



MIDWESTERN

STATE UNIVERSITY

Syllabus

Writing in Psychology
PSYC 3303, section 201
Spring 2021

Good Writing is Rewriting...And We Shall Rewrite!

Contact Information

Professor: Michael A. Vandehey, Ph.D. Office: O'donohoe 112
Office Hours: By appointment only. *Due to the pandemic, I will interact with individuals via email, phone, or Zoom. No in-person meetings due to a family member with risk factors.*
Class Meets TR 11:00-12:20 Location: PY 102
Phone: 940-397-4026

I check D2L email sporadically. Please email me at:
michael.vandehey@msutexas.edu.

Goals

1. Become experts at APA 7th Edition writing style.
 - a. Please go to APA Style (<http://www.apastyle.org/>) for a variety of helpful suggestions on APA 7th Ed.
2. Develop library skills including the stacks, online retrieval, and interlibrary loan.
3. Possess excellent organizational skills for starting, writing, and editing a paper.
 - a. Initial outline
 - b. Organizing sources
 - c. Integrating sources
 - d. Writing introductions and discussions
4. Become aware of common writing errors and how to edit them out of one's paper.

Texts

Stapler: All papers must be stapled or they will not be accepted.

Red Pen: For editing

Kail, R. V. (2019). *Scientific writing for psychology: Lessons in clarity and style* (2nd ed.). Los Angeles, CA: Sage.

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th Ed.). (2020). Washington D. C.: American Psychological Association.

Course Requirements

Initial paper (20 points): Students will write a three-page, APA style paper with three sources, a title page, and a reference section. This is due by the third week of class.

Outline via headings (10 points): Students will generate: (a) a title page with a running head, (b) an outline with appropriate APA levels of headings, and (c) a reference page (APA style). Under each heading, source identifiers will be written in. This will organize the paper for the writer and reader.

- a. Read the results and discussion of a minimum of 10 sources.
 - i. Read the literature review to become more informed of your topic and identify additional sources you may want. DO NOT cite the literature review.
- b. Identify each source by a number and each "finding" by a letter.
- c. Place the number, letter, and page number under the appropriate heading.

Library sources (10 points): Each person is responsible for turning in the following **5(or 6)** sources:

- (a) Interlibrary loan article-peer reviewed
- (b) Internet retrieved article-peer reviewed
- (c) one book from the stacks-peer reviewed
- (d) one source from the "reference section" -peer reviewed
- (e) 1 non-peer reviewed source from a suitable website (e.i., .org, .edu, or .gov). Wikipedia does not count as a source in this class.
 1. Bonus 2 points. Find a "BAD" website source (e.g., "ma&paBBQribs&psychologicaltruths").

Editing for common errors (20 points for individual and group editing): First, students will use editing symbols to identify problems in each other's work. Students will turn in an edited paper and the editor will receive a grade. Editors must use a red pen. I will use a green pen. (the person writing the paper also gets a grade at this time). Second, students will bring thumb drive with paper on it. We will edit the paper in class. Attendance sheets will be signed and credit given for group participation.

Writing Notebook (10 points): Students will turn in their writing notebook (I prefer a **very** small 3 ring binder) one week before the paper is due. Writing notebooks contain handouts from class and journal entries about one's own personal writing. Journal topics include: forbidden word list, self-writing evaluations (e.g., too many passive sentences, writing in wrong tense, punctuation), and editing observations (e.g., work on 1-2-3, need to focus on APA headings).

Editing midterm (40 points): A finished paper will be handed out. Students must mark the paper for: (a) APA style, and (b) readability. Students should be able to evaluate the title page, headings, citations in the text, and the reference page. Poorly written sentences should be identified for correction.

Final paper (110 points): Students will turn in the paper two times for a grade. The corrected rough draft will be turned in after editing has been complete. This will allow for a pre-read by me. Editing symbols will be used and the student must identify the exact problem and correct it. Multiple "genuine" rewrites are possible. The paper shall have a title page, abstract, body (10 typed pages), and reference page (minimum 10 references-no more than 2 from the internet; no text books). Do not use a paper in part or full from another course-this constitutes *self-plagiarism* (APA 6th ed., p. 16).

The final product will be turned in the last day of finals week and graded on: (a) APA style, (b) readability, and (c) quality of information.

220 points are possible and grade ranges are as follows:

A = 198-220
B = 176-197
C = 154-175
D = 132-153
F = 131 or lower

*All papers must be turned in electronically to TurnItIn.com through D2L. Go to Assessments: (a) choose Assignments, and (b) choose Group Paper. You will upload your paper and can view a similarity rating. If green (under 25% or so), no worries. If yellow, possible rewrite. Check to see if your sources are artificially raising your percent (if yes, no worries). If orange, definitely rewrite!

Note: Students with disability must be registered with Disability Support Services before accommodations can be provided. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact me and must provide documentation by Disability Support Services. The Director of Disability Support Services serves as the ADA Coordinator and may be contacted at (940) 397-4140, TDD (940) 397-4515, or 3410 Taft Blvd., Clark Student Center 168.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Midwestern State University does not discriminate on the basis of an individual's disability and complies with Section 504 and Public Law 101-336 (Americans with Disabilities Act) in its admissions, accessibility, treatment and employment of individuals in its programs and activities.

A copy of the ADA Compliance Document is available online at [disability faq](#). It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications. Students who require special accommodations must register with Disability Support Services before these accommodations can be provided. An Accommodation Request Form can be obtained at [Accommodation Request](#).

Make-up Policy: If an make-up exam is granted (instructor discretion), it will be essay in nature and can be scheduled with me. I need one week to prepare the exam; thus, the earliest a make-up exam can be taken is one week after the initial exam. See the 2019-2020 Student Handbook on Class Attendance Policy. [Student Handbook](#)

Computer Requirements

Taking an online/Zoom class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. Since there is a possibility of universities being closed due to the Covid 19 pandemic, it is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. **Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. **Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations; however, they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course, especially for students attending Zoom lectures. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

- a. Brightspace (maker of D2L) has tutorials available on YouTube. Please go to [Brightspace YouTube](#) for additional help.

College Policies and Procedures

Can be found at the bottom of the MSU home page or at [Human Resources Policy](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. Any evidence of cheating will result in a grade of "F" and being reported to the [Dean of Students](#).

Student Code of Conduct

MWSU's official policy in the University's Code of Student Conduct on page 52, states:

Instructor Drop: An instructor may drop a student any time during the semester for excessive absences, for consistently failing to meet class assignments, for an indifferent attitude, or for disruptive conduct. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to dropping the student from the class. An instructor's drop of a student takes precedence over the student initiated course drop of a later date. The instructor will assign a grade of either WF or F through the first 9 weeks of a long semester, the first 6 weeks of a 10 week summer term, or the 12th class day of a 4 or 5 week summer term consisting of 20 days. After these periods, the grade will be an F. The date the instructor drop form is received in the Office of the Registrar as the official drop date. A student dropped from a class by a faculty member for disruptive behavior has the right of appeal to the Student Conduct Committee through the Student Conduct office.

Midwestern State University Student Honor Creed

"As an MSU Student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so."

As students at MSU, we recognize that any great society must be composed of empowered, responsible citizens. We also recognize universities play an important role in helping mold these responsible citizens. We believe students themselves play an important part in developing responsible citizenship by maintaining a community where integrity and honorable character are the norm, not the exception.

Thus, We, the Students of Midwestern State University, resolve to uphold the honor of the University by affirming our commitment to complete academic honesty. We resolve not only to be honest but also to hold our peers accountable for complete honesty in all university matters.

We consider it dishonest to ask for, give, or receive help in examinations or quizzes, to use any unauthorized material in examinations, or to present, as one's own, work or ideas which are not entirely one's own. We recognize that any instructor has the right to expect that all student work is honest, original work. We accept and acknowledge that responsibility for lying, cheating, stealing, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty fundamentally rests within each individual student.

We expect of ourselves academic integrity, personal professionalism, and ethical character. We appreciate steps taken by University officials to protect the honor of the University against any who would disgrace the MSU student body by violating the spirit of this creed.

Written and adopted by the 2002-2003 MSU Student Senate.

Travel Plans: Please do not make travel plans that would hinder your access to a computer or the internet. You are responsible for maintaining electronic(s) equipment and internet access every day during this semester including finals week.

Tentative Reading and Exam Schedule

Notice: Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

<i>Weeks</i>	<i>Reading Assignment</i>
1/12-2/25	Semester Overview/Course Requirements Rankin's Rules-lectures from Writing Across the Curriculum hosted by the Dept. of English, MSU.
1/18	<i>Martin Luther King Day, no classes</i>
Tuesday 1/26	Due: Three page APA paper with title page and sources Lesson 1: Writing Clearly Lesson 2: Adding Emphasis
1/19	<i>Topic: Library days to learn how to retrieve peer-reviewed articles.</i> Join Zoom Meeting https://msutexas-edu.zoom.us/j/5496797458
2/15	<i>Last day to file for May graduation</i>
Thursday 2/18	Due: Interlibrary Loan Article, Internet retrieved Article, book chapter, reference source, & online non-peer review website. Lesson 3: Writing Concisely, With Some Spice Topic: Do's and Don'ts of writing
Thursday 2/25	Due: Outline with headings APA style and reference list. Hand written code for sources.
Tuesday 3/2	Midterm: Editing a paper.

3/4-4/22

Lesson 4: The Art of Fine Paragraphs
Lesson 5: Framing an Introduction

Topics: Becoming an APA expert, making tables, appendixes

3/9-4/22

Due: Editing a classmate's work in class; group editing

Wednesday 3/31

Due: First Final Paper

4/1-4/4

Holiday Break

4/23

Last day to file for a "W"

Friday 4/23

Second Final Paper due