

Project Coordinator: **Tahereh Bozorgmehr**
Email: t.bozorg@psych.ubc.ca
Office location: BRC(Brain Research Center)
Office hours: By appointment only
Labs: Wednesdays 2-3:50pm
Lab location: Term 1 Buch D217 / Term 2 Buch D317

Lab objectives:

The lab component of this course is designed to facilitate the development of your skills as a researcher. This lab section operates in tandem with the hands on experience you acquire working in an actual research laboratory. You will immediately utilize the skills and knowledge learned here to conduct your own independent research project. Ultimately you are in charge of what you learn and take-away from this course. In addition to actively participating in the lab section, you are responsible for effectively collaborating with others in your chosen research lab, and for making a positive contribution to the research being conducted.

Attendance and participation:

You should regularly attend and actively participate in lab. I will pass around an attendance sheet at the beginning of each lab section. You can actively participate by asking and answering questions, as well as by being attentive. Through doing so, you are better able to learn the material, you help others learn the material, and you help me improve as an instructor.

Questions and correspondence:

I appreciate your questions. Please ask questions about the material we are discussing as they arise. Other students likely have the same question that you do and will be happy to have their question answered. If you have questions that pertain specifically to your own research project, please ask these questions after lab. I am happy to stay to answer your questions and it is usually easier for us to communicate in person than over email. Please allow me at least 2 days to respond to email; I will try to be quick, but I'm not always at my computer. If you email the day before something is due, I may not be able to get back to you in time.

Lab guidelines (a.k.a. common courtesy):

- Be on time
- Listen when others are speaking
- Do not interrupt
- Turn off cell phones, alarms, etc.

Research project:

All students have the opportunity to complete an independent research project as part of the course requirements. This project is done under the supervision of a faculty member (or more directly under the supervision of a graduate student or post-doc). Faculty supervisors include, but are not limiting to those conducting research in psychology, neuroscience, psychiatry, medicine, and business. Please contact me if you are uncertain about whether a particular supervisor is appropriate for the scope of this class. I will post a list of faculty members willing to supervise PSYC366 students in early September. This is not an exhaustive list, so please approach other faculty members with whom you have an interest in working. The project you are working on must have received ethical clearance from the relevant UBC committee. You must confirm a faculty supervisor by **September 30**. Please discuss the deadlines of this course with potential supervisors to ensure that the project you are working on is of an appropriate timeframe. You should complete data collection by the **end of January**. You will make a presentation on the research in **March**, and you will submit a final paper on **April 8**. Please see the lab schedule (last page) for a complete list of the deadlines you should discuss with your faculty supervisor.

You have the very unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience conducting research in a scientific laboratory as a part of this course. This is likely your first opportunity at university to *create* knowledge, instead of simply *learning* it – so be excited! In some cases, these positions may lead to a larger directed studies project or honours thesis, or possibly even graduate studies. Regardless, you should make the most of this opportunity to learn as many new things as possible. Please remember that you are a guest in your supervisor's lab-space. This opportunity to acquire hands-on research is a privilege, so please treat it as such.

By the end of the lab section, you will know how to:

- Articulate your own novel scientific questions
- Perform a literature search
- Design an experiment
- Collect and analyze your own data
- Write a scientific research paper
- Use APA formatting in your scientific writing
- Present your research to other researchers
- Talk about your research to a general audience
- How to effectively present your data to a group of other researchers
- Think critically about and evaluate research

Grading:

The following grading rubric is based on percentages of your final course grade:

Research Project (breakdown below)	25% total
Project scope	3%
Introduction draft	3%
Method draft	3%
Results draft	3%
Discussion draft	3%

Final paper	7%	
Supervisor's grade	3%	
Presentations		5% total
3-min presentation (lab October)	1%	
7-min presentation (lecture March)	4%	

Your grade for the research project will be based primarily on (1) the clarity of your explanation, (2) the competence of your analytical reasoning, and (3) the depth of your understanding of the research. It is essential that you devote considerable time and care to each written assignment.

All assignments are graded by the Project Coordinator. Both the Project Coordinator and the Instructor grade the 3-min presentation, the final presentation, and the final paper. More detailed grading rubrics will be provided for each assignment closer to the due date.

Late submissions:

Late submissions are accepted on all assignments *except* the final paper at a penalty of 5% per day (including weekends). Please have late submissions stamped with the date and time of submission in the Psychology Department main office in Kenny room 2509 before placing them in my mailbox ('Bozorgmehr') in the mailroom (2nd floor, across from the main office).

Submitting assignments:

Please turn in a paper copy of each assignment at the beginning of lab on the date that it is due. If you cannot attend lab, please place a paper copy of the assignment that is due in my mailbox ('Bozorgmehr') in the Kenny building mailroom (2nd floor, across from the main office) by 4pm.

You must also submit an electronic copy of the final paper to my email address. This copy may be subjected to the program TurnItIn to check for academic integrity and plagiarism
<<http://www.vpacademic.ubc.ca/integrity/turnitin/>>.

Week	Topic	Deadline
Sep 16	Introduction to projects, Lab policies and guidelines	
Sep 23	No meeting	
Sep 30	Project scope	Research supervision form due
Oct 07	How to present research in a 3-min talk Schedule 3-min presentation times	
Oct 14-28	3-min presentations in Lab Period	(the 1 powerpoint slide rule)
Nov 11-Dec 02 No Wed meetings [get your research project underway] (Nov 10, project scope due)		
Jan 06	Introduction to the research paper, APA format and plagiarism	
Jan 13	Guide to writing the Introduction	
Jan 20	Guide to writing the Method	
Jan 27	Guide to writing the Results	Introduction draft due
Feb 03	Guide to figures and captions Writing a title and abstract	Method draft due
Feb 10	Guide to writing Discussion	Results draft due
Feb 17	STUDY BREAK -- No meeting	
Feb 24	Graduate student discussion panel	Post 2 panel questions by Feb 19 Discussion draft due
Mar 02	How to present research in a 7-min talk Making revisions and putting it all together	
Mar 08-31	Final presentations (7-min talk, 5-min Q&A) during lecture slot	
Apr 08		Final Paper due by 4pm