

Beijing Normal University
Academic Writing in Quantitative Psychology
Fall 2024
Class location: Teaching Building 4, Room 214
Class meeting time: Wednesdays, 1:30–4:30pm

Instructor

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Office hours: Wednesday 6-7pm; Monday 6-7pm

Course description

Writing skills are crucial for one's academic career. The course entitled "Academic Writing in Quantitative Psychology" aims to provide systematic training in academic writing, specializing the field of quantitative psychology, psychometrics, and educational statistics. The content of the course includes but is not limited to taxonomy of academic articles, identifying novel and meaningful research topics, formatting manuscripts, writing literature review, research methods in quantitative methodology (analytics, Monte Carlo experiments, and empirical data analysis), creating statistical graphics and tables, writing and responding to peer-review comments, and academic presentation.

Prerequisites

No course prerequisite is applicable. However, students are **expected to have a research topic**.

Objectives

The expectations of the course are

- to learn fundamental principles and master basic skills in academic writing
- to identify novel and insightful research ideas and questions
- to evaluate the contribution of research articles
- to summarize and report analytical and empirical results effectively
- to communicate research findings in a coherent and formal manner

References

There is no required textbook for this course. We will be reading book chapters and journal articles each week.

Course delivery

The class meets on Wednesdays. Course slides and supplemental materials will be shared in the course WeChat group by 10am on the lecture day. Readings for the next lecture will

be posted by 9pm on the lecture day.

Course assignment

Final paper (60%) The final paper should be a **nearly complete manuscript**. Students are encouraged to use his/her ongoing research project as the topic of the paper. The theme of the paper can be one of the following: 1) developing a novel statistical method, 2) evaluating and comparing existing methods, and 3) analyzing empirical data using novel statistical methods. **Individual work is required** for the final paper. **A short description** of the project should be submitted **by the third lecture**, and the **topic must be approved by the instructor**. Students are welcome to discuss the project with the instructor during office hours.

The final paper must be **typed** and follow as closely as possible to the **submission guideline** of the target journal.

In-class presentation and discussion facilitation (40%) There will be an **in-class group presentation very week**. Please refer to the tentative schedule for detailed topics. Depending on the class size, the number of students per group and topic assignment will be determined during the first lecture.

Each presentation may contain one or both of the following components: 1) facilitate in-class discussion on the weekly reading assignment, and 2) present relevant components in group member's final papers. Each week the presenting group members are **required to meet with the instructor during the Monday office hours**.

Tentative schedule

Lecture	Date	Topic	Presentation	Due
1	9/11	Welcome and overview		
2	9/18	Identifying research topics	Group 1	
3	9/25	Introduction	Group 2	Project description
4	10/30	Literature review	Group 3	
5	11/6	Research methods I	Group 4	
6	11/13	Research methods II	Group 5	
7	11/20	Research methods III	Group 6	
8	11/27	Statistical graphs and tables	Group 7	
9	12/4	Discussion and conclusion	Group 8	
10	12/11	Peer review	Group 9	
11	12/18	Research presentation	Group 10	Final paper