

PSYC 598
Honours Seminar
Winter 2021

Instructor:	Dr. Melissa Boyce	Lecture Location:	Zoom/D2L
Email:	mboyce@ucalgary.ca	Lecture Days/Time:	MW 3:30 – 4:45pm
Office:	A258		
Office Hours:	TBD		

Course Description

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. The major goals of this course are to 1) develop your presentation skills, 2) increase your knowledge of the different areas of psychological research, 3) enhance your understanding of how psychological research is conducted, 4) increase your understanding of the ethical issues involved in psychological research, 5) learn about applying for scholarships and graduate programs, and 6) help prepare you for graduate and professional level training.

The fall session seminars will consist of presentations on important information related to the honours thesis (e.g., the process of applying for ethics approval), information on graduate scholarships and programs, and instructions on how to prepare a proposal presentation. Each student will deliver a proposal presentation in the fall term (details below). The winter session will include several information seminars (e.g., how to prepare an effective scientific poster, how to write a thesis) and each student will deliver another presentation on their thesis research (the research presentation). Students will also prepare a research poster and secure feedback on that poster from two of their peers. All students will present their research at the Student Research Conference **April 30, 2021** (date to be confirmed).

Course Learning Outcomes

The Department of Psychology is committed to student knowledge and skill development. The table below lists the key learning outcomes for this course, the program-learning outcomes they facilitate (see <https://live-arts.ucalgary.ca/psychology/about#program-learning-outcomes>), and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Conduct and/or analyze the results of a research study under the supervision of a faculty member	Thesis	3, 2	A, A
Prepare a detailed written report that describes, interprets, and draws appropriate conclusions from the results of a research project	Thesis	5, 4, 3, 2, 1	A, A, A, A, A
Critically evaluate others' research presentations in a constructive and professional manner	Discussion Board	2	A

Deliver effective presentations accessible to a broad audience	Oral presentations	5, 4, 2, 1	A, A, A, A
Answer questions about one's own research presentations in an intelligent, thoughtful, and professional manner	Discussion Board	5, 4, 2, 1	A, A, A, A
Prepare a poster presenting key findings of one's own research	Poster	5, 4, 2, 1	A, A, A, A

Notes. PLOs = Program-Learning Outcomes: 1 = demonstrate knowledge of psychological sciences, 2 = think critically and solve problems, 3 = conduct research and analyze data, 4 = communicate effectively, 5 = demonstrate information literacy, 6 = understand and implement ethical principles in a diverse world, 7 = apply psychological knowledge and skills, 8 = Demonstrate multicultural competence and awareness of issues related to equity, diversity,* and inclusion. Level of PLO achievement facilitated by this course: I = introductory, C = competency, A = advanced.

Acknowledgments and Respect for Diversity

Our classrooms view diversity of identity as a strength and resource. Your experiences and different perspectives are encouraged and add to a rich learning environment that fosters critical thought through respectful discussion and inclusion. The Department of Psychology would also like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in southern Alberta. The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

Course Format

Lectures will be taught live via Zoom during each scheduled class as per the course schedule below and will be recorded and posted to D2L after class.

Prerequisites

Admission to the honours program in psychology.

Required Text

There is no required textbook.

Assessment Methods

Component	Proportion of grade	Due date
Honours project and written thesis	85%	April 16, 2021
Fall proposal presentation and responses to questions	4%	October 5 – December 7
Fall presentation questions and feedback	3%	October 5 – December 7
Winter research presentation and responses to questions	4%	Winter dates TBD
Winter presentation questions and feedback	3%	Winter dates TBD
Research poster	1%	March 16, 2021

Attendance at undergraduate conference	ungraded	April 30, 2021 (date to be confirmed)
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Honours Thesis (85% of the final grade)

Students will complete a thesis research project under the supervision of a full-time faculty member or an adjunct faculty member. Graduate students may be involved in supervision with oversight by the honours supervisor, but may not formally be considered 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 thesis 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 in the Department of Psychology. The supervisor must email the name and email address of the second reader to psycugrd@ucalgary.ca by **November 1, 2020**.

The completed honours thesis is to be submitted **no later than Friday, April 16, 2020**. Identical copies of the thesis must be submitted to the supervisor, the second reader, and the Psychology Department. To submit your thesis to the Department, email an electronic copy (in PDF format) to psycugrd@ucalgary.ca. Students should consult with their supervisors and second readers to determine whether they prefer to receive a hard copy of the thesis, an electronic copy, or both.

Students seeking an extension for completion of the thesis beyond **April 16, 2020** must complete an Application for Deferment of Term Work and submit it to me for approval (see the University of Calgary Calendar for regulations). Approved documentation will be required to confirm deferral for health or personal reasons.

The thesis will be evaluated on the quality of the written document, calibre of the research project (e.g., originality, appropriateness, sophistication of method/design, potential impact of the findings, and contribution to the discipline), and research effort (e.g., your contributions to the design/method, data collection, analysis, interpretation; skills/training acquired during the project).

Ethics certification must be in place by **February 5, 2021** or the student may be required to withdraw from the Honours program due to lack of satisfactory progress. Supervisors are responsible for forwarding appropriate documentation to me (mboyce@ucalgary.ca) on or before this date to demonstrate that ethics certification has been obtained (this is required even in those cases where the student is working on previously approved research).

Proposal presentation (Fall; 4% of final grade) and **Research presentation** (Winter; 4% of final grade)
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, limitations, and ideas for future research). Each presentation will be followed by a question and discussion period. I will provide feedback on both the content (e.g., quality of rationale for study, clarity of the description of the method, anticipated contribution to the literature) and delivery (e.g., enthusiasm, clarity of speech, eye contact, etc.) of your presentations and assign a letter grade. Students will use the scale "Excellent", "Very Good", "Good", "Satisfactory", "Needs improvement" to rate each presentation using an online form. Students will also provide brief written feedback on the

quality of the content of each student's presentation and each student's presentation skills using the same form and will have the opportunity to pose questions about each student's project. Feedback will be scored on the extent to which it identifies strengths of each presenter's presentation, as well as provides relevant constructive feedback. Each presenter will have the opportunity to respond to these questions, which will form part of the presentation grade. The honours seminar will provide extensive information and guidance to prepare for these presentations. Without approved documentation, students who fail to present either their Fall or Winter presentation on their assigned presentation dates will receive a grade of 0 on the missed presentation(s).

Poster (1%)

Each student will prepare a poster describing the results of their thesis research. The poster must be submitted electronically to the D2L Dropbox no later than 11:59pm on March 16, 2021. If a student has not completed data collection and analysis by that point in time they should base the poster on whatever data have been collected to date (i.e., there must be some data analysis and results discussed even if the analyses presented do not reflect the final results to be reported in the thesis proper). Posters are to be prepared according to the guidelines presented in class in the sessions on poster presentations to be scheduled in January. Students will receive feedback on their posters. Without instructor approval, late posters will be deducted 10% per day.

Department of Psychology Student Research Conference (ungraded)

Each student will present a paper or poster at the Student Research Conference on **Thursday, April 30, 2021** (date to be confirmed). Due to program constraints, the number of paper presentations will be limited. Paper presentations will be 12 minutes. Students giving poster presentations will be responsible for creating and printing their own posters. ***Although no grades are assigned for participating in the student research conference, participation is compulsory.*** This conference is an important milestone in students' academic careers and an excellent opportunity to share their research with a receptive audience.

University of Calgary Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity.

Research integrity, ethics, and principles of conduct are key to academic integrity. Members of our campus community are required to abide by our institutional code of conduct and promote academic integrity in upholding the University of Calgary's reputation of excellence. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have read and are familiar with the student academic misconduct policy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>.

Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades

Psychology course instructors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

A+ grade: *Exceptional Performance*. An A+ grade indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.

A, A- Range: *Excellent Performance*. Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student's thorough knowledge of subject matter.

B Range: *Good Performance*. Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.

C Range: *Satisfactory Performance*. Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.

D range: *Marginally meets standards*. Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.

F grade: *Course standards not met*. Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient for course credit.

Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

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 of term work and final examinations 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-).

Tentative Class Schedule

Date	Tentative Topic/Activity
M Jan 11	Winter Term Overview and Updates
W Jan 13	Writing an Honours thesis
M Jan 18	Creating a Scientific Poster
W Jan 20	Optional: Writing Support
R Jan 21	<i>Last day to drop Winter Term half-courses.</i>
F Jan 22	<i>Last day to add or swap a course</i>

M Jan 25	No Class
W Jan 27	Optional: Writing Support
F Jan 29	<i>Fee payment deadline for Winter Term fees.</i>
M Feb 1	No Class
W Feb 3	Optional: Writing Support
M Feb 8	No Class
W Feb 10	Presentations
M Feb 15	<i>Alberta Family Day</i>
Feb 14-20	<i>Term Break, No Classes (University if Open, Except on Alberta Family Day)</i>
M Feb 22	Presentations
W Feb 24	Presentations
M Mar 1	Presentations
W Mar 3	Presentations
M Mar 8	Presentations
W Mar 10	Presentations
M Mar 15	Presentations
W Mar 17	Presentations
M Mar 22	Presentations
W Mar 24	Presentations
M Mar 39	Presentations
W Mar 31	Presentations
F Apr 2	<i>Good Friday, University Closed</i>
M Apr 6	<i>Easter Monday, University Closed</i>
W Apr 7	Presentations
M Apr 12	Presentations
W Apr 14	Wrap Up
R Apr 15	<i>Last day of classes, last day to withdraw from winter courses</i>
Apr. 19-29	<i>Final Exam Period</i>
R Apr 30	End of Term

Extra Research Participation Course Credit is Not Offered for this Course.

Absence From A Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are **NOT** an option without the approval of the instructor. Students who miss a test/exam have up to 48 hours to contact the instructor to ask for a makeup test/exam. It's the instructor's discretion if they will allow a make-up exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Once approved by the instructor a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam on a day/time scheduled by the instructor. If a student cannot

write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

Travel During Exams

Consistent with University regulations, students are expected to be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official December and April examination periods. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g., flight bookings) will NOT be considered by the department. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>. Students with an exceptional extenuating circumstance (e.g., a family emergency) should contact the Department of Psychology (psyugrd@ucalgary.ca).

Reappraisal of Graded Term Work <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

Reappraisal of Final Grade <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Academic Accommodations

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-

[by-copyright.pdf](#)) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Freedom OF Information and Protection of Privacy

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary

Student Support and Resources

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **Thursday, September 17, 2020**. Last day add/swap a course is **Friday, September 18, 2020**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Wednesday, December 9, 2020**.

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>