

PSYO380A  
Scientific Communication  
SUMMER SEMESTER 2 – July/August 2021  
University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 2:30 – 4:30pm PST

Course Overview

**Instructor:** Maya Pilin, M.A. ([maya.pilin@ubc.ca](mailto:maya.pilin@ubc.ca))

**Office Hours:** By appointment.

**Overview:** In this course, you will learn the basic modes of scientific communication that will allow you to successfully communicate findings within psychological science. You will learn to do so by practicing writing and oral communication in various formats. The course will include online lectures that teach you the fundamentals of writing, along with assignments and synchronous writing workshops to practice these skills.

**Online Course Format:** This class will be conducted online. However, it will include a mix of synchronous and asynchronous learning. This means that your lectures will be pre-recorded and provided to you to listen to each week. However, you will be required to attend four of the synchronous online writing workshops (dates available below).

**Course Description:** Theory and practice in using abstracts, posters, articles, presentations, and other modes of communication to disseminate research findings.

**Detailed Course Description and Objectives:** After completing this course, my goal is that you be more comfortable in communicating your scientific findings in a variety of ways. In order to learn how to do this, we will focus on two main objectives:

1. Micro-Writing: Learning the basics of grammar, sentence structure, and APA style, and how to craft clear sentences and paragraphs for scientific communication.
2. Macro-Communication: Learning the structure and components of several modes of scientific communication, including presentations, literature reviews, and articles.

**Required Readings:** You are not required to buy a textbook for this course. It may be useful to purchase a copy of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7<sup>th</sup> Edition) (ISBN: 978-1433832161). However, you will *not* be completing any readings from this book and the majority of information it covers can be accessed for free online.

**Course Requirements:** Below are the course requirements on which you will be evaluated:

Component	Percentage
<a href="#">Mini-Assignments</a>	20%
<a href="#">Peer Review</a>	5%
<a href="#">Learning Goals/Feedback Meeting</a>	5%
<a href="#">TED Talks</a>	20%
Writing Workshop Attendance	7.5%
Lecture Engagement	2.5%
<a href="#">Practicing Outlines Assignment</a>	20%
Practicing Research Proposals Assignment	20%

## Assignment Descriptions

### [Mini-Assignments:](#)

You will be asked to complete a total of six mini-assignments. The assignments will be short and will involve practicing the skill that you learned in each lecture. For example, you may be asked to write a 100-word abstract. The assignments are due every week and several of them will involve a peer-review process (see below). With the exception of one assignment (Mini-Assignment #3), each assignment will be submitted online via Canvas on Sundays.

### [Peer Review:](#)

You will be asked to work with your peers and review their writing and oral presentation skills. In order to achieve full marks, you must complete four peer reviews of the assignments. You will be graded based on the clarity and depth of feedback you provide. A template will be provided to guide you through the peer-review process. Below is a guide to indicate which assignments are peer-reviewed and when each review is due. Please note that your fourth peer-review will count for your TED Talk grades.

Peer Review & Mini-Assignments Guide		
Assignment	Peer-Review	Deadlines
<a href="#">Mini-Assignment #1 (APA)</a>	No	Sunday, July 11 <sup>th</sup>
<a href="#">Mini-Assignment #2 (Oral Presentation Blitz 1)</a>	No	Sunday, July 18 <sup>th</sup>
<a href="#">Mini-Assignment #3 (Oral Presentation Blitz 2)</a>	Yes	Friday, July 16 <sup>th</sup> (Required Writing Workshop), Peer Review #1 due by Sunday, July 18 <sup>th</sup>
<a href="#">Mini-Assignment #4 (Lay Abstract)</a>	Yes	Sunday, July 25 <sup>th</sup> , Peer Review #2 due by Sunday, August 1 <sup>st</sup> .
<a href="#">Mini-Assignment #5 (Discussion Section)</a>	Yes	Sunday, July 25 <sup>th</sup> , Peer Review #2 due by Sunday, August 1 <sup>st</sup> .
<a href="#">Mini-Assignment #6 (Reverse Outline)</a>	No	Sunday, August 1 <sup>st</sup>
<a href="#">TED Talks</a>	Yes	August 10 <sup>th</sup> or 11 <sup>th</sup> (Required Writing Workshop), Peer Review due on August 15 <sup>th</sup>

### [Learning Goals/Feedback Meeting:](#)

Staying engaged in an online course can sometimes be difficult. In order for me to have a chance to meet you and give you the best chance of success in this course, you will be required to have a meeting with me, either at the start or in the middle of the semester. You will only be graded for completion for this meeting – this means filling in the form I will provide, arriving on time, and completing the meeting. The topic of the meeting at the start of the semester will be setting your learning goals. The topic for the mid-semester meeting will be to discuss how you can improve going forward/your goals for the rest of the course. You must schedule the meeting by July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

### TED Talks:

An important part of scientific communication is the ability to clearly present your research findings through an oral presentation. As part of your final grade, you will be asked to do a 5-minute presentation on a topic of your choice. In order to allow for adequate practice time, you will initially record a draft version of your TED Talk and receive feedback from your peers via Canvas. You will then use this feedback to improve your talk and present it via Zoom during the last week of class. You will not be graded on your knowledge of the topic; the rubric will focus strictly on your presentation skills as well as your presentation slides. You will be asked to submit your slides as part of your assignment.

### Writing Workshop Attendance:

You will be asked to attend class synchronously four times throughout the semester. The dates for the synchronous classes are available below; in our class, we will call these times Writing Workshops. Two of these workshops are on Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup> (Mini-Assignment #3) and on August 10<sup>th</sup> **OR** 11<sup>th</sup> (TED Talks). You are required to attend on the 16<sup>th</sup> as well as either on August 10<sup>th</sup> or August 11<sup>th</sup>. You may choose the dates on which you attend the other two workshops. In order to receive marks for class attendance, you must submit a Communication Question before each workshop you attend. This question must be about writing or oral communication and should be related to (but not answered by) that week's lecture content. The Communication Questions are submitted via Canvas, and I will answer them during the workshop each week.

### Lecture Engagement:

There will be a set of questions to complete for each lecture. These questions will be marked for completion on a weekly basis and will be submitted online via Canvas.

<b>Attendance &amp; Lecture Engagement Grades</b>
Attend <b>Required Writing Workshop (July 16<sup>th</sup>)</b>
Attend <b>Required TED Talk (August 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>)</b>
Choose <b>TWO more</b> optional Writing Workshops to attend.
Submit <b>Communication Questions</b> for the optional Writing Workshops the Sunday before each of the two Workshops you attend (see above).

Submit completed **Lecture Engagement questions** for each lecture (due Sundays)

[Practicing Outlines Assignment:](#)

In order to practice your research, writing, and outlining skills, you will be asked to complete an outlining assignment. This assignment will ask you to use a database to complete some initial research on a topic, outline a paper, and pick a suitable journal to which you will submit the paper. Detailed instructions will be provided on Canvas.

[Practicing Research Proposals Assignment:](#)

In order to practice your research proposal skills, you will be asked to write a proposal for funding to one of the tri-council agencies. The assignment will also ask you to justify your choice of funding agency and to create a lay summary of your proposal. Detailed instructions will be provided on Canvas.

### UBC Grading Scale

Final grades will be calculated according to the Summary of Assessments table presented above.

Please note the following from the Academic Calendar:

Faculties, departments, and schools reserve the right to scale grades in order to maintain equity among sections and conformity to University, faculty, department, or school norms. Students should therefore note that an unofficial grade given by an instructor might be changed by the faculty, department, or school. Grades are not official until they appear on a student's academic record.

90 – 100 =	A+
85 – 89 =	A
80 – 84 =	A -
76 – 79 =	B+
72 – 75 =	B
68 – 71 =	B -

64 – 67 =	C+
60 – 63 =	C
55 – 59 =	C -
50 – 54 =	D
00 – 49 =	F

### Course Grading Policies:

Cheating will not be tolerated. Cheating involves submitting work that is not a product of your own effort. Some examples of cheating are copying from others, crib notes, and plagiarism. Plagiarism is misrepresenting the ideas or words of another as your own or copying word-for-word from any source (even if you cite the source and/or change some of the words around). According to university policies depending on the seriousness of the offense, cheating will be punishable by either reduced points on the assignment, zero points for the assignment, or an “F” in the course. Further details about cheating are available at <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/okanagan/?tree=3,54,111,959> which is also appended below along with some additional information on avoiding plagiarism.

Reasonable accommodations are available when approved through the disability Resource Centre <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/okanagan/index.cfm?tree=3,293,867,0>. Please notify me by the end of the first week of class if you require any accommodations. Late notification may delay the requested accommodations.

### Final Examinations

The examination period for Term 2 of Summer 2021 is August 16th to August 20th. Except in the case of examination clashes and hardships (three or more formal examinations scheduled within a 24-hour period) or unforeseen events, students will be permitted to apply for out-of-time final examinations only if they are representing the University, the province, or the country in a competition or performance; serving in the Canadian military; observing a religious rite; working to support themselves or their family; or caring for a family member. Unforeseen events include (but may not be limited to) the following: ill health or other personal challenges that arise during a term and changes in the requirements of an ongoing job.

Further information on Academic Concession can be found under Policies and Regulation in the *Okanagan Academic Calendar* <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/okanagan/index.cfm?tree=3,48,0,0> [Links to an external site.](#)

## Academic Integrity

The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work. Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) lead to the breakdown of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise and harsh sanctions are imposed. For example, incidences of plagiarism or cheating may result in a mark of zero on the assignment or exam and more serious consequences may apply if the matter is referred to the President's Advisory Committee on Student Discipline. Careful records are kept in order to monitor and prevent recurrences.

A more detailed description of academic integrity, including the University's policies and procedures, may be found in the Academic Calendar at

<http://okanagan.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,0>[Links to an external site.](#)

## Resources

### **UBC Okanagan Equity and Inclusion Office**

UBC Okanagan is a place where every student, staff and faculty member should be able to study and work in an environment that is free from discrimination and harassment. UBC prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of the following grounds: age, ancestry, colour, family status, marital status, physical or mental disability, place of origin, political belief, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or unrelated criminal conviction. If you require assistance related to an issue of equity, discrimination or harassment, please contact the Equity and Inclusion Office.

**UNC 227C** 250.807.9291

Email: [equity.ubco@ubc.ca](mailto:equity.ubco@ubc.ca)[Links to an external site.](#)

Web: [www.ubc.ca/okanagan/equity](http://www.ubc.ca/okanagan/equity)[Links to an external site.](#)

### **UBC Okanagan Disability Resource Centre**

The Disability Resource Centre ensures educational equity for students with disabilities, injuries or illness. If you are disabled, have an injury or illness and require academic accommodations to meet the course objectives, please contact Earllene Roberts, the Diversity Advisor for the Disability Resource Centre located in Commons Corner in the University Centre building (UNC 227).

**UNC 227A** 250.807.9263

email [earllene.roberts@ubc.ca](mailto:earllene.roberts@ubc.ca)

Web: [www.ubc.ca/okanagan/students/drcl](http://www.ubc.ca/okanagan/students/drcl)[Links to an external site.](#)

### **UBC Okanagan Ombuds Office**

The Ombuds Office offers independent, impartial, and confidential support to students in navigating UBC policies, processes, and resources, as well as guidance in resolving concerns related to fairness.

**UNC 227B** 250.807.9818

email: [ombuds.office.ok@ubc.ca](mailto:ombuds.office.ok@ubc.ca)

Web: <http://ombudsoffice.ubc.ca/ubc-okanagan-2/>[Links to an external site.](#)

### **Health & Wellness**

At UBC Okanagan health services to students are provided by Health and Wellness. Nurses, physicians and counsellors provide health care and counselling related to physical health, emotional/mental health and sexual/reproductive health concerns. As well, health promotion, education and research activities are provided to the campus community. If you require assistance with your health, please contact Health and Wellness for more information or to book an appointment.

Web: [www.students.ok.ubc.ca/health-wellness](http://www.students.ok.ubc.ca/health-wellness)[Links to an external site.](#)

### **SAFEWALK**

Don't want to walk alone at night? Not too sure how to get somewhere on campus? Call Safewalk at 250-807-8076. For more information, see: [www.security.ok.ubc.ca](http://www.security.ok.ubc.ca).

### **SVPRO:**

A safe and confidential place for UBC students, staff and faculty who have experienced sexual violence regardless of when or where it took place. Just want to talk? We are here to listen and help you explore your options. We can help you find a safe place to stay, explain your reporting options (UBC or police), accompany you to the hospital, or support you with academic accommodations. You have the right to choose what happens next. We support your decision, whatever you decide.

Visit [www.svpro.ok.ubc.ca](http://www.svpro.ok.ubc.ca)[Links to an external site.](#) or call us at 250.807.9640

### **Independent Investigations Office (IIO)**

If you or someone you know has experienced sexual assault or some other form of sexual misconduct by a UBC community member and you want the Independent Investigations Office (IIO) at UBC to investigate, please contact the IIO. Investigations are conducted in a trauma informed, confidential and respectful manner in accordance with the principles of procedural fairness. You can report your experience directly to the IIO via email: [director.of.investigations@ubc.ca](mailto:director.of.investigations@ubc.ca) or by calling 604.827.2060 or online by visiting [investigationsoffice.ubc.ca](http://investigationsoffice.ubc.ca)

### **UBCO Virtual Walk-in Well-Being Clinic**



A barrier-free wellness clinic, accessible without an appointment to students, staff, faculty and community members. Complete a brief meeting with a graduate clinician supervised by a registered psychologist for 30 minutes to develop the right wellness plan for you. Services are free of charge. Must be in the Okanagan area to receive services.

Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:00 – 4:00 PM Pacific Daylight Savings Time (Kelowna time)

Email: [ipc.ok@ubc.ca](mailto:ipc.ok@ubc.ca)

Voicemail: (250) 807-8241

Web: <https://psych.ok.ubc.ca/psychology-clinic/thrive-thursdays/>Links to an external site.

## Course Schedule

Week 1	
Topics	<p><a href="#">Topic 1: Grammar and Punctuation</a></p> <p><a href="#">Topic 2: APA Style</a></p> <p><a href="#">Optional Writing Workshop Date: Tuesday, July 6<sup>th</sup> (Links to an external site.)</a></p>
Week 2	
Topics	<p><a href="#">Topic 1: Oral Communication</a></p> <p><a href="#">Topic 2: Science and the Media</a></p> <p><a href="#">Writing Workshop Date: Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup> (Required) (Links to an external site.)</a></p>
Week 3	
Topics	<p><a href="#">Topic 1: Research Funding</a></p> <p><a href="#">Topic 2: Outlining &amp; Literature Searches</a></p> <p><a href="#">Optional Writing Workshop Date: Tuesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> (Links to an external site.)</a></p>

Week 4	
Topics	<p><u>Topic 1:</u> Literature Reviews</p> <p><u>Topic 2:</u> Experimental Papers</p> <p><u>Optional Writing Workshop Date: Tuesday, July 27<sup>th</sup> (Links to an external site.)</u></p>
Week 5	
Topics	<p><u>Topic 1:</u> Academic Publishing</p> <p><u>Topic 2:</u> Collaboration in Science</p> <p><u>Optional Writing Workshop Date: Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> (Links to an external site.)</u></p>
Week 6	
Topics	<p><u>Topic 1:</u> Visualizing Scientific Findings</p> <p><u>Topic 2:</u> Pre-Writing and Post-Writing</p> <p>Writing Workshop Date: <u>Tuesday, August 10<sup>th</sup> (Links to an external site.)</u> OR <u>Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup> (Links to an external site.)</u> (Required)</p>

**Deadlines**

Deadlines	Assignment
Sundays, 11:59 PST	Lecture Questions
Sundays, 11:59 PST	Communication Questions (if you are attending a workshop that week)

Sundays, 11:59 PST	Mini-Assignments & Peer Reviews
July 9 <sup>th</sup> , 11:59 PST	Schedule Learning Goals Meeting
August 1 <sup>st</sup> , 11:59 PST	Practicing Outlines Assignment
August 17 <sup>th</sup> , 11:59 PST	Practicing Research Proposals Assignment
August 10 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup>	TED Talks – attend one day minimum to present