover page & APA style <i>Come prepared: Bring a draft of your cover page.</i>	APA(23-25)
<i>Week 8</i>		
Feb 27	Lect 1. APA Elements of style	EWP#7
Feb 29	Lect 2. In-text Citations.	EWP#14, APA#6
Mar 2	Disc. Workshop – In-text Citations and APA style. <i>Come prepared: Bring 2-3 pages of Lit Review</i>	

<i>Week 9</i>		
Mar 5	Lect 1. Proposing the research methods	EWP#11, R1.1
Mar 7	Lect 2. Design methods 1 & 2	APA(29-35), R2.1
Mar 9	Disc. Workshop – Draft of Intro, Lit Review and RQs <i>Come prepared: Bring complete draft of list of Intro, Lit Review and RQs</i>	
<i>Week 10</i>		
Mar 12	Lect 1. Design methods 3 & 4 <b>DUE: Draft of Intro, Lit Review and RQs @ 4 p.m</b>	R3.1, R4.1
Mar 14	Lect 2. The “so what?” factor: Stating significance	EWP#13
Mar 16	Disc. Pre-writing – Methods	
SPRING BREAK. NO CLASSES. ENJOY!		
<i>Week 11</i>		
Mar 26	Lect. 1. Use of Tables and Figures	EWP(139-144); APA(125-150)
Mar 28	Lect. 2. Workshop – Table <i>Come prepared: Bring a draft table with you to lecture.</i>	
Mar 30	Disc. Peer review – Methods and Significance <i>Come prepared: Bring complete draft of list of Methods &amp; Sign.</i>	
<i>Week 12</i>		
Apr 2	Lect 1. Writing Day – Independent work with papers	
Apr 4	Lect 2. Abstract writing.	EWP#15; APA(25-27)
Apr 6	Disc. Pre-writing – Abstract <b>DUE: Draft of Methods and Significance section</b>	
<i>Week 13</i>		
Apr 9	Lect 1. Peer review – Abstract assignment. <i>Come prepared: Bring a draft abstract with you to lecture.</i>	
Apr 11	Lect 2. Revising, revising, revising: Organization & synthesis	APA#3
Apr 13	Disc. TA choice. <b>DUE: Abstract assignment.</b>	
<i>Week 14</i>		
Apr 16	Lect 1. Revising, revising, revising: APA style	APA#4
Apr 18	Lect 2. Writing Day – Independent work with papers	
Apr 20	Disc. TA choice. Grade subtotals available on Blackboard.	
<i>Week 15</i>		
Apr 23	Lect 1. Revising, revising, revising: Elements of style	
Apr 25	Lect 2. Writing Day – Independent work with papers	
Apr 27	Disc. Writing Day – TA available for questions.	

**Final assignment due Monday, April 30 @ 4 p.m. to your TA’s mailbox and Safe Assign**