

**Texas A&M University – Central Texas**  
**PSYK 309.130 Writing in Psychology**  
**Monday/Wednesday: 2:30 pm – 3:45 pm**  
**Warrior Hall Room 306**

### **INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Instructor: Daniel A. Clark, Ph.D.**  
**Office: WH 318 N**  
**E-mail: [daniel-clark@tamuct.edu](mailto:daniel-clark@tamuct.edu)**

**Office hours: Monday:** 9:00 am - 12:30 pm, 1:30  
**Tuesday:** 11:00 am - 12:30 pm  
**Wednesday:** 9:00 am - 12:30 pm  
**Thursday:** 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

To set up an appointment, go to: <https://clark-psychologytamuct.youcanbook.me>

### **UNILERT**

#### **Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University – Central Texas**

UNILERT is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in UNILERT through their myCT email account. Connect at [www.TAMUCT.edu/UNILERT](http://www.TAMUCT.edu/UNILERT) to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in UNILERT, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Catalog course description:

The study of advanced technical communication in psychology. Involves learning and using the current edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association for formal research reports, literature reviews, grant proposals, and professional articles. Also involves learning to write professional psychological reports. Prerequisite(s): PSY 101, ENGL 111, and ENGL 112, or approval of the School Director. Writing Intensive Course Fee Assessed.

**Learning outcomes (LO):** Upon satisfactory completion of this course, students will:

**LO 1.** be able to demonstrate knowledge of relevant publication formats and rules of the American Psychological Association and have used various formats for writing papers in psychology.

**LO 2.** have completed basic library research for psychology.

**LO 3.** have served as a peer reviewer for classmates' writing.

**LO 4.** have reviewed his or her own work, including meeting with a writing tutor.

**Required textbooks:**

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

**Academic integrity and classroom conduct policy:** Texas A&M University - Central Texas expects all students to maintain high standards of personal and scholarly conduct. Students found responsible for academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary action. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. The faculty member is responsible for initiating action for each case of academic dishonesty. Any work determined to have been completed with other students or otherwise violating academic policies will be dealt with as academic dishonesty following TAMU-CT's policies, including reporting the instance to relevant authorities. More information can be found at [www.ct.tamus.edu/StudentConduct](http://www.ct.tamus.edu/StudentConduct).

Note that there are some assignments specifically designed to be done in collaboration with other students; this will be indicated in the assignment description. **All other work should be completely individually without help from other students.** If it's not clear to you which assignments allow you to work with others, be sure to check with the course instructor. For postings on the discussion board, please be respectful of the ideas and opinions of all class members; inappropriate language and interactions may lead to being blocked for the rest of the semester from the discussion area and the loss of related points. To get the most out of this class and all your classes, it's best to treat them like a job; come to class prepared each day and take responsibility for your own work. In general, if you respect other class members and your instructor, you should be fine.

**Bringing Others to Class.** Students are not permitted to bring other individuals who are not students in our class to class meetings without prior consent of the instructor.

**Tutoring:** Tutoring is available to all TAMU-CT students, both on-campus and online. Subjects tutored include: Accounting, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Writing (APA). Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Founder's Hall, Room 204, and also in the Library in the North Building. Visit [www.ct.tamus.edu/AcademicSupport](http://www.ct.tamus.edu/AcademicSupport) and click "Tutoring Support" for tutor schedules and contact info. If you have questions or you're interested in becoming a tutor, contact Academic Support Programs at 254-501-5830 or by emailing [gnichols@ct.tamus.edu](mailto:gnichols@ct.tamus.edu).

Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables TAMU-CT students to log-in and receive FREE online tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in Mathematics, Writing, Career Writing, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Spanish, Calculus, and Statistics. Chat live on your computer with a tutor 24/7 about any tutoring subject. To access Tutor.com, go to [www.tutor.com/tamuct](http://www.tutor.com/tamuct).

**On-campus writing help:** The TAMU-CT Student Affairs Office oversees all on-campus tutoring assistance. For information about what help is available for writing, go to <http://www.ct.tamus.edu/departments/academicsupport/tutoring-services.php>.

*Learning Evaluation Methods:*

- Participation (10%) - This grade will be based on your presence and contribution to the classroom environment.
- Topic Approval (5%) – This grade involves selecting a topic for your overall paper and turning it in on Blackboard to be approved by your instructor. If your topic is not approved, the assignment will be cleared and you will have one week to revise and re-submit as directed by your instructor. If your topic is submitted late, any revision will receive a maximum grade of a 50. Your topic may be changed, but you must get it re-approved to maintain your grade for this assignment.
- Three Articles Approved (10%) – This grade involves uploading to Blackboard a pdf of each of your 3 main articles in a viewable format (preferably pdf) so that the instructor may approve of the article. If a submitted article is not accepted, it will be cleared and you will have one week to find and submit another article in a viewable format at a 5 point deduction per attempt.
- Quizzes (20%) – This grade will be based on three brief multiple-choice assessments of your knowledge of research methods, APA style, and plagiarism. See the schedule for the time of these respective quizzes.
- Journal Article Review (15%) – This grade will be based on a brief paper you will turn in systematically describing one of your three main research articles. The article being reviewed must be approved by the instructor prior to turning in this paper. Additional guidelines will be provided.
- Outline of Research Review Paper (5%) – This grade will be based on an outline that you will create of your final paper and upload to Blackboard. To turn in this assignment, you must have already had (1) your topic approved, (2) three articles approved, and (3) turned in your journal article review.
- Research Paper Presentation (5%) – This grade will involve briefly presenting the content of your outline in class on an assigned date. Students may trade days if they are unable to

attend on their assigned date. The presentation may not be made after these days have passed.

- First Draft of Research Review Paper (5%) – The purpose of this grade is for the student to receive feedback from the instructor. Therefore, students will receive 100% of the credit for this assignment if these conditions are met (1) it is turned in before the due time/date (2) your topic has been approved, (3) three articles have been approved, (4) you turned in your journal article review, and (5) you turned in an outline.
- Final Research Review Paper (25%)

**Research Experience Requirement (Pass/Fail):** Students in selected psychology courses (i.e., PSY 307, PSY 309, PSY 330, PSY 412, PSY 420) are required to engage in research experience activities as part of the coursework. The research experience activity includes either participating in research studies directly related to psychology (i.e., projects sponsored by the Psychology & Counseling Department faculty) or reading and writing summaries of peer-reviewed, empirical research articles in psychology related to each course (or a combination of both).

**Sign Up:** To receive credit for a research experience activity, students must sign up to participate in a research study or write a research summary through the Psychology and Counseling Research Sign-Up System hosted by SONA.

Students will receive an email from the research administrator with their username and password for logging into the sign-up system. When students receive this email, they should follow the link to <https://tamuct.sona-systems.com> and request an account using their TAMUCT email account. Students must verify their account requests before being granted access to the system. Once the account is verified, students will be able to sign-up for research experience activities (for additional information see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1OnT2ZU6QQ>).

If a student must cancel a scheduled appointment, s/he may do so via the “My Schedule/Credits” tab in the sign-up system. If the cancel option does not appear next to the study information, it is too late to cancel participation via the sign-up system, so students must contact the researcher directly via email. Students must include their identity code in all correspondence with researchers. Students should be advised that late cancellation of an appointment may be counted as a no show. Researchers reserve the right not to accept late cancellations when sufficient time is not available to reschedule the cancelled slot. Students who accrue three (3) no-shows for research participation will be blocked from participating in research studies and must read and summarize peer-reviewed, empirical research articles to earn the remaining research experience credits.

**Credits:** Students are required to complete 3 research credits in this course. Credit is allotted as follows and is determined by the researcher (not the course instructor) based on estimated participation time:

- 1 credit for each hour (60 minutes) of research participation (in-person or online)
- 1/2 credit for each 1/2 hour (30 minutes) of research participation (in-person or online)
- 1 credit for each summary of a peer-reviewed, empirical research article (

Any student who has not earned the required number credits prior to the opening of the final exam period for the course will receive an Incomplete (I) for the course. If the incomplete is not made up by the end of the following semester, it will automatically convert to an F. Students who drop a class after having earned research experience credit cannot apply any accumulated credit from that class towards the next time they take the course.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES AND POLICIES**

**Late Work Policy.** Any work that is turned in after the specified due time and date (on the syllabus and/or on blackboard) for this course will receive a maximum grade of a 70 if it is turned in during the week that it was due. After that week has passed, no more assignments will be accepted. Some assignments may have different rules concerning late work as delineated in the more specific guidelines above..

**Drop Policy.** If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must go to the Records Office and ask for the necessary paperwork. Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The record's office will provide a deadline for which the form must be returned, completed and signed. Once you return the signed form to the records office and wait 24 hours, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. Should you still be enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the records office immediately? You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course.

**Academic Integrity.** Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of

integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

**Disability Support and Access Services.** At Texas A&M University – Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to an education that is barrier-free. The Office of Disability Support and Access is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability enjoy equal access to the University's programs, services and activities. Some aspects of this course or the way the course is taught may present barriers to learning due to a disability. If you feel this is the case, please contact Disability Support and Access at (254) 501-5831 in Warrior Hall, Ste. 212. For more information, please visit their website at [www.tamuct/disabilitysupport](http://www.tamuct/disabilitysupport). Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such. Course Abbreviation (e.g. ENGL 999)—Spring 2016

**Tutoring.** Tutoring is available to all TAMUCT students, both on-campus and online. Subjects tutored include Accounting, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Writing (APA). Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111. Visit [www.tamuct.edu/AcademicSupport](http://www.tamuct.edu/AcademicSupport) and click "Tutoring Support" for tutor schedules and contact information. If you have questions, need to schedule a tutoring session, or if you are interested in becoming a tutor, contact Academic Support Programs at 254-501-5836 or by emailing [c.garza@tamuct.edu](mailto:c.garza@tamuct.edu)

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables TAMUCT students to log-in and receive FREE online tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in Mathematics, Writing, Career Writing, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Spanish, Calculus, and Statistics. To access Tutor.com, click on <http://www.tamuct.edu/departments/academicssupport/tutoring.php>.

**University Library.** The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 72,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at TAMUCT are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On-campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available twenty-four hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the TAMUCT main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many

other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our homepage: <http://www.tamuct.edu/departments/library/index.php>.

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT**

This course will use the TAMUCT Canvas learning management system. Logon to <https://tamuct.instructure.com> to access the course. Username: Your MyCT username (xx123 or everything before the "@" in your MyCT e-mail address) Initial password: Your MyCT password.

Check browser and computer compatibility by using the "Test Your Browser" button, found in the "Check Your Browser" module on your Canvas dashboard, once you have logged in.

**Technology Support.** For technology issues, students should contact Help Desk Central. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week: Email: [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu) Phone: (254) 519-5466 Web Chat: <http://hdc.tamu.edu> When calling for support please let your support technician know you are a TAMUCT student. For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor. Technology issues are not an excuse for missing a course requirement – make sure your computer is configured correctly and address issues well in advance of deadlines.

Writing in Psychology - Tentative Schedule - WH 306

Week	Date	Topic	Due
1	8/28	Introduction & Syllabus	
	8/30	Choosing a Topic	
2	9/4	Searching Academic Databases	
	9/6	Psychology Research Methods	Choose General Topic
3	9/11	Reading Psychology Publications	
	9/13	Finding Empirical Research	
4	9/18	Writing About Research Day 1	Article Approval 1
	9/20	Research Methods Quiz	
5	9/25	APA in-text Citation	
	9/27	Writing your Article Review	
6	10/2	Avoiding Plagiarism	Article Approval 2
	10/4	APA Citation Game	
7	10/9	Article Analysis Peer Review	Article Analysis (bring copy to class)
	10/11	Paraphrasing & Quoting	Article Analysis (turn in online)
8	10/16	Writing References	
	10/18	Using Formal Language in Writing	
9	10/23	Writing a Coherent Research Paper	Article Approval 3
	10/25	Using References Day 1	
10	10/30	Using References Day 2	
	11/1	Presentation Example	
11	11/6	Writing an Abstract	Outline
	11/8	Critical Reading of Psychology Research	
12	11/13	Presentation Day 1	
	11/15	Peer Review of first Draft	First Draft (Bring to Class)
13	11/20	Presentation Day 2	First Draft (Turn in Online)
	11/22	Online Class	
14	11/27	Writing your Introduction/Conclusion	
	11/29	Final Paper Peer Review	Final Paper (Bring to class)
15	12/4	Presentation Day 3	Final Paper (turn in online)
	12/6	Citations/References Review	



16	12/11	APA Quiz	
	12/13	Plagiarism Quiz	