

**Psychology Department WAC Plan
Spring 2015**

Part I: A description of what constitutes good writing in your discipline.

Writing should be clear and to the point: precise and concise. It should have a clear thesis, be well organized, be free of spelling and grammatical errors, and be properly cited.

Additionally, psychology papers should adhere to APA style guidelines. Individual assignments may surpass these minimum requirements with additional specifics.

Part 2: A description of how your department is going to help students achieve good writing in your discipline. Here, list any course that meets the following 3 criteria: (1) is required, (2) requires at least 5 pages of writing, (3) grade for written work counts at least 10% of course grade.

PSY101 (General Psychology), 20 pages, 65% (Kline)*

PSY204 (Lifespan Development), 25 pages, 45% (Kline)**

PSY310 (Industrial and Organizational Psychology), 15 pages, 27% (Snyder)***

PSY330 (Counseling Psy), 10 pages in total, 25% (Kline)***

PSY341 (Abnormal Psych), 15 pages, 30% (Kline)***

PSY347 (Tests and Measures), 15-25 pages, 65% (Kline)***

PSY355 (Experimental Psych), 12-25 pages, 25% (Snyder)*

PSY385 (Behavior Genetics), 20-30 pages, 60% (Kline)***

PSY485 (Senior Thesis), 25-40 pages, 70% (Snyder)*

NB: Regarding the criteria that the course be "required," * courses are required of all psychology majors, ** courses are options among a shorter list of possible required courses for psychology majors, and *** are from the general electives, of which some must be taken by psychology majors to fulfill the minimum number of psychology credits for the major. So in other words all psychology majors will take * courses, many will take ** courses, and some will take *** courses.

Part 3: Include any rubrics used in the courses listed in part 2.

Rubrics attached.

Rubric for Research Paper

This paper should be written in the style of a psychology journal article using APA style. Look at some of the articles from your literature review for exemplars. There is no need to cut and paste or include the results, I already have them. Just put Results and then say see attached.

Introduction 35%

- Use your 5 articles from literature review
- Tie them to our study question
- Tell our study question
- Clearly ties our study question to your articles

Methods 25%

- Describe subject characteristics
- Describe the measures
- Tell the procedures fully and honestly

Discussion 40%

- Describe our results, especially referencing the
 - Histograms
- Interpret our results, what do they mean
- What is important about our results
- What are the main findings
- Anything surprising
- Compare and contrast our results with those from literature review
- Describe the weaknesses and limitations

Rubric for Zombie Project

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Paper 5 page minimum | 15% |
| 2. Proper APA style citation for references | 15% |
| 3. Use of sources other than class notes/schlozman | 15% |
| 4. Coverage of brain regions is comprehensive | |
| a. Supported by references | |
| b. Use of disease examples/animal studies | 15% |
| 5. Coverage of Neurotransmitters | |
| a. Neurotransmitters related to traits | |
| b. Neurotransmitter systems | 15% |
| c. Supported by references | |
| 6. Coverage of hormones | |
| a. Supported by references | |
| b. Examples | 15% |
| 7. Paper is well organized and uses proper spelling/grammar | 10% |

The purpose of this paper is to describe the way that our brain, neurotransmitters, and hormones relate to behavior using Zombies as a descriptive mechanism. A minimum paper for a C would have repeated what Schlozman talked about and not much more. To move up to B and A level you will need to go beyond Schlozman. You should talk about Neurotransmitter systems (i.e. the dopaminergic system), hormones (i.e. Leptin), and provide evidence for these (and the brain parts) by referring to diseases that mimic these symptoms (i.e. Parkinson's disease) and research that sheds light on functionality. In my experience, most A papers were approximately 10 pages in total length due to the extra information they put into it. I suggest using the following video as a tool, look at the description of the video and it will list the lyrics which tell the function of every important part of the brain : <http://youtu.be/vYwOtTMUz0c>

Rubric for Counseling Psychology Paper

	Excel lent	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A
Paper meets minimum length requirements	5	4	3	2	0
Paper is free of grammatical and spelling errors	5	4	3	2	0
Paper includes homework assignments	5	4	3	2	0
Paper includes assessment mechanism for determining treatment effectiveness	5	4	3	2	0
Paper includes an interpretation of the case and problem based on the discussion	10	8	5	2	0
Paper clearly and exhaustively links at least one therapeutic orientation to the case	10	8	5	2	0
Paper gives examples and directions on how the therapy will occur, look and feel during the course of therapy.	10	8	5	2	0

Total possible: 50

_____/50

Comments:

Treatment Paper Rubric Abnormal

References are properly cited and listed	10
Used primary sources in addition to the textbook and class notes	10
Paper is logically organized	20
Paper links at least one disorder to one treatment	10
Paper demonstrates original thought, not simply facts from other sources. This includes an evaluation of the treatment(s), a personal opinion of it.	50

This paper should begin with one of two approaches. Either look in depth at a treatment and evaluate its effectiveness with different disorders or look at a single disorder and evaluate treatments associated with it. I want you to use more sources than simply your textbook and lecture notes (make sure to cite them). I would also like to see some organization to the paper that the thoughts flow logically from one to the next. Mainly, I am looking for some original thoughts about this topic. As an example, you could simply list the medications that are effective for depression but I would instead like to see what they imply and how that has panned out. (SSRI's indicate dysfunction in the Serotonin system but the fact that they raise serotonin levels immediately but take so long to work indicate something else is going on.....).

Rubric for Papers on Tests in Class

	Ex cel lent	Go od	Fair	Poo r	No Proj ect
Student described the nature of the test including format, scaling etc.	5	4	3	2	0
Student described the test results	5	4	3	2	0
Student explained the interpretation of the results	5	4	3	2	0
Students described how they perceive the results compared to how they understand themselves	5	4	3	2	0
Students indicated their personal evaluation of the test	5	4	3	2	0
Total Possible = 25					

Rubric for Behavior Genetics Paper

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Paper	
5	4	3	2	0	Paper is minimum 10 pages
5	4	3	2	0	Paper has a title page
5	4	3	2	0	Paper has minimum 4 references
5	4	3	2	0	Paper is formatted correctly
5	4	3	2	0	Paper discusses evidence for role of nature
5	4	3	2	0	Paper discusses evidence for role of nurture
10	8	5	2	0	Paper discusses interactions between nature and nurture at an organism level
10	8	5	2	0	Paper discusses interactions between nature and nurture at a molecular level
					Total Possible = 50