

Research Colloquium in Social-Personality Psychology (Spring 2025)

Instructor: Erin C. Westgate

Speaker Series: Fridays 11:45-12:45pm

Discussion Series: Fridays 10:45-11:45am

Psychology 108

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course requirements vary by credit enrollment. Except where noted, all brownbag meetings will be held in **Psychology 108**, and attendance in-person is expected:

For All Social Area Graduate Students. All social area graduate students are expected to attend the weekly speaker series each Friday. You are responsible for introducing the speaker once per semester. Please see the [speaker list](#) for the full schedule and to sign up to introduce a speaker. If you haven't introduced a speaker before, please see brief tips [here](#).

Speaker Series (1 credit). Students enrolled for one credit must meet the requirements above and are expected to attend **in-person**; in addition, they should ask at least three questions over the course of the semester to receive credit for the class.

Discussion Series (2-3 credits). Students enrolled for 2-3 credits must meet the requirements above, as well as participate in the discussion portion of the course. Details on the discussion section follow.

DISCUSSION OBJECTIVES

Simply put, by the end of this course you should feel that you have developed as a researcher and professional. I have designed this course to focus primarily on your development as a writer, but of course your involvement in brownbag will also help you develop as an active participant in the process of science communication. The period will be a seminar that will rely on interactive discussion of the day's reading material as well as in-class activities. Be prepared to engage.

As an ongoing assignment, you will keep a writing log to track your writing productivity over the semester (9 weeks total). You are expected to devote at least 6 hours a week to writing in any way you chose so long as you keep a fairly regular schedule. Each Friday, one of you will be chosen to share your writing log progress

with the class. Your grade will be determined by your attendance and participation in class (50%) and your completion of writing logs/additional assignments (50%).

All required course materials will be provided on Canvas or can be downloaded through Google Scholar or the UF library.

Required Books

1. Silvia, P. J. (2018). *How to write a lot: A practical guide to productive academic writing*. American Psychological Association.
2. Sarnecka, B. W. (2019). [*The Writing Workshop: Write More, Write Better, Be Happier in Academia*](#).
3. Baron, N. (2010). *Escape from the Ivory Tower*

Policies

Laptop policy. The use of laptops is not allowed during class discussions and presentations, including the weekly speaker series; all laptops should be closed and put away during this time, to give full attention to the speaker. Laptops are permitted and encouraged for in-class activities.

Cell phone policy. The use of cell phones is not allowed in class. They must be turned off before coming into class.

Make up policy. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies. These policies can be found here <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

AI policy. How and when to use AI is a hot topic in academic circles. Unless otherwise specified, use of AI-assisted writing technology (e.g., ChatGPT) or large language models is not permitted in this class.

Cheating and academic dishonesty. Cheating is defined in the UF Handbook. If a student is caught cheating/plagiarizing, the first offense will result in a zero for the assignment and I have the right to report you to the office of internal affairs. By completing the registration form at UF you have agreed that: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with

this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.”

Disability policy. Any student in this course who has a disability that prevents the fullest expression of abilities should contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss the appropriate accommodations necessary to complete the course requirements. For more information and policy, please visit the disability resource center at <https://disability.ufl.edu/>

Mental Health and Stress. Diminished mental health, including significant stress, mood changes, excessive worry, or problems with eating and/or sleeping can interfere with your ability to benefit from this course. The source of symptoms might be related to your course work; if so, please speak with me. However, problems with relationships, family worries, loss, or others personal struggles can also crop up from time to time. The University of Florida provides cost-free mental health services through the Counseling and Wellness Center (CWC). Please seek help if you feel you need it.

Food, Shelter, and Other Material Needs. Any student who has difficulty accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, is urged to contact the **Field and Fork Food Pantry** or the **Dean of Students Office** for support. Please speak with me if you need any assistance in this area.

Course Evaluations. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Fall Discussion Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Homework</u>
Week 1 (Jan 16)	Welcome and introductions		None
Week 2 (Jan 23)	Getting motivated	Silvia: Ch. 1-2	Self-Reflection
Week 3 (Jan 30)	Planning and Doing	Silvia: Ch. 3-4; Sarnecka: Ch. 2	Personal writing goals/plan
Week 4 (Feb 6)	Talks and posters	Sarnecka: Ch. 7	Writing diary; Poster show-n-tell

Week 5 (Feb 13)	Science Communication	Baron: Ch 3-4	Writing diary
Week 6 (Feb 20)	Conferencing 101	Baron: Ch 8-9	Writing diary; Message Box
Week 7 - <i>SPSP</i>	<i>n/a</i>		
Week 8 (March 6)	How to Write	Silvia: Ch. 5; Sarnecka: Ch. 3	Writing diary
Week 9 (March 13)	How to Write Well	Sarnecka: Ch. 8-10	Writing diary
Week 10 – <i>SPRING BREAK</i>	<i>n/a</i>		
Week 11 (March 27)	Empirical Articles	Silvia: Ch. 6; Sarnecka: Ch. 5	Writing diary
Week 12 (April 3)	Review & Theory Papers	Sarnecka: Ch. 4	Writing diary; Literature review proposal
Week 13 (April 10)	Funding Proposals	Silvia: Ch. 8 Sarnecka: Ch. 6	Writing diary; Grant funding search
Week 14 (April 17)	Pop Science & Books	Silvia: Ch. 7	Writing diary; Book pitch