



Department of Psychology
Psychology 598 – Honours Thesis and Seminar
Fall 2010/Winter 2011

Instructor:	Dr. Glen E. Bodner	Lecture Location:	Admin 253
Phone:	403-220-2714	Lecture Days/Time:	TR 3:30-4:45 pm
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Office:	Admin 257B/275		
Office Hours:	By appointment		

Course Description and Goals

This course is required of all Honours students and is intended to facilitate completion of the Honours thesis and the development of research-related skills. Specific goals include:

- developing improved oral presentation, literature search, and writing skills
- learning how to successfully ask and answer research-related questions
- gaining respect and knowledge about many areas of psychological research
- learning about applying for ethics certification, for scholarships, and to graduate programs

Evaluation

Honours thesis. Students will complete a thesis research project under the supervision of a faculty or adjunct faculty supervisor. Graduate students may be involved in supervision, but they are not formally considered to be supervisors or co-supervisors. The thesis must involve original data collection and/or data analysis. Students should clarify supervisor's expectations for the thesis project before the course begins. The supervisor must arrange a second reader for the student's thesis. If the supervisor is an adjunct faculty member then the second reader must be a full-time faculty member. The supervisor must email the name and email of the second reader (email to: psycugrd@ucalgary.ca) by October 1, 2010. Ethics certification (if required) must be in place by January 31, 2011 or the student will be required to withdraw from the Honours program. The student must submit the final version of the thesis to the supervisor, to the second reader, and to the Psychology Department (Admin 275) by 4 pm on April 18, 2011. By this deadline, the Department must receive both an electronic copy (email to: psycugrd@ucalgary.ca) and a printed coil-bound copy (clear plastic front cover, black plastic back cover) for the Department's Honours Thesis Library. The supervisor and second reader will independently evaluate the student's thesis and will complete an Honours Thesis Feedback Form. They will jointly determine the student's thesis grade based on the thesis document, effort, independence, responsiveness to feedback, meeting of project expectations and deadlines, etc., and they will also take into consideration the student's presentation grades and participation grades in the seminar. The supervisor must email the seminar instructor (email to: psychdir@ucalgary.ca) no later than May 4, 2011, indicating the student's thesis letter grade; the supervisor and second reader's Honours Thesis Feedback Forms must both be attached to this email, and both the student and the second reader must be copied on the email.

Proposal presentation (Fall) and research presentation (Winter). Students will give two 12-minute oral presentations using PowerPoint. The Fall proposal presentation will outline the proposed thesis research (background research, research question, proposed methods, predictions). The Winter research presentation will describe the entire honours project (including results and interpretation, and ideas for future research). Each presentation will be followed by a discussion period. The instructor will assign a letter grade for each presentation. The supervisor will be informed of the student's presentation letter grade at the end of each term. Supervisors are expected to factor seminar presentations into the student's thesis grade.

Seminar participation. Participation during the seminar is required. Students will provide feedback on each other's proposal presentations, and will contribute to discussion periods and seminar activities. Students will receive a letter grade for seminar participation at the end of each term. The supervisor will be informed of the student's seminar participation letter grade at the end of each term. Supervisors are expected to factor seminar participation into the student's thesis grade.

Department of Psychology Student Research Conference. Each student will present a paper or poster at the Student Research Conference on Friday, April 29, 2011. Due to program constraints the number of paper presentation slots will be limited, and will be adjudicated based on Fall proposal presentation grades if necessary. Paper presentations will be 12 minutes. Students giving poster presentations will be responsible for creating and printing their own posters. Supervisors are expected to factor conference paper and poster presentations into the student's thesis grade. This conference is an important milestone in students' academic careers and an excellent opportunity to share their research with a receptive audience.

Grading Scheme

Supervisors are required to assign thesis letter grades based on the following scale:

A+	96-100%	Truly exceptional in all respects (note: this is a rare thesis letter grade)
A	90-95%	Excellent in all respects
A-	85-89%	Excellent in most respects
B+	80-84%	Very good in all respects
B	76-79%	Very good in some respects
B-	72-75%	Very good in some respects, with one or more exceptions
C+	67-71%	Satisfactory
F	0-66%	Fail

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with

any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 170 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 403-220-3911 suypaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 403-220-3913 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **Sep 24th, 2010**. Last day for registration/change of registration is Sep 27th, 2010. The last day to withdraw from this course is **April 15th, 2011**.

Tentative Schedule

Week	Date	Activity
Fall 1	T Sep 14	Introduction to seminar/Instructor and student introductions Applying for scholarships (Dr. Iaria - tentative)
	R Sep 16	Advice for Honours students
2	T Sep 21	Applying for ethics certification (Russell Burrows, CFREB resource officer) Applying for Research Participation System access (Dr. Boyce)
	R Sep 23	Proposal presentation advice
3	T Sep 28	Proposal presentation scheduling/Applying for graduate studies in Psychology (Dr. Dyck)
	R Sep 30	Applying for graduate studies in Clinical Psychology (Dr. Graham) Applying for graduate studies in Counseling (Dr. Strong)
4	T Oct 05	Careers for Psychology graduates (Carol Cook, Career Services)
	R Oct 07	Proposal presentation workshop #1
5	T Oct 12	Proposal presentation workshop #2
	R Oct 14	Proposal presentation workshop #3
6	T Oct 19	3 Proposal presentations
	R Oct 21	3 Proposal presentations
7	T Oct 26	3 Proposal presentations
	R Oct 28	3 Proposal presentations
8	T Nov 02	3 Proposal presentations
	R Nov 04	3 Proposal presentations
9	T Nov 09	3 Proposal presentations
	R Nov 11	Remembrance Day - No class
10	T Nov 16	3 Proposal presentations
	R Nov 18	3 Proposal presentations
11	T Nov 23	3 Proposal presentations
	R Nov 25	3 Proposal presentations
12	T Nov 30	3 Proposal presentations
	R Dec 02	3 Proposal presentations
13	T Dec 07	3 Proposal presentations
	R Dec 09	2 Proposal presentations
Winter 1	T Jan 11	Student updates on thesis progress
	R Jan 13	Advice for writing your thesis
2	T Jan 18	Writing and APA-format workshop
	R Jan 20	Research presentation advice
3	T Jan 25	Research presentation scheduling
	R Jan 27	Watching previous Student Research Conference presentations
4	T Feb 01	Creating an effective poster (Larry Wenger)
	R Feb 03	Creating an effective poster (Larry Wenger)/Delivering an effective poster presentation
5	T Feb 08	Research presentation workshop #1
	R Feb 10	Research presentation workshop #2/Student progress updates
6	T Feb 15	Reading Break - No Class
	R Feb 17	Reading Break - No Class
7	T Feb 22	3 Research presentations
	R Feb 24	3 Research presentations
8	T Mar 01	3 Research presentations
	R Mar 03	3 Research presentations
9	T Mar 08	3 Research presentations
	R Mar 10	3 Research presentations
10	T Mar 15	3 Research presentations
	R Mar 17	3 Research presentations
11	T Mar 22	3 Research presentations
	R Mar 24	3 Research presentations
12	T Mar 29	3 Research presentations
	R Mar 31	3 Research presentations
13	T Apr 05	3 Research presentations
	R Apr 07	3 Research presentations
14	T Apr 12	2 Research presentations
	R Apr 14	Student progress updates/Student Research Conference Q&A
15	M Apr 18	Theses due by 4 pm
	F Apr 29	Department of Psychology Annual Student Research Conference