

**Faculty of Health**  
**Department of Psychology**  
**PSYC 2010 3.0 Sections B, C, & F: WRITING IN PSYCHOLOGY**  
**Section B: Mondays, 11:30-2:30 (Location: HNE 038)**  
**Section C: Fridays, 2:30-5:30 (Location: DB 0001)**  
**Section F: Fridays, 11:30-2:30 (Location: ACE 001)**  
**Fall 2021**

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My sections in Fall 2021 are in-person, on-campus courses. We will meet weekly in our designated classroom to complete activities, answer questions, and make progress on course assignments. All lecture material will be posted online in advance of class and you will be expected to have watched each week's materials prior to class and bring works in progress, questions, and concerns to class.

**Instructor and T.A. Information**

Instructor: Jessica Sutherland, PhD (she/her/hers)

Office Hours: Virtual on zoom (Thursdays 9-12pm, see link on eClass; book an appt with me via Calendly, see link on eClass)

Email: jesuther@yorku.ca

**Teaching Assistants**

Section B

<b>T.A.</b>	<b>Stephan Bonfield</b>	<b>Tasfia Ahsan</b>
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Section C

<b>T.A.</b>	<b>Miracle Ozzoude</b>	<b>Kyra Farrelly</b>
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Section F

<b>T.A.</b>	<b>Carly Magnacca</b>	<b>Marlee Salisbury</b>
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**Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced**

- HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology), with a minimum grade of C.

**Course Credit Exclusions**

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

**Course Website: [eClass](#)**

All course materials and relevant links will be available on the course eClass site. I will post recorded lecture material, slides, and additional references and resources. You will submit major assignments on eClass and complete weekly engagement point tasks, the syllabus quiz, and the APA template via eClass or Connect Composition. You will also access Connect Composition via a link on eClass.

**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 exemplary psychological writing students will discover the form and structure of effective writing in Psychology. Readings and class discussions will increase understanding of how to write effectively. Writing exercises will be used to practice principles and ideas discussed. 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 and format documents appropriately according to APA 7 Professional paper style 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 rebut 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
12. Appreciate when empirical observation vs. theoretical analysis / synthesis is needed to support a claim

### Required Text

There is no required text for you to purchase for this class. All readings, tasks, and assignments will be posted via relevant links on eClass. You will be required to log-in to Connect Composition (link provided on eClass) but this software is provided free of charge.

### Course Requirements and Assessment

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
Engagement and Participation (55 points available, need 35 points to receive full marks)	Throughout course	13%
APA Template Assignment	Due by 11:59pm Week 3	1%
Syllabus Quiz	Due by 11:59pm Week 3	1%
EC 2-4	Due between Week 4 and Week 5 by 11:59pm of Week 5	20%
EC 2-6	Due between Week 8 and Week 9 by 11:59pm of Week 9	25%
Final Essay	December 10, 2021 by 11:59pm	40%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

### Description of Assignments

Engagement points (55 total available, 35 required for full points, worth 13% of grade):

You have 55 total points available, but only 35 are required to get full credit for this course assignment. This means you have 20 ‘freebies’ in case you have to miss a week, cannot complete something, and/or forget to submit by a deadline! Because flexibility and choice is

built into this component of the course, there are no extensions to deadlines for engagement points. The sources of points are below:

**Essay Component Drafts (1 point per EC x 9 = 9 points, submitted on eClass)**

Each week, you will submit a draft of that week's essay component by 11:59pm the day of class. Completing weekly drafts will ensure you have something to discuss/work on in class, and keep you on track for submitting your EC packages and final essay. All of your essay components will be submitted on eClass. See the Essay Component Guide for more details.

**Writing, Grammar, and APA practice (46 points, submitted on Connect Composition)**

*Writing Exercises (2 points per WE x 5 = 10 points):*

In specific weeks, you will practice a writing skill using the assigned articles. Your writing exercise cannot be made up for any reason and must be submitted by the day of class in the week it is due by 11:59pm. All of your writing exercises will be done online on Connect Composition. See your Writing Exercises Guide for more details.

*Grammar - Sentence Structure (5 points):*

This quiz provides practice on common grammar- and sentence structure-related concerns in our class. You can complete this task anytime over the semester and it must be completed by December 10, 2021. You will have two attempts to get a perfect score on this task.

*Grammar – Style and Word Choice (5 points, available after Grammar – Sentence Structure is completed):*

This quiz provides practice on common style and word choice concerns in our class. You can complete this task anytime only after you have completed the Grammar – Sentence Structure practice and it must be completed by December 10, 2021. You will have two attempts to get a perfect score on this task.

*APA Practice Quiz 1 (18 points):*

This APA practice quiz can be completed any time over the semester and will help you identify common APA errors in formatting and references. It must be completed by December 10, 2021. You will have two attempts to get a perfect score on this task.

*APA Practice Quiz 2 (8 points, available as of Week 5 AND after APA practice quiz 1 is completed):*

This APA practice quiz can be completed any time after Week 5 and only after APA practice quiz 1 is completed. It will help you identify common APA issues in relation to in-text APA formatting and describing research. It must be completed by December 10, 2021. You will have two attempts to get a perfect score on this task.

Syllabus Quiz (Worth 1%, due by 11:59pm of Week 3, link on eClass)

By Week 3 at 11:59pm, you must complete the syllabus quiz on eClass about information contained in this syllabus. To receive 1%, you must get 100% on the quiz, but you can attempt it as many times as you like until you get 100%. You cannot receive credit for the quiz after Week 3 at 11:59pm.

APA Template Assignment (Worth 1%, due by 11:59pm of Week 3, link on eClass)

Between Week 2 and Week 3 at 11:59pm, you must submit an APA template document that you will use for all of your assignment submissions throughout the course. You will submit a 3 page document (title page, text page placeholder, and reference list example) in proper APA format. You can submit this assignment anytime before Week 3 at 11:59pm and re-submit as many times as you need to *before* the deadline.

Essay Components 2/3/4 (Worth 20%, due between Week 4 and Week 5 by 11:59pm Week 5)

Between Week 4 and Week 5 at 11:59pm, you will submit a package of your essay components: EC 2 (annotated bibliography), EC 3 (claim and supporting evidence), and EC 4 (counter-claims). Your package must have a proper APA-formatted title page, document, and reference list. Please see the rubric and Essay Components Guide for details.

Essay Components 2/3/4/5/6 (Worth 25%, due between Week 8 and Week 9 by 11:59pm Week 9)

Between Week 8 and Week 9 at 11:59pm, you will submit a package of your essay components: EC 2 (annotated bibliography), EC 3 (claim and supporting evidence), and EC 4 (counter-claims) *revisions based on feedback from your first essay component package submission* AND your EC 5 (context/contraduction) and EC 6 (conclusion). To successfully submit revisions to EC 2/3/4, please include the following: 1) a description of the the feedback/areas where you lost marks and/or had suggested changes by me or your TA at the beginning of each EC, and 2) the associated changes you have made, based on that feedback, highlighted in some way (e.g. in red text, highlighted yellow text). Your package must have a proper APA-formatted title page, document, and reference list. Please see the rubric and Essay Components Guide for details.

Final Essay (Worth 40%, due by December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 11:59pm).

You will submit your final essay for grading by December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 11:59pm.

**Class Format and Attendance Policy**

All mandatory course content will be provided asynchronously via eClass. During our class times, we will meet synchronously in person on campus in our assigned lecture hall. Attendance is not mandatory, but is necessary to participate in class activities, ask questions, and receive feedback in class.

**Assignment Submission Requirements**

Essay Components 2-4, 2-6, and the final essay must be submitted in .doc, .docx, or PDF formats. PDF is the ideal format, as it better preserves APA formatting. Assignments submitted as Google docs, .pages, or any other file type will not be accepted and you will receive a 0. *It is your responsibility to ensure you upload: 1) documents in the correct, accepted format, and 2)*

*the correct document for the assignment you are submitting.* If we cannot read or open your file, you will receive a 0. If it is not the correct assignment you have uploaded, you will receive a 0. Always double-check your file was uploaded correctly and is the one you intended to submit. If you realize you have uploaded something incorrectly, please contact myself or your TA immediately (within 1 hour) after your submission to correct the error.

All writing exercises and quizzes on Connect Composition must be submitted there to receive credit.

All essay component drafts must be submitted on eClass by attaching a .doc, .docx, or PDF file.

***\*\*Under no circumstances are assignments or course work ever accepted over email!!***

### **Receiving Feedback and Grades On Your Work**

We aim to provide written comments, feedback, and grades on all submitted assignments within 2 weeks of your submission. This means that work submitted in Week 2, for example, will be graded and returned to you by Week 4. Please note the feedback and grades timeline below according to submission dates for the “flexible options” model. *Please do not email us asking when your grades will be posted, because the goal is always to give feedback and grades back within 2 weeks of submission.*

### **Flexible Options**

In this class, I use a flexible options model instead of a “due date” model for Essay Components 2-4 and Essay Components 2-6. These assignments will be due by 11:59pm the week they are due. For Essay Components 2-4 and 2-6, you can opt to use the one-time free 5-day extension pass (see below). This extension is not available for your final essay, because everyone has an extension until December 10, 2021 at 11:59pm. Please note the following:

1. Because everyone is provided the option to use their 5-day extension pass, there are no further extensions provided.
2. Failure to submit EC2-4 and/or EC2-6 without using your one-time 5-day extension pass will result in a zero.
3. You can only use the extension pass once.
4. We will grade work in the order we receive it. This means that the earlier you submit, the earlier you will receive feedback. If you use your extension pass, there is no guarantee you will receive feedback at the same time the rest of the class will.
5. Due date times are strict in the interest of fairness. 11:59pm means by 11:59pm. Submissions after 12:00am will not be accepted. If you anticipate needing to use your one-time 5-day extension pass, ensure you email it to your TA before the 11:59pm deadline. Otherwise, it will not be applied to that assignment.

Additionally, to collect full Engagement Points, you only need to accumulate 35 points out of the 55 available. You can pick and choose which ones you would like to do, depending on your goals and life circumstances at a given time.

## One-Time 5-Day Extension Pass

You can find the one-time 5-day extension pass on eClass. This extension pass grants you an additional 5 days, including weekends, to submit your assignment by 11:59pm on the 5<sup>th</sup> day. This means that assignments due on a Monday are due by Friday at 11:59pm, and assignments due on a Friday are due by Wednesday at 11:59pm. To redeem it, simply download it and send it to your TA in advance of the due date. This cannot be redeemed after the due date and no further extensions beyond the 5 days will be provided. No explanation is required, simply attach it to an email to your TA and let them know when, within the 5-day period, you will submit your assignment. You can only use this pass once.

## 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 2021-22](#)

## Unhappy with your grade or want to discuss it?

If you are unhappy with your grade on EC2-4, 2-6, or your final essay, no problem – we are happy to discuss it with you. These are the steps you need to follow:

1. The TAs and I will not discuss your grade with you within the first 24 hours of receiving it. During this time, you must observe where you lost marks, reflect on the feedback, and review the rubric. All of the necessary requirements for assignments are provided to you in advance, and it is your responsibility to ensure you are meeting them when you submit an assignment.
2. After the first 24 hours, please see the “Are you unhappy with your grade?” document posted on eClass. Please complete this form, spend some time reflecting on the questions, and then make an appointment to discuss your assignment with myself or your TA. Please note that I and your TA will not discuss your assignment grades unless you have completed the “Are you unhappy with your grade?” reflection document in advance of your appointment.
3. Please note that being unhappy with your grade and completing the above steps is not a guarantee your grade will change. It is also possible that your grade will go down or remain the same after being re-graded. We take grading seriously and we follow a detailed rubric (always provided to you in advance) to ensure fairness and similarity in our grading.

The only situations in which the steps above do not need to be followed is if a simple math error was made between your assignment grade as posted in your feedback and/or your grade posted on eClass (e.g., your marks add up to 25/30, but you received a posted grade of 23/30)

or if you would just like to discuss your assignment and how to improve. If this is the case, please email myself or your TA to correct it and we will do so as soon as possible.

### **Missed Tests/Midterm Exams/Late Assignment**

There are no tests or exams in this course. Please see above for my policy on missed/late assignments and extensions. Otherwise, the blurb below is mandatory boilerplate department information:

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. At this time, due to COVID-19 an Attending Physician's Statement (APS) is not required, however, a reason for missing an evaluated component in the course must be provided.

HH PSYC: Missed Tests/Exams Form. Failure to complete the form within 48 hours of the original deadline will result in a grade of zero for the missed quiz or late assignment.

### **Email Etiquette Policy**

For our class, I respond to emails between Monday to Fridays, 8 am – 6 pm. I do not read or respond to email in the evenings or on weekends, though you are welcome to email me any time and I will respond on the next business day.

Email is the primary mode of communication between yourself and your TAs and professors. There are formal norms expected in emails in professional settings, which include university courses. Failure to use a professional format and tone can result in creating a poor impression, and not getting your questions or concerns addressed. Before you email me or your TA (as well as any other professors or TAs), please note the following:

1. It should contain a proper greeting and your name and course information. You should always address your professors and TAs by the name they have specifically told you to use. In this class, emails to me should be addressed to Dr./Professor Sutherland; your TAs should be addressed by their first name.
2. Ensure your question is not already answered in the syllabus or any documents provided on moodle (e.g. various guides, rubrics, lectures). *We will not respond to any questions that are directly addressed in the syllabus or course documents!*
3. Your email is professional in tone – it does not use slang and contains proper spelling and grammar.
4. It has a specific question, comment, or concern that is clearly stated. When appropriate or necessary, you also describe what you have already tried to resolve your question or concern.
5. It is sent as reasonably in advance as possible so we have time to respond to it. For example, emails sent at 10pm at night asking questions about an assignment due by 11:59pm will likely not be responded to until the next business day, at the earliest.



## Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Fall/Winter 2021-22 Important Dates](#)

	Fall (Term F)	Year (Term Y)	Winter (Term W)
Last date to add a course <b>without permission</b> of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept. 21	Sept. 21	Jan. 23
Last date to add a course <b>with permission</b> of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Oct. 5	Oct. 26	Feb. 7
Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov. 12	Feb. 11	18-Mar
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – see note below)	Nov. 13 - Dec. 7	Feb. 12 - April 10	March 19 - April 10

### 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

In this class, you will submit Essay Components 2-4, 2-6, and the final essay to Turn It In.

### Electronic Device Policy

This course will be delivered in-person and therefore electronic devices (e.g., tablets, laptops) are permitted during class time for course-related purposes. You will need a working device to access course materials on eClass and to conduct work in class.

## **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 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 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](#).

### **Course Materials Copyright Information**

These course materials are designed for use as part of the PSYC2010 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](#).

### Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Watch	Assignments Due (by 11:59pm)
Week 1	Introduction Brainstorming	Week 1 lecture	EC1
Week 2	Conducting research APA format	Week 2 lecture	EC2 WE1
Week 3	Conducting research Making claims	Week 3 lecture	EC3 APA Template Syllabus quiz
Week 4	Conducting research Making counter-claims	Week 4 lecture	EC4 WE2
Week 5	Integrating sources	Week 5 lecture	**EC2-4
Week 6	READING WEEK	READING WEEK	READING WEEK
Week 7	Setting context Introduction	Week 7 lecture	EC5 WE3
Week 8	Conclusions Implications	Week 8 lecture	EC6 WE4
Week 9	Full drafts	Week 9 lecture	**EC2-6
Week 10	Transitions Revision	Week 10 lecture	EC7 WE5
Week 11	Editing (Part 1)	Week 11 lecture	EC8
Week 12	Editing (Part 2) *In-class workshop	None	EC9

Week 13	**Drop-in class only on Zoom – no new material**	None	Final essay, grammar, word/style choice, APA quizzes due by December 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 at 11:59pm
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