



Department of Psychology
Psychology 596/598 (L01) – Honours Thesis and Seminar
Fall 2009/Winter 2010

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

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

Evaluation

Honours thesis. You will complete a thesis research project under the supervision of a Department-approved faculty or adjunct faculty supervisor. Your thesis must involve data collection (i.e., it cannot be merely a literature review). You (or your supervisor) must have ethics certification by no later than January 1, 2010 or you may be required to change your thesis project or to withdraw from the Honours program. Your supervisor must secure a second reader who must be a faculty or adjunct faculty member of our Department. If your supervisor is an adjunct faculty member then your second reader must be a regular faculty member.

Your supervisor must email the second reader's name to the Undergraduate Program Officer (Will Christensen; psycuard@ucalgary.ca) by October 1, 2009. A printed copy of the final version of your thesis must be submitted to 1) your supervisor, 2) your second reader, and 3) to the Psychology Department (Admin 275) no later than 4 pm on April 20, 2010.

The Department copy must be bound with a clear plastic cover and a coil binding. After reviewing your thesis, your supervisor and second reader will each complete and sign two copies of the Undergraduate Thesis Feedback Form.

Your supervisor is responsible for providing one copy of each of these forms to you and one to the Undergraduate Program Officer (Will Christensen; psycuard@ucalgary.ca).

Your supervisor and second reader will discuss your grade, and once consensus is reached, your supervisor will email a recommended *thesis letter grade* to the seminar instructor. This thesis letter grade should be based on your final thesis document, the amount of effort you put into

the project, how well you worked independently, how well you responded to feedback, whether you met project expectations and deadlines, and on other aspects of the thesis project. Be sure to clarify your supervisor's expectations for your thesis project early on. The thesis letter grade determines .9 of your overall grade. The *seminar letter grade* determines .1 of your overall grade, and is based equally on your seminar participation letter grade, and on either your proposal or research presentation letter grade (see below).

Seminar participation. Participation during the seminar is required. You will provide written feedback on each other's proposal presentations, and you will contribute to discussion periods and seminar activities. You will receive a tentative letter grade for your seminar participation at the end of the Fall term. However, only the letter grade assigned at the end of the Winter term, based on both terms' participation, will be counted toward your seminar letter grade. Your supervisor will also be informed of your seminar participation letter grade.

Proposal presentation (Fall) and research presentation (Winter). You will give two 12-minute oral presentations using PowerPoint. The proposal presentation will outline your proposed thesis research (background research, research question, proposed methods). The research presentation will describe your entire honours project (including your results and their 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. Only the higher of your two presentation letter grades will count toward your seminar letter grade. Missed presentations will result in the other presentation being downgraded by one full letter grade (e.g., from A- to B-). Students who miss both presentations will receive an F (0%). Your supervisor will also be informed of your presentation letter grades.

Department of Psychology Student Research Conference. You will present your research at the Student Research Conference, either as a paper presentation or a poster presentation. Due to time constraints only a portion of the class can give a paper presentation. Paper presentations will be 12 minutes. Students giving poster presentations will be responsible for creating their own posters and for the poster printing costs. Supervisors may factor conference presentations into their grading. This conference is an important milestone in your academic career and an excellent opportunity to share your research with a receptive audience.

Grading Scheme

The thesis letter grade will be converted to a percentage using the following grading scheme and will count for .9 of your overall letter grade:

A+	100%	Truly exceptional in all respects (note: this is a rare letter grade)
A	95%	Excellent in all respects
A-	89%	Excellent in most respects
B+	84%	Very good in all respects
B	79%	Very good in some respects
B-	75%	Very good in some respects, with one or more exceptions
C+	71%	Satisfactory
F	0%	Unacceptable

Your letter grades for participation and for your best presentation (see above) will each be converted to a percentage using the grading scheme provided above and then averaged, and will count for .1 of your overall letter grade. The thesis and seminar percentages will then be

weighted, summed, and rounded to determine your overall grade according to the following grading scheme:

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	F
96-100%	90-95%	85-89%	80-84%	76-79%	72-75%	67-71%	0-66%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average is between two letter grades. To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-). If there is a discrepancy between the overall letter grade and the thesis letter grade, the seminar instructor and your supervisor will discuss your final letter grade. For example, if your thesis letter grade is an A- but your seminar letter grade is an A+, then your overall letter grade would be $(A- = 89\% \times .9) + (A+ = 100\% \times .1) = 90.1\% = A$. In this case, the seminar instructor and supervisor will decide whether your final letter grade is A- or A.

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.

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: 403-220-3911

suypaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Rep.: 403-220-3913

socialsciirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course and **still receive a fee refund** is **Sep 18th, 2009**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **April 16, 2010**.

Tentative Schedule

Week	Date	Activity
Fall 2009 1	T Sep 08	Introduction to seminar/Instructor and student introductions Applying for graduate scholarships (Dr. Antle)
	R Sep 10	Advice for Honours students
2	T Sep 15	Applying for ethics certification Applying for Research Participation System access (Dr. Boyce)
	R Sep 17	Library electronic databases and search tips (Laura Koltutsky)
3	T Sep 22	Applying for graduate studies in Psychology (Dr. Dyck)
	R Sep 24	Applying for graduate studies in Counseling (Dr. Strong)
4	T Sep 29	Applying for graduate studies in Clinical Psychology (Dr. Graham)
	R Oct 01	Proposal presentation advice/Sample proposal presentation
5	T Oct 06	Thesis proposal presentation scheduling
	R Oct 08	Career services (Carol Cook) - tentative
6	T Oct 13	Proposal presentations
	R Oct 15	Proposal presentations
7	T Oct 20	Proposal presentations
	R Oct 22	Proposal presentations
8	T Oct 27	Proposal presentations
	R Oct 29	Proposal presentations
9	T Nov 03	Proposal presentations
	R Nov 05	Proposal presentations
10	T Nov 10	Remembrance Day - No class
	R Nov 12	Proposal presentations
11	T Nov 17	Proposal presentations
	R Nov 19	Bodner is away - No class
12	T Nov 24	Proposal presentations
	R Nov 26	Proposal presentations
13	T Dec 01	Proposal presentations
	R Dec 03	Proposal presentations
14	T Dec 08	The Den
Winter 2010 1	T Jan 12	Student updates on thesis progress
	R Jan 14	Proposal presentation feedback/Research presentation scheduling
2	T Jan 19	Planning and writing your thesis
	R Jan 21	Planning and writing your thesis /Research presentation advice
3	T Jan 26	Research presentation advice/Sample research presentation
	R Jan 28	Watching and discussing previous research presentations
4	T Feb 02	Asking effective questions
	R Feb 04	Creating an effective poster (Larry Wenger)
5	T Feb 09	Creating an effective poster (Larry Wenger)
	R Feb 11	Delivering an effective poster presentation
6	T Feb 16	Reading Break - No Class
	R Feb 18	Reading Break - No Class
7	T Feb 23	Research presentations
	R Feb 25	Research presentations
8	T Mar 02	Research presentations
	R Mar 04	Research presentations
9	T Mar 09	Research presentations
	R Mar 11	Research presentations
10	T Mar 16	Research presentations
	R Mar 18	Research presentations
11	T Mar 23	Research presentations
	R Mar 25	Research presentations
12	T Mar 30	Research presentations
	R Apr 01	Research presentations
13	T Apr 06	Research presentations
	R Apr 08	Research presentations
14	T Apr 13	Student updates on thesis progress/Annual Student Research Conference Q&A
	R Apr 15	The Den
15	T Apr 20	Thesis copies due in the Psychology Office (Admin 275) by 4 pm
	F Apr 30	Department of Psychology 14 th Annual Student Research Conference