
Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
HH/PSYC 4001 6.0 - Specialized Honours Thesis
Fall/Winter 2016-2017

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Office hours by appointment

Course Time & Location: Thursdays 11:30-2:30pm in BSB 207 (Fall) and VH 1022 (Winter)

Course Pre-requisites: At least 84 credits towards your degree
PSYC 1010 6.0 (Introductory Psychology) with a grade of C
PSYC 2020 (Statistical Methods I and II, or equivalent)
PSYC 2030 (Introduction to Research Methods)
PSYC 3010 (Intermediate Research Methods)
PSYC 3031 (Intermediate Statistics Laboratory)

Course Website: <https://moodle.yorku.ca/>

Course Description:

Throughout this course, each student will carry out an individual piece of psychological research in consultation with a thesis supervisor, resulting in a final written thesis. In addition, students will attend a seminar design to provide additional resources and experience. Students will practice presenting their ideas and research results to others and will learn more about how to do so effectively. Students will also have the opportunity to learn more about how to broaden their interest in psychology through post-graduate studies. We will discuss how to create a strong graduate school application, and ultimately how to excel in graduate school.

Importantly a goal of this course is also to create a community where students can learn from each other and become socialized regarding what it means to be a graduate student in psychology. The requirements of this seminar course are relatively minor; however, the opportunities for individualized learning are great. To some degree it is up to each student to make use of this seminar to fully reap the potential benefits. Students are encouraged to ask questions, make suggestions, and request material to be cover to ensure that their individual needs are met to the greatest extent possible.

Program Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Use data analytic software for analysis of psychological data.
2. Design, execute, analyse and interpret results from a study examining a specific research question.
3. Express in written form psychological findings using APA style.
4. Express in written form, a research study in psychology.
5. Recognize limits of conclusions based on inferential statistics.
6. Critically identify limitations of individual research endeavors.
7. Apply ethical principles of the CPA code of ethics to their own research.

Specific Learning Objectives:

At the end of this seminar, students will demonstrate

- Enhanced presentation skills
- Increased research skills
- Increased knowledge of how to excel in graduate school

By the end of this course, students will have demonstrated the ability to conduct research, to present research findings (both verbally, in writing, and in a poster format), and to critically evaluate others' research ideas. In addition, students will demonstrate an advanced knowledge of what is required to create a strong graduate school application and ultimately to excel in a post-graduate studies.

Strongly Recommended Text: Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (6th Edition)



Other Texts to Consider:

1. Zinsner, W. (2006). On writing well: The classic guide to writing nonfiction. 30th Anniversary Edition. New York, NY: Harper Collins.
2. Duarte, N. (2010). Resonate: Present visual stories that transform audiences. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.
3. Duarte, N. (2008). Slide:ology: The art and science of creating great presentations. Sebastopol, CA: O'Reilly Media.
4. Reynolds, G. (2008). Presentation Zen: Simple ideas on presentation design and delivery. Berkley, CA: New Riders.

Grading as per Senate Policy:

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.) (For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - <http://calendars.students.yorku.ca/2016-2017/academic-and-financial-information/academic-services/grades-and-grading-schemes>)

Late Work:

If you have a reason for missing a deadline or presentation (e.g., illness), which is confirmed by supporting documentation (Attending Physician Statement which can be found at: <http://registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians-statement.pdf>), you may request accommodation from me and/or your thesis supervisor. This might require that you take deferred standing (<http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/deferred-standing>). Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty. **If you do not have data collected in time to present on poster day or do not have a thesis ready to provide to a second reader, you will receive a grade of '0'.** Please make your thesis supervisor aware of this and plan accordingly. If you have any concern that you might not meet these deadlines, please contact me immediately to set up a meeting.

Course Materials Copyright Information:

These course materials are designed for use as part of the PSYC 4001 6.0A course at York University and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law. Copying this material for distribution (e.g. uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of Copyright law: <http://copyright.info.yorku.ca/students-reuse-of-teaching-materials-from-york-courses/>

Add/Drop Deadlines:

For a list of all important dates please refer to: Important Dates (<http://registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/fw16>)

Other Important Dates	Fall (F)	Year (Y)	Winter (W)
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept. 21	Sept. 21	Jan. 18
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Oct. 5	Oct. 19	Feb. 1
Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov. 11	Feb. 10	March 10
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a “W” on the transcript)	Nov. 12 - Dec. 5	Feb. 11 - Apr. 5	March 11 - Apr. 5

Academic Integrity for Students

York university takes academic integrity very seriously, please visit an overview of Academic Integrity at York University (<http://vpacademic.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/index.php>) from the Office of the Vice-President Academic.

The following links will assist you in gaining a better understanding of academic integrity and point you to resources at York that can help you improve your writing and research skills:

- Information about the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty
 - <http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-honesty-senate-policy-on/>
- Online Tutorial on Academic Integrity
 - http://www.yorku.ca/tutorial/academic_integrity/
- Information for Students on Text-Matching Software: Turnitin.com
 - <http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/students/turnitin-students.htm>
- Beware! Says who? A pamphlet on how to avoid plagiarism
 - <http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/students/beware-sayswho.htm>
- Resources for students to help improve their writing and research skill
 - <http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/students/resources.htm>

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

While all individuals are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to do so at a level of excellence, the university recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to do so. The York University Accessibility Hub (<http://accessibilityhub.info.yorku.ca/>) is your online stop for accessibility on campus. The Accessibility Hub provides tools, assistance and resources.

Policy: York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations and adaptations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs. The nature and extent of accommodations shall be consistent with and supportive of the integrity of the curriculum and of the academic standards of programs or courses.

Provided that students have given sufficient notice about their accommodation needs, instructors shall take reasonable steps to accommodate these needs in a manner consistent with the guidelines established hereunder.

For Further Information please refer to: York university academic accommodation for students with disabilities policy (<http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-accommodation-for-students-with-disabilities-policy/>).

Course Requirements and Assessment:

Thesis Proposal:	10%	Due to supervisor by Thursday December 22nd
Poster Day:	5%	Monday April 3rd from 10:30-12:30pm
External Thesis Evaluation:	20%	Due by Monday April 17th (feedback within 1 week)
Supervisor Thesis Evaluation:	50%	Due by Thursday April 27th
Seminar Participation	15%	Details provided below

A *Thesis Proposal* which includes the Introduction (literature review) and Method sections must be submitted to your supervisor by **Thursday December 22nd** or by another date coordinated with your thesis supervisor (no later than January 15th). This work is graded by the thesis supervisor and is worth 10% of the final course grade. This deadline will ensure that you begin writing in the first term and that progress is made in the development of the methodology; it also will give you the opportunity to receive feedback from your supervisor. It is highly recommended that some or all of the thesis data be collected by the end of the Fall Term.

Poster Day participation is mandatory. The course director will assess a pass (5/5) or fail (0/5) grade. Poster Day is tentatively scheduled for Monday April 3rd from 10:30am-12:30pm. The poster presentation will provide an opportunity to receive feedback about the thesis before submitting the thesis draft.

The *External Thesis Evaluation* will be provided by another faculty member, sometimes referred to as the “second reader”, who evaluates the final product (the written thesis) and not the process (e.g., the amount of work that was involved in getting to the final product). The Thesis Coordinator(s) will be responsible for assigning a second reader to each thesis and their grade will be worth 20% of the final grade. In order to give the second reader enough time to evaluate the work and provide his/her grade to the supervisor, each student will be required to submit a draft of the thesis by **April 17th**.

The *Supervisor Thesis Evaluation* accounts for 50% of the final grade and reflects an evaluation primarily of the final product, with consideration also being given to the student’s contributions to the process (ideas, creating stimuli, recruiting and running participants, etc.). The final version of your thesis is due to the undergraduate office and your supervisor no later than **April 27th**.

Seminar Participation is a required component of the Specialized Honours Thesis course. As such, the instructor will contribute 15% towards the student’s final grade. Students’ oral presentations (2 – worth 5% each) as well as their attendance and contributions during class discussions will be graded (5%). If you must miss a class, please let me know in advance.

CLASS SCHEDULE (Fall)

Thursday September 8th - Introduction / Orientation

We will meet one another and have an open discussion as a group about how this seminar course can best meet your needs. Topics to be discussed include: getting started into your thesis research; thinking about graduate programs; preparing to apply for graduate programs (personal statements and GREs); funding post-graduate studies.

Thursday September 15th - OFF

There will be NO CLASS THIS WEEK. Instead, please take the time to read and prepare for your thesis project.

***Ensure you have written the subject and general GRE in time for graduate school applications. Often students prepare for and take the GREs over the summer before the fall when they plan to apply.*

Thursday September 22nd - class moved to Monday October 3rd from 10:30am-12pm for guest lecture.

Thursday September 29th – Day in the life of a graduate student

For the first hour we will discuss ethics requirements for thesis projects, how to create a strong CV (resume), how/when to ask for letters of recommendation, and upcoming deadlines for funding applications. For the last two hours, we will have 3 graduate students from the clinical area here at York University (including: Natali Ferreira (ndf@yorku.ca); Jennifer Hunter (jenn.hunter5@gmail.com); and Shira Yufe (syufe@yorku.ca)) come and speak about their experiences as graduate students, the application process, and how to apply for research funding. Please come prepared with any questions that you might have.

***Many scholarship applications are due December 1st (tri-council agencies), but some may be due as early as October. These take time to put together and should be started in October or November. Please see the moodle site and/or visit the Graduate Office (2nd floor of the BSB) for more information.*

Monday October 3rd from 10:30-12pm (BSB 163) - Open Science

Guest Lecturer Lorne Campbell (from Western University) will speak about Open Science. This talk is also open to other undergraduates, graduate students and faculty in our department.

Thursday October 6th - Clear Writing

During this class we will start with a discussion of the Open Science guest lecture from Monday and will talk about study pre-registration. We will then talk generally about how to write clear, effective academic papers and how to avoid writing mistakes. **In preparation for the class I ask that each of you take note of one particularly well written and one poorly written paper that you have read for your thesis project (or in another class).** Please bring both papers to class, along with notes about why you think the one succeeds and the other fails to communicate clearly. We will also talk about the format of both the thesis proposal and the final thesis at this time.

Thursday October 13th – Formulating good research questions

During this class **each student will be asked to discuss their thesis with the class for 5-10 minutes.** What is your main research question? What data will you collect to answer this question? The goal is to begin thinking about how to best explain your work to others, to learn what questions others have about your topic, and to get suggestions about your research project and how to present your work succinctly.

Thursday October 20th - Effective oral presentations

In this class we will move from informal communication to formal communication. In preparation for this class I ask that **each of you give some thought to what makes for a good academic talk.** Select a TED talk that you think is effective and come prepared to engage in discussion and share that talk with the class. If you find one that is less effective, please reflect on why. Try to focus on the talk itself more than the content.

Thursday October 27th – OFF (Reading Day)

***Please be sure to submit the requested ethics information, including the (1) TCPS2 certificate, (2) HPRC approval letter, and (3) first page of Form 2 all in in ONE email to psyugres@yorku.ca and steeleje@yorku.ca by November 1st if ethics approval has been obtained, and if not, as soon as possible. Please see the moodle site for more information.*

Thursday November 3rd - Interview Day

Once you are accepted into a graduate program, you will be expected to visit the school and interview with students and faculty. We will discuss what can help you to make a strong favorable impression on potential supervisors and how to learn everything that you will need to know in order to decide on the right graduate program for you. These interviewing skills can be applied to other types of positions, but the focus of discussion will be largely on interviewing for graduate programs.

Thursday November 10th - Optional Meetings

Individual meetings for those who are interested; please contact Dr. Jennifer Steele in advance to schedule a time. If you are applying to graduate programs, please provide a copy of your personal statement by Wednesday November 9th in order to receive feedback.

Thursday November 17th - Research Presentation (Worth 5% of your final grade)

During this class 1/3 of you will be asked to do a 15 min presentation outlining your thesis proposal.

Thursday November 24th - Research Presentation (Worth 5% of your final grade)

During this class 1/3 of you will be asked to do a 15 min presentation outlining your thesis proposal.

Thursday December 1st - Research Presentation (Worth 5% of your final grade)

During this class 1/3 of you will be asked to do a 15 min presentation outlining your thesis proposal.

Thursday December 22nd – Thesis Proposal Due (Worth 10% of your final grade)

Please provide your thesis proposal (including the introduction and method sections of your thesis) to your thesis supervisor by this date.

CLASS SCHEDULE (Winter)

No Classes in January and February

Individual meetings during class time by request

Thursday March 2nd - The results are in! How to present research results.

In this class we will talk about how to share your findings. We will review how to create a great poster presentation. We will also discuss how to best present your results visually and how to discuss null findings.

Thursday March 9th - Research Presentations (Worth 5% of your final grade)

During this class 1/3 of you will be asked to do a 15 min presentation on the results and interpretation of your findings.

Thursday March 16th - Research Presentations (Worth 5% of your final grade)

During this class 1/3 of you will be asked to do a 15 min presentation on the results and interpretation of your findings.

Thursday March 23rd - OFF

No class this week – please take the time to finalize your thesis project.

Thursday March 30th - Research Presentations (Worth 5% of your final grade)

During this class 1/3 of you will be asked to do a 15 min presentation on the results and interpretation of your findings.

Monday April 3rd from 10:30-12:30pm – Poster Day (worth 5% of your final grade)

This will take place in Vari Hall. Additional details will be provided closer to the date.

Monday April 17th – Thesis due to Second Reader by 5pm (worth 20% of your final grade)

Ideally your thesis supervisor will have provided feedback on *at least* one draft of your thesis before the thesis is submitted to the second reader.

Monday April 27th – FINAL thesis due by 12noon (worth 50% of your final grade)

A hardcopy of your thesis is due to the Undergraduate Office (BSB 292) by 12noon.
A final softcopy should also be submitted to your supervisor.