

**Texas A&M University – Central Texas  
PSYC 3309.120 Writing in Psychology  
Online Course  
Spring 2020**

**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: 1:30 pm - 3:15 pm  
Tuesday: 11:00 am - 12:30 pm, 1:30 pm - 3:15 pm  
Wednesday: 1:30 pm - 3:15 pm  
Thursday: 11:00 am - 12:30 pm, 1:30 pm - 3:15 pm

To set up an appointment, go to: <https://calendly.co>

**During other times, you can e-mail me and we may be able to set up a web appointment using [webex](#).**

To set up an appointment, go to: <https://calendly.com/daniel-clark>

**WARRIOR SHIELD**

**Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas**

Warrior Shield 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 Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by [911Cellular](#) [<https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login>] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, 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.

## Writing Instructive Course

This is a writing instructive course. In this course, the student will be assigned a variety of writing assignments (such as discussion posts, outlines, and papers) that will make up a substantial portion of the grades. Several times during the semester, the student will have the opportunity to turn in writing to the instructor, receive feedback, and revise the work. Writing is also the main focus of the learning outcomes in this course (see below).

**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. (2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

### Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system.

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>].

Username: Your MyCT username (xx123 or everything before the "@" in your MyCT e-mail address)

Password: Your MyCT password

### Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select "Chat with Canvas Support," submit a support request through "Report a Problem," or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

### Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, 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): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

*Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.*

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## **UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES**

### **Drop Policy.**

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a [Drop Request Form](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf) [https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop\_Request\_Form.pdf].

Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

### **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.

**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.

### **Academic Accommodations.**

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 a barrier free education. The Department of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to

the University's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Department of Access and Inclusion at (254) 501-5831. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html) webpage [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html].

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. For more information, please visit <https://www.tamuct.departments/index.php>. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](#) online, please visit the website [<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf>].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender – including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Division of Student Affairs at 254-501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

## **Tutoring.**

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. On-campus subjects tutored include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at 254-519-5796, or by emailing Dr. DeEadra Albert-Green at [deeadra.albertgreen@tamuct.edu](mailto:deeadra.albertgreen@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 A&M-Central Texas students to log-in and receive FREE online tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in over forty subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

**University Writing Center:** Located in 416 Warrior Hall, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10am-5pm Monday-Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library Monday-Thursday from 6:00-9:00pm. Students may arrange a one-on-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available) or by making an appointment via [WConline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) at [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce

Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu) to schedule an online tutoring session. Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process.

While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the University Writing Center is here to help!

If you have any questions about the University Writing Center, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu).

## **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 A&M-Central Texas 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 A&M-Central Texas 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 [Library website](https://tamuct.libguides.com/) [https://tamuct.libguides.com/].

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## **OPTIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS:**

### **A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas**

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone

discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php) [https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php].

### *Learning Evaluation Methods:*

- Participation (10%) -
  - *Participation Quizzes* - This category includes 9 short quizzes that will be completed over class material.
  - *Discussions* - Three discussions will be conducted throughout the semester. Discussion posts may not be turned
- Topic Approval (2%) – This grade involves selecting a topic for your overall paper and turning it in on Canvas to be approved by your instructor. You will also submit one academic research article over your topic at the same time. If your topic is not approved, you will receive a temporary zero and you will have one week to revise and re-submit as directed by your instructor. If your grade is something besides zero because you did not answer the other questions correctly, you may not resubmit for a better grade. 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 Canvas a pdf of each of your 3 main articles in a viewable format (preferably pdf) so that the instructor may approve of the article. You will also answer basic questions about the article. If a submitted article is not accepted, you will be given a temporary “0” grade and you will have one week to find and submit another article in a viewable format at a 5 point deduction per attempt. If your grade is something besides zero because you did not answer the questions correctly about the article, you may not resubmit for a better grade. Resubmission is only for when the article is not accepted.
- Quizzes (15%) – This grade will be based on three assessments of your knowledge of research methods, APA style, and plagiarism. See the schedule for the time of these respective assignments.
- Journal Article Reviews (20%) – This grade will be based on two brief papers you will turn in systematically describing two of your three main research articles. The article(s) being

reviewed must be approved by the instructor prior to turning in. Additional guidelines will be provided.

- Article Analysis One - A summary of your first article
- Article Analysis Two - A corrected summary of the first article and a summary of your second article with an appropriate transition.
  
- 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 Canvas. 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 reviews.
  
- Research Paper Presentation / Discussion (5%) – This grade will involve briefly presenting the content of your outline in an online video.
  
- Rough 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 reviews, and (5) you turned in an outline.
  
- Final Research Review Paper (30%)

**Research Experience Requirement:** Students in selected psychology courses (PSYC 3307, PSYC 3309, PSYC 3330, PSYC 3312, PSYC 4320) are required to engage in research experience activities as part of the course. The research experience activity includes either participating in research studies directly related to psychology, writing summaries of peer reviewed empirical research articles, 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 Counseling and Psychology Research Sign-Up System hosted by [SONA](https://tamuct.sona-systems.com) (<https://tamuct.sona-systems.com>). Students should access the TAMUCT SONA website 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. A [tutorial video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_1OnT2ZU6QQ) is provided for using SONA ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_1OnT2ZU6QQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_1OnT2ZU6QQ)). Students who have problems signing up for SONA or have questions should contact the SONA coordinator Melissa Sanchez ([ms057@my.tamuct.edu](mailto:ms057@my.tamuct.edu)).

**Credits:** Students are required to complete 3 research credits in this course. The first research credit must be earned before the middle of the course (midterm). 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.
- 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.

**Penalties:** Any student who has not earned 1 research credit before the halfway point of the course (midterm) will be penalized 1 letter grade on the final course grade. Any student who has not earned all required research credits prior to the opening of the final exam period for the course will lose 1 letter grade on the final course grade for every research credit short of the required 3 research credits (e.g., missing 2 credits will result in a 2 letter grade reduction in the final course grade).

### **COURSE POLICIES**

**Late Work Policy.** Any work that is turned in after the specified due date (on the syllabus) for this course will lose 10% per day for the first week. 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.



## Writing in Psychology - Tentative Schedule

| Week | Module                              | Paper Assignments Due      |
|------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1    | Introduction                        |                            |
| 2    | Finding a Topic                     |                            |
| 3    | Psychology Research Methods         |                            |
| 4    | Finding Empirical Research          | Article Approval 1         |
| 5    | Basics of APA Style                 |                            |
| 6    | Avoiding Plagiarism                 | Article Approval 2         |
| 7    | Writing your First Article Analysis | Journal Article Analysis 1 |
| 8    | Writing Reference Pages             |                            |
| 9    | Using Formal Language in Writing    | Article Approval 3         |
| 10   | Reducing Bias                       |                            |
| 11   | Writing Your Second JAA             | Second JAA                 |
| 12   | Writing your Outline                | Final Paper Outline        |
| 13   | Writing an Abstract                 | Final Paper Rough Draft    |
| 14   | Supporting Claims with Evidence     |                            |
| 15   | Presenting your Work                | Final Paper & Slides       |
| 16   | Final Module                        | Presentation Video         |