



Department of Psychology
Psychology 596/598 (L01) – Honours Thesis and Seminar
Fall 2008/Winter 2009

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		
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 others' areas of psychological research
- to learn about applying for ethics certification, scholarships, and graduate programs

Evaluation

Honours thesis. You will complete a thesis project under the supervision of a Department-approved faculty or adjunct faculty supervisor. Your supervisor is responsible for securing a second reader, who must also be a faculty or adjunct faculty member of our Department, and for emailing the name of your second reader to the Undergraduate Program Officer (Julie Nagy Kovacs; nagy@ucalgary.ca) by October 1. Printed copies of the final version of your thesis must be submitted to your supervisor and second reader, and to the Psychology Department (Admin 275) no later than 4 pm on Tuesday, April 21, 2009. 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 copy of each of these forms to the seminar instructor. The supervisor and second reader will discuss your grade, and once consensus is reached, the supervisor will recommend a *thesis letter grade* to the seminar instructor. This thesis letter grade should be based not only on your final thesis document, but also on 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 and ideally in writing. The thesis letter grade determines .9 of your overall grade. The *seminar letter grade* determines the final .1 of your overall grade, and is based equally on your seminar participation letter grade, and your proposal and/or research presentation letter grade, as outlined below.

Seminar participation. Attendance and participation in the seminar is required. You will provide written feedback on each other's 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, but only the letter grade assigned at the end of the Winter term, based on both terms, will be counted toward your seminar 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 the entire honours project (including your results and their interpretation, and ideas for future research). Each presentation will be followed by a discussion period. You will receive feedback on your presentations from the instructor and your classmates, and the instructor will assign a letter grade for each presentation. If your research presentation letter grade is higher than your proposal presentation letter grade, then only the former will count toward your seminar letter grade; otherwise both presentation letter grades will count toward your seminar letter grade. Missed presentations will not receive a letter grade.

Department of Psychology Student Research Conference. You will present your research at the Student Research Conference, either as a spoken presentation or a poster presentation. Due to time constraints only a portion of the class can give a spoken presentation. Spoken presentations will most likely be 12 minutes, plus 3 minutes for questions. Students giving poster presentations will be responsible for creating their own posters and will be responsible for all costs involved. Conference presentations will not be graded by the seminar instructor but supervisors may factor presentation performance 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 every respect (note: this is a rare letter grade)
A	95%	Excellent in every respect
A-	89%	Excellent in most respects
B+	84%	Very good in all or most respects
B	79%	Very good in most respects, with one or more exceptions
B-	75%	Very good in some respects, with several exceptions
C+	71%	Satisfactory
F	0%	Unacceptable

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-).

Your letter grades for participation and for your proposal and/or research presentation (as outlined in the Evaluation section) 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. If there is a discrepancy between the overall letter grade and the thesis letter grade, the seminar instructor will consult with the supervisor to determine 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 $(89\% \times .9) + (100\% \times .1) = 90.1\% = A$. In this case, the seminar instructor and supervisor would determine 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.

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 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.

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 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course and still receive a fee refund is **September 19, 2008**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **April 17, 2009**.

Tentative Schedule

Week	Date	Activity
Fall 2008 1	T Sep 09	Introduction to seminar/Instructor and student introductions
	R Sep 11	Applying for ethics certification (Dr. Campbell) Applying for Research Participation System access (Dr. Boyce)
2	T Sep 16	Applying for graduate scholarships (Dr. Antle)
	R Sep 18	Thesis proposal presentation scheduling/Advice for Honours students
3	T Sep 23	Pooling our electronic database literature search skills
	R Sep 25	Some oral presentation advice
4	T Sep 30	Applying for graduate studies in Clinical Psychology (Dr. Graham)
	R Oct 02	Thesis proposal presentations
5	T Oct 07	Thesis proposal presentations
	R Oct 09	Thesis proposal presentations
6	T Oct 14	Thesis proposal presentations
	R Oct 16	Thesis proposal presentations
7	T Oct 21	Applying for graduate studies in Psychology (Dr. Dyck)
	R Oct 23	Thesis proposal presentations
8	T Oct 28	Thesis proposal presentations
	R Oct 30	Thesis proposal presentations
9	T Nov 04	Thesis proposal presentations
	R Nov 06	Thesis proposal presentations
10	T Nov 11	Remembrance Day - No class
	R Nov 13	Bodner is away - No class
11	T Nov 18	Thesis proposal presentations
	R Nov 20	Thesis proposal presentations
12	T Nov 25	Thesis proposal presentations
	R Nov 27	Thesis proposal presentations
13	T Dec 02	Thesis proposal presentations
	R Dec 04	Thesis proposal presentations...or?
Winter 2009 1	T Jan 13	Proposal presentation feedback/Thesis research presentation scheduling
	R Jan 15	Planning and writing your thesis
2	T Jan 20	Planning and writing your thesis
	R Jan 22	Planning and writing your thesis
3	T Jan 27	Some research presentation advice
	R Jan 29	More research presentation advice
4	T Feb 03	Watching and discussing previous research presentations
	R Feb 05	Creating an effective poster
5	T Feb 10	Delivering an effective poster presentation
	R Feb 12	TBA
6	T Feb 17	Reading Break - No Class
	R Feb 19	Reading Break - No Class
7	T Feb 24	Thesis research presentations
	R Feb 26	Thesis research presentations
8	T Mar 03	Thesis research presentations
	R Mar 05	Thesis research presentations
9	T Mar 10	Thesis research presentations
	R Mar 12	Thesis research presentations
10	T Mar 17	Thesis research presentations
	R Mar 19	Thesis research presentations
11	T Mar 24	Thesis research presentations
	R Mar 26	Thesis research presentations
12	T Mar 31	Thesis research presentations
	R Apr 02	Thesis research presentations
13	T Apr 07	Thesis research presentations
	R Apr 09	Thesis research presentations
14	T Apr 14	Thesis research presentations
	R Apr 16	Thesis research presentations...or?
15	T Apr 21	Thesis copies due in the Psychology Office (Admin 275) by 4 pm
	F Apr 24	Department of Psychology Student Research Conference