Course Description
This class will focus on scholarly writing. You can choose which writing project you will develop for this class. It can be a literature review, a research report, a manuscript for publication, a dissertation chapter, a dissertation proposal or another scholarly writing project of your choice. Whichever project you choose, the writing will focus on APA style.

Learning Objectives:
In this class you will:
1. Become aware of your strengths and weaknesses as a writer.
2. Improve your grammar and writing structure.
3. Develop proficiency in APA style.
4. Hone your peer review skills.

Pedagogy and structure:
- Independent work and study
- One on one dialogue
- Peer review

Deliverables:

Percentage reflect weighting for final course grade.

A. One on one conversations

We will set up individual conversations at the beginning and end of the semester. I will offer agenda suggestions for each of these conversations but the conversations is for you, so please think about specific questions or issues you would like to discuss in each of these conversations.

B. Writing assignments

1. Writing assessment (10%) Write a 300 word essay discussing a concept in psychology and how it helps you better understand yourself and the human condition. I will line edit this assignment and provide feedback on grammar and writing structure.

2. Concept paper (10%). Discuss the paper you will develop this semester and address: 1) The central question, topic, problem, etc. your paper will focus on; 2) Why you believe this issue is
important; 3) Your intended public audience; 4) Suggested outline (i.e. APA research structure, policy brief, etc.); 4) Plans for dissemination.

The structure of your essay is guided by your focus audience. If your goal is publication in a scholarly journal you use standard APA research paper structure. If your intended audience is policy makers you use standard policy brief structure. If your goal is a dissertation chapter or research proposal you use standard APA research structure or department policy guidelines.

3. Peer Review (10%). You will work with a writing partner throughout the semester. Through this writing partnership you will learn how to give and receive feedback, both written and verbal. I will provide you with worksheets to help you structure the peer-feedback.

4. Next to final draft (20%). This next to final draft should reflect all changes and revisions agreed upon by yourself and your writing partner. I will then provide my feedback.

5. Final Draft. (30%)

6. Presentation (20%). Our class will offer something for the Annual SPARC gathering at Melson Hall. We can develop this together as the semester proceeds.

A word about my writing philosophy. I am a big fan of Ocam’s razor. No longer or shorter than it should be. Remove all unnecessary words. Do you really need all those “that’s”, or are they simply “entities multiplied without necessity”? Clear writing is clear thinking and vice versa. Find ways to integrate creative writing skills within the academic structure.

Course Schedule

Weeks 1 and 2 : January 6 - 17:
Introductory emails (week one)
1:1 phone conversations

Writing Assessment due January 17 by midnight via Dropbox

Week 3: January 20-24
Work on concept paper

Week 4: January 27-31
Work on concept paper

Week 5: February 3-7
Concept paper due February 7 by midnight via dropbox

Week 6: February 10-14
Work on draft
Week 7: February 17-21
Send draft to writing partner by February 21
Share feedback on concept paper with writing partner.

Week 8: February 24 – 28
Provide feedback to your writing partner by February 28.

Possible face to face or in-time meeting to discuss SPARC presentation.

Week 9: March 2 - 6
Next to final draft due March 6 by midnight.

Week 10: March 9-13
Continue research and work needed for final paper.

Week 11: March 16-20
Spring Break

Week 12: March 23-27
Work on Final Draft
SPARC Presentation

Week 13: March 30 – April 3
Work on Final Draft
Schedule 1:1 conversations

Week 14: April 6 - 10
Work on Final Draft
Send to writing partner for final proof and review by April 10

Week 15: April 13 – 17
Work on Final Draft

Week 16: April 20 – 24
Final Draft Due April 27 by midnight via dropbox

COURSE POLICIES

Accessibility. Students with a documented disability may work with UWG Accessibility Services to receive essential services specific to their disability. To make an appointment, please contact Counseling & Career Services in 123 Row Hall, or call 678-839-6428. For additional information, visit the following website: http://www.westga.edu/counseling/index_8884.php. Any student in this course who has a disability that prevents the fullest expression of abilities should also contact me as soon as possible to discuss appropriate accommodations.
**Academic and Personal Integrity:** Make sure to read the university policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty in your student handbook. Plagiarism involves the use of others’ words’ and/or ideas without giving them proper credit, which includes passing another person’s paper off as your own and failing to cite a source. If you copy a student’s paper, a paper off the internet or a paper you submitted for another class, you will get caught. Plagiarism software can detect copied papers and copied text. Avoid any form of plagiarism, including self-plagiarism. Do not copy or use another person’s words or ideas when constructing your critical reflection. Do not turn in a paper you wrote for another class. If you include quotations or ideas from other sources, make sure to cite your sources using proper APA style citation. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic failure of the assignment.

**Communication Policy.** Please use our course den site for all email correspondence. I will check emails daily and will respond to you the same day, as much as possible. If you wish to speak by phone, please just let me know and we can set up a time. DO NOT email me at my westga account as it difficult for me to keep track of our communication outside of Course Den. Thank you.

Please review the following information about university policies: [http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf](http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf)