

**Writing in Psychology: APA Style**  
**PSY 2000 (section 03, CRN 45210)**  
**Fall 2013**



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**Office:** 204A McDonald  
**Office Hours:** 11:00-11:50 MWF, 1:30-2:20 TR

**Lecture/Discussion:** Tues/Thurs                      2:30pm to 3:45pm in MacDonald 111

**Required Texts:**

Dunn, D. S. (2011). *A short guide to writing about psychology* (3rd ed.). White Plains, NY: Pearson Longman.

American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication manual* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

**Overview & Course Description:** Welcome to Writing in Psychology. This a required course for psychology majors and is recommended for students in all disciplines interested in understanding and more effectively using APA writing style. It is an introduction to the effective use and application of APA style for research projects, technical papers, and expository writing in the psychological and behavioral sciences. **Prerequisites: PSY 1010 and ENGL 1010.** (paraphrased from DSU Course Catalog)

**Philosophy/Expectations:** This course will operate on the philosophy that active engagement with material fosters quality learning. There will be ample opportunity for in-class writing, peer evaluation, and discussion. Students are expected to read assigned text prior to class, do assigned homework/preparation activities, and be prepared to participate in class. Students can expect that I will come to class very well prepared and that I will do my very best to conduct the class so that it is interesting, informative, and respectful.

**Attendance and Participation:** With so much of the work for this course done in class, it is vital that you attend every class period. Class starts at 2:30pm. Students who are late to class will not be able to earn full participation points for the day. Any student that is 5 minutes late or more will be considered absent for the class day – *do not come in to the class past this point*. You will earn points by demonstrating in your writing assignments and discussions that you have done the reading and any other preparation assignments for the day. See Dixie State University

of Utah, Policies and Procedures Manual, section 5-23 on ATTENDANCE for further details.

College approved absences: Dixie University Policy explains in detail what needs to happen if you anticipate being absent from class because of a college-sponsored activity (athletic events, club activities, field trips for other classes, etc). Please read this information and follow the instructions carefully! The policy can be found at:

<http://www.dixie.edu/humanres/policy/sec5/523.html>

**Class Courtesy, Respectful Behavior & Responsibility:** We will have a class discussion on the first day about our responsibilities to each other in this learning environment. We will generate expectations for behavior during class that will help us create a positive, responsible, and respectful learning environment. Classroom rudeness will NOT be tolerated under any circumstances and may result in immediate expulsion from the class meeting and/or the course at the professor's discretion. Rudeness can include (but is not limited to): INAPPROPRIATE COMPUTER USAGE, PHONE USAGE, LAUGHING, NOTE PASSING, PASSIVELY SITTING, SLEEPING, TALKING OUT OF TURN, AND TEXTING.

Classroom expectations: It is the responsibility of an instructor to manage the classroom environment to ensure a good learning climate for all students. This means not talking when the teacher is talking, following instructions, and speaking and acting respectfully to the professor and fellow students. If your behavior is disruptive, I will first let you know verbally that you are behaving inappropriately. If it continues, I will send you written notice that your behavior must change. As a last resort, I will drop you from the class. For more details, please see the disruptive behavior policy at: <http://www.dixie.edu/humanres/policy/sec3/334.html>

**Course Objectives:** Students in Writing in Psychology will develop and demonstrate a basic understanding of:

- good writing habits: such as creating outlines and drafts; as well as proofreading and avoiding plagiarism
- how to effectively search and read literature in the social sciences and narrow a topic of interest
- APA format in Word for literature reviews and research proposals
- how to synthesize sources and create a literature review
- how to create and format a research proposal
- how to create effective presentation slides

**Assignments:** There will be class preparation and in-class activities on most class days (writing and editing). There will be 3 writing assignments: literature review, research proposal, and presentation slides. There will also be an in-class presentation of your PowerPoint slides. All writing assignments will be graded on the clarity and coherence of their content, as well as their adherence to APA style. **ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE TURNED IN ON TIME TO RECEIVE FULL CREDIT.** No late assignments can be turned in without a valid excuse cleared by the professor.

*Note: Valid excuses are documented excuses that make it clear that it was not possible to come to class (e.g. medical note of serious illness, car repair receipt on the day of class, etc.).*

**The Final Exam – a presentation of your PowerPoint Slides – will be in class on Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 4pm.** For the final, you will be graded both on the content of your slides (adherence to APA style) and your presentation skills.

## **Tentative Schedule**

### **Week 1: August 19<sup>th</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Introductions, Overview of the Course & General Writing Concepts

**Readings:** Chapter 1 in Dunn

### **Week 2: August 26<sup>th</sup> through 30<sup>th</sup>**

Choosing a Topic and Literature Searches & Reading and Synthesizing the Literature

**Readings:** Chapters 2 & 3 in Dunn, Chapter 1 in Manual

### **Week 3: September 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>**

Reading and Synthesizing the Literature & Writing an Annotated Bibliography

**Readings:** Chapter 3 & pp 140-149 in Dunn, pp 180-192 & Chapter 7 in Manual,  
Writing an Annotated Bibliography handout

**Assignment: Annotated Bibliography is due on Fri., Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>**

### **Week 4: September 9<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup>**

Reading, Synthesizing & Writing an Annotated Bibliography (cont'd)

**Readings:** Chapter 3 & pp 140-149 in Dunn, pp 180-192 & Chapter 7 in Manual,  
Writing an Annotated Bibliography handout

### **Week 5: September 16<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup>**

Writing Process – Outlining, Drafting and Re-writing & Style and Formatting

**Readings:** Chapters 4 & 9 in Dunn; Chapters 3&4 in Manual; pp 42-87

### **Week 6: September 23<sup>rd</sup> through 27<sup>th</sup>**

Citations & Writing a Literature Review

**Readings:** pp 80-92 & Chapter 7 in Dunn, Chapter 6 in Manual

**Assignment: Literature Review Outline is due on Fri., Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>**

### **Week 7: September 30<sup>th</sup> through October 4<sup>th</sup>**

Writing a Literature Review

**Readings:** pp 80-92 in Dunn

**Assignment: Literature Review is due on Tues., Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Week 8: October 7<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup>**

Revising Revisited

**Readings:**

**Assignment: Revised Literature Review is due on Mon., Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>**

*Semester Break Thursday & Friday*

**Week 9: October 14<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup>**

The Research Proposal

**Readings:** pp 88-116 in Dunn

**Assignment: Research Proposal Topic & References due on Thurs., Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Week 10: October 21<sup>st</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup>**

Reporting Findings & Statistics

**Readings:** Chapter 6 in Dunn, Chapter 5 in Manual

**Assignment: Research Proposal Introduction & Hypotheses due on Tues., Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Week 11: October 28<sup>th</sup> through November 1<sup>st</sup>**

Reporting Findings & Statistics

**Readings:** Chapter 8 in Dunn, Chapter 5 in Manual

**Assignment: Research Proposal Methods Section due on Tues., Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Week 12: November 4<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup>**

Writing a Research Paper

**Readings:** Review Chapter 5 in Dunn (particularly 85-103)

**Assignment: Research Proposal Abstract due on Tues. Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Week 13: November 11<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup>**

Publications & Presentations – Submitting & Re-writing

**Readings:** Chapter 10 in Dunn, Chapter 8 in Manual

**Assignment: Revised Research Proposal due on Tues., Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Week 14: November 18<sup>th</sup> through 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Publications & Presentations – PowerPoint Presentations

**Readings:** Chapter 10 in Dunn

**Assignment: PowerPoint Slides due on Tues., Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Week 15: November 25<sup>th</sup> through 26<sup>th</sup>**

Publications & Presentations – The Talk

**Readings:** Chapter 10 in Dunn

**Assignment: PowerPoint Presentation Slides due on Thurs., Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>**

*Thanksgiving Break Wednesday thru Friday*

**Week 16: December 2<sup>nd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>**

PowerPoint Preparation & Review

**Final Exam: PowerPoint Presentations Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 4pm in class**

## DISCLAIMER

Information contained in this syllabus - other than the grading scale - may be subject to change with advanced notice, as deemed appropriate to the instructor.

**D-mail:** *You are required to frequently check your Dmail account and Canvas messages.* Important class and college information will be sent to your Dmail account. This information includes your DSU bill, financial aid/scholarship notices, notification of dropped classes, reminders of important dates and events, and other information critical to your success in this class and at DSU. All DSU students are automatically assigned a Dmail account. If you don't know your user name and password, go to [www.dixie.edu](http://www.dixie.edu) and select "Dmail," for complete instructions. You will be held responsible for information sent to your Dmail email, so please check it often.

## OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES

Aug 19	Class-work Begins
Aug 23	Last Day to Add Without Signature
Aug 28	Drop fee begins (\$10 per class)
Sep 2	Labor Day
Sep 3	\$50 Late Registration/Payment Fee
Sep 9	Last Day for Refund, Last day to drop without receiving a "W" grade
Sep 13	Last Day to ADD/AUDIT Classes
Oct 1	Graduation Application Deadline
Oct 10-11	Semester Break
Oct 14	Last Day to DROP Classes
Nov 8	Last Day for Complete Withdrawal
Nov 11	Registration open to Seniors (90+ credits)
Nov 12	Career Day
Nov 12	Registration open to Juniors (60+ credits)
Nov 13	Registration open to Sophomores (30+ credits)
Nov 14	Open Registration
Nov 27-29	Thanksgiving Break
Dec 6	Class-work Ends
Dec 9-13	Final Exams

## Grading Policy

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>
A	94% - 100%	C	74% - 76%
A-	90% - 93%	C-	70% - 73%
B+	87% - 89%	D+	67% - 69%
B	84% - 86%	D	64% - 66%
B-	80% - 83%	D-	60% - 63%
C+	77% - 79%	F	59% AND BELOW

## Grading:

Class Preparation/In-class Activities		120 points
Literature Review		
Annotated Bibliography	20 points	
Outline	10 points	
Literature Review	50 points	
Re-write/Final Review	100 points	
TOTAL for Lit. Review:		180 points
Research Proposal		
Topic and References	10 points	
Introduction/ Hypotheses	10 points	
Methods Section	10 points	
Abstract	10 points	
Final Research Proposal	70 points	
TOTAL for Research Proposal		120 points
PowerPoint Slides/Presentation		100 points
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>520 possible points</b>

Disability Accommodations: Students with medical, psychological, learning or other disabilities desiring reasonable academic adjustment, accommodations, or auxiliary aids to be successful in this class will need to contact the DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER Coordinator (Baako Wahabu) for eligibility determination. Proper documentation of impairment is required in order to receive services or accommodations. DRC is located in the North Plaza Building. Visit or call 652-7516 to schedule appointment to discuss the process. DRC Coordinator determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of services.

College resources: Several college resources are available to help you succeed. Check out the links for each one to get more information.

If you need help understanding the content of your courses, go to the Tutoring Center located on the 4th floor of the Holland Centennial Commons in Room 431. You can visit them online at <http://dsc.dixie.edu/tutoring/>

If you need help writing papers, go to the Writing Center on the fourth floor of the Holland Centennial commons in room 421. You can also visit them online at [http://new.dixie.edu/english/dsc\\_writing\\_center.php](http://new.dixie.edu/english/dsc_writing_center.php)

If you need to use a computer to do schoolwork on campus, go to the Smith Computer Center or in the Dixie College library on the second, mezzanine, or third floors of the HCC.

If you are assigned to take a test in the Testing Center, go to the North Plaza. You can get information on their website at <http://new.dixie.edu/testing/>

The Library has all kinds of information and resources. Visit the Dixie State University Library on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors of the Holland Centennial Commons, or go to the library website at <http://library.dixie.edu/>

Academic integrity: I believe that most students are honest, and I don't want to punish everyone for the few that aren't. However, I will not tolerate cheating, and if I discover that it has occurred, a zero grade will be given for that assignment or exam, and you will not be allowed to make it up. Repeated or aggravated offenses will result in failing the course. Any time you take credit for work you did not do, you are cheating. This includes getting the answers to homework problems from someone else, copying information from a library or internet source and presenting it as if it were your own words (plagiarism), looking at someone else's answers on an exam, and asking someone who has already taken a test about what questions it contains. I have tried to design assignments and exams to minimize the temptation to cheat, but it is not my job to prevent you from cheating. If you cheat and are not caught, it doesn't mean that you "beat the system." It means you violated the Student Code and forfeited your integrity, whether or not you are caught. You will pay the price, sooner or later. (See "Student Code" <http://www.dixie.edu/humanres/policy/sec5/533.html#appeals>).

**Student Appeals**: Students who believe themselves wrongfully disciplined may appeal those disciplinary actions through the standard grievance procedure. (Policy 5-35)