

Course Number: MPSY 5050

Course Title: Writing in Psychology

Course Description:

The development of graduate level writing, reading, critical thinking and literature search skills will be emphasized. The course will focus on how to interpret, synthesize, and draw conclusions about psychological research and create a coherent review of the literature. A review of American Psychological Association (APA) style documentation for experimental reports and literature reviews will also be covered.

Prerequisites: None.

Credit hours: 3

Learning Outcomes:

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate proficiency of APA style documentation.
2. Analyze psychological literature in a critical manner.
3. Synthesize psychological research literature coherently.
4. Demonstrate proficiency in conducting and writing a thorough literature search of a topic within psychological research.

Indiana Tech
College of Professional Studies
MPSY 5050 – Writing in Psychology
Online Syllabus Course Content

Instructor Information:

Please see the Professor Profile tab on the Blackboard site for this course for details.

Course Schedule:

Please see Course Schedule in the Course Syllabus tab of the Blackboard site for this course.

Online Course Policies:

All of the online courses taken by students are required to follow the policies posted online at <https://online.indianatech.edu/tech-policies/policies/>. Please review the posted policies carefully. If you are unable to abide by the policies listed, please contact the Warrior Information Network (WIN) at 888.832.4742 and request to withdraw from this course.

Required Texts:

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Mastering APA style: Student's workbook and training guide* (6th ed.). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American psychological association* (6th ed.). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.

Galvan, J. L. (2013). *Writing literature reviews* (5th ed.). Glendale, CA: Pyrczak Publishing.

Grading Policies:

Unless otherwise specified, all assignments must be submitted via Blackboard.

GRADING EVENTS

Course Preparation Quiz	15 points
APA Style Quizzes (3 @ 25pts each)	75 points
APA Style Final Exam	125 points
APA Style Homework	50 points
Literature Review Assignments (5 @ 20pts each)	100 points
Final Literature Review Paper	200 points
“2 minute” Reaction Papers (6 @ 10pts each)	<u>60 points</u>
Total Points	625 points

Grading Events/Course Requirements:

APA Quizzes (75 points) and Final Exam (125 points)

You will be given three quizzes over specific chapters in the APA Style Publication Manual to test your knowledge of the material. At the end of the course you will have a final exam covering all aspects of APA Style. These quizzes and exams will be multiple choice in nature. More specific details about the content covered in each quiz or the final exam will be available in their descriptions in the module it is presented.

APA Style Homework (50 points):

You will have one homework assignments related to APA style and the material covered in the publication manual as well as the student workbook. They are designed to reinforce this material. Specific details about the assignments will be provided within the module when the assignments are due.

Literature Review Assignments (100 points):

There will be five assignments designed to assist you in completing the various steps involved in conducting a literature search in preparation for writing a literature review by the end of the course. You will find descriptions of each of the individual assignments in the course modules for the week they are due. Also, you should be aware now, for one of the assignments you are going to have to partner up with one of your peers to review each other's' rough drafts. Therefore, you are encouraged to reach out to your classmates early in the course via the discussion board.

Literature Review Paper (200 points)

As the final project for the course you are going to write a literature review on a topic of your choice within the field of psychology. The paper will require you to analyze and synthesize 10 peer reviewed journal articles on the topic of your choice. You will develop

a specific hypothesis or topic statement and then complete an 8 to 10 page review of the topic. The specific rubric for the required components of this paper can be found in the Course Syllabus tab within the course as well as in the module in which the final paper is due.

“Two Minute” Reaction Papers (60 points)

Each week you are going to be asked to write a 2 minute reaction paper. You will set a timer for 2 minutes and you will be asked to write freely about something you have learned this week or something you are still struggling with. There are no right or wrong answers to this type of assignment therefore it will be graded based on completion. However, this is a writing course therefore you still need to ensure you using good grammar and mechanics in this paper. Therefore, part of the 10 points for each assignment will be allocated to proper grammar and sentence structure. There is no definite length to the paper but you should write for the entire two minutes. More specific details as well as specific prompts for the writing will be in each weekly module.

Grading Scale

The following grading scale will be used to assign a grade at the end of the course:

Percentage Achieved	Grade	Percentage Achieved	Grade
90% or above	A	70% or above	C
80% or above	B	Below 70%	F

Late Assignments:

All assignments and required online activities are due according to the deadline listed in the course schedule. Granting deadline extension is the course instructor’s autonomy.

Incompletes

If you are unable to complete the requirements for this course due to extenuating circumstances, an Incomplete grade (I) may be granted if you meet the general guidelines stated below.

General Guidelines for submitting a course incomplete request:

- More than 50% of the course session has elapsed.
- The student has encountered an unexpected situation that is beyond his or her control.
- The student is
 - in good academic standing -- up-to-date on all of the course assignments and has at least an overall passing grade,

- able to complete all of the remaining coursework within a session (5 weeks for a undergraduate course and 6 weeks for a graduate course) that immediately follows the session the student is currently enrolled, and
- able to provide support documentations to substantiate the need for extra time should a session is not enough to complete the course requirements.

If an Incomplete is granted, the instructor will set a deadline for all work to be completed. **The deadline cannot go past one (1) session.** All incomplete grades and deadlines are subject to approval by the designated university authority.

Course Related Communication:

Online courses are conducted in an accelerated format. Timely communication is very important. When you receive emails from your classmates or professor, please respond as soon as you can.

Students are REQUIRED to use their Indiana Tech email account for all course related communication. The most direct, and effective, way to email your course professor, and classmates, is by using the Send Email function from the Blackboard course site. When you use the Send Email function, you automatically receive a carbon copy of the email you sent. In the event when you need to substantiate your claim that you emailed your classmates or instructor, you can show that carbon copy to the person(s) who requested it.

Please note that Blackboard only permits you to send email, it does not provide you with the check email function. All of the emails your classmates and professor send to you will be delivered to your Indiana Tech email account. You are strongly encouraged to check your Indiana Tech email account regularly, preferably several times a week, to minimize the likelihood of miscommunication.

The University policy requires each online course instructor to respond to a student's email within 24 hours. Unless there is an extraneous situation that prevents the instructor from following this rule, you can expect to hear from the instructor within 24 hours. If you don't receive a reply within 24 hours, please do not hesitate to follow up with another email or forward the carbon copy of the email you sent to OnlineSupport@IndianaTech.edu with a note "Please help. It's been 24 hours and I have not heard from my instructor" and the University support staff will act on your behalf to contact your course instructor.