



a place of mind

PSYCHOLOGY 349 / 449

HONORS SEMINAR

2016-17

PROFESSOR:

Dr. Larry Walker
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TEACHING ASSISTANT:

Boaz Saffer
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email: bysaffer@psych.ubc.ca
office hours: Wednesday, 12:00-1:00

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This seminar is a required component of the 2-year honors program in Psychology. The course provides an orientation to psychological research; effective presentation of research findings, both oral and written; and critical evaluation of research. Students carry out a research project and report on its development during seminars. Students also discuss ongoing research in department laboratories, with emphasis on choice of problems, research design, and data analysis.

HONORS PROGRAM:

For information about the BA and BSc honors programs in psychology, please access the Department's website «<http://psych.ubc.ca/undergraduate/honours-program/>».

COURSE FORMAT:

Each student conducts a research project under the supervision of a faculty member from the Department of Psychology. Class meetings are held in a seminar format, with the focus on practical research skills and interaction. The course involves exposure to a wide range of research areas within psychology. Out-of-class activities, such as attendance at departmental colloquia and engaging in online tutorials, are expected activities in preparation for class discussions.

RESEARCH PROJECT:

Being an honors student is mostly about doing actual psychological research and presenting the findings to others. Your research activities will happen almost entirely outside of this class. To do this research, you must have a research supervisor and a lab in which to work. Your overall research performance (as communicated to me by your research supervisor) will contribute substantially to your overall course grade. Students are required to produce a written product of their research project. The paper should be in the form of a manuscript suitable for submission as a journal article, using APA-style formatting. The final paper (your thesis) is due the last day of classes, **April 6th**. The length of the paper will vary from student to student depending on the nature of the research project, but most papers will be somewhere between 20 and 30 pages. Preliminary versions of most parts of the paper (each worth 5% of the course grade) are due at specific points in the year (see the course calendar). You will receive written feedback on these preliminary versions. As a starter, the introduction section of your thesis is

due part way through the fall term (**November 8th**). The overall grade in the course is heavily weighted by the research paper and performance in research lab placements.

PURC PRESENTATION:

The PSA Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference (PURC) is held toward the end of the winter term each year; this year it is scheduled for **March 31st – April 1st**. At this conference, honors students are required to present their research conducted for this course. Third-year students present a poster at the conference, whereas fourth-year students give a formal talk. Although presenting at the conference is a required part of the course, students must take responsibility for meeting deadlines such as registering for the conference, submitting abstracts, etc. A call for submissions usually goes out in January. The PSA website «<http://www.psych.ubc.ca/~psa/>» provides regular updates about the PURC.

CLASS PRESENTATION:

At some point during the course, students are required to give a 15-minute talk in class. The primary purpose of the talk is to develop presentation skills, including the use of PowerPoint and responding to questions. You will not be graded on this required presentation, but you will be provided with feedback. Students may choose either of the following types of presentation:

- give a research-focused talk, such as presenting a research proposal or presenting the work you did in your lab placement last year or this year
- teach a relevant topic, such as some research design, methodology, statistical analysis, etc.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

This course involves active participation. Students are expected to share their ideas and opinions in discussions. Without attending class, you will miss out on much the course has to offer. Participation includes active engagement in class as well as doing other activities in preparation for class. Your class participation will be evaluated and will form part of your overall grade.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- **colloquium summary** (10%) – Throughout the year the Department schedules several colloquia featuring world-class researchers in psychology—see <http://psych.ubc.ca/community/colloquia/> for a schedule. You are required to attend (or listen to the audio-recording of) one of these and write a brief 400-word review. In this review, you should:
 - identify the speaker and provide the title of the talk
 - explain the importance of the topic
 - summarize the speaker’s main points
 - explain something about the methodology used in the research
 - report on the most interesting question posed in the Q&A session
 - comment on the stylistic aspects of the presentation (e.g., PowerPoint)
 - *note:* submit your summary (electronically in Word-document format) to the professor, Larry Walker ... submit at any point in the course but no later than April 6th.
- **research paper** (50%)
 - preliminary Introduction (5%)
 - preliminary Method (5%)
 - preliminary Results (5%)
 - final thesis and research performance (35%)

- *note:* All assignments should be in Word-document (or RTF) and APA format and submitted electronically. Third-year students should submit these assignments to the TA, Boaz Saffer; fourth-year students should submit their assignments to the professor, Larry Walker.
- **presentation at the PSA conference** (25%)
- **class attendance and participation** (15%)

PRIZES:

Note that the Department awards the Morris Belkin Prize each year for the best PSYC 449 thesis, and the three best honors theses are awarded the Canadian Psychological Association Certificate of Academic Excellence. Honors students are often competitive for other UBC awards, including the Morris Belkin Prize for the best undergraduate paper, the Jean Bolocan Prize, the Eric Eich Award, the Richard Tees Award, the PSA Awards, the Peter Crocker Award, and the International Undergraduate Award in Psychology.

RECOMMENDED REFERENCE BOOK:

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

RESOURCES:

- Anholt, R. R. H. (2006). *Dazzle 'em with style: The art of oral scientific presentation* (2nd ed.). Philadelphia: Elsevier Academic Press.
- Bem, D. J. (2003). *Writing the empirical journal article*. Unpublished manuscript, Cornell University. Retrieved from <http://dbem.ws/WritingArticle.pdf> [a version of this article was published in J. M. Darley, M. P. Zanna, & H. L. Roediger, III (Eds.), *The compleat academic: A career guide* (2nd ed., pp. 185-219). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- Nicol, A. A. M., & Pexman, P. M. (2010). *Displaying your findings: A practical guide for creating figures, posters, and presentations* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

COURSE OUTLINE and CALENDAR:

date	topic
Sept 06 (Tuesday)	Imagine UBC orientation (no daytime classes)
Sept 13 (Tuesday)	course overview
Sept 20 (Tuesday)	potluck lunch (hosted by fourth-year students)
Sept 27 (Tuesday)	grad school and careers in psychology, etc.
Oct 04 (Tuesday)	applying for grad school and funding

Oct 11 (Tuesday)	academic misconduct and plagiarism; ethical conduct of research; process of, and ethics in, publishing <i>homework:</i> Tri-Council Policy Statement Version 2 Tutorial Course on Research Ethics « http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/education/tutorial-didacticiel/ »; submit certificate of completion to the TA at bysaffer@psych.ubc.ca
Oct 18 (Tuesday)	locating psychology literature–advanced search techniques (Sheryl Adam, Psychology Librarian) – Koerner Library electronic teaching lab (room 217)
Oct 25 (Tuesday)	writing an Introduction section <i>homework:</i> read Bem (2003)
Nov 01 (Tuesday)	<i>presentations:</i> George Kachkovski, Tom Chung, & Spencer Williams
Nov 08 (Tuesday)	Introduction section due <i>presentations:</i> Alana Guidry & Sheila Wu
Nov 15 (Tuesday)	writing a Method section
Nov 22 (Tuesday)	<i>presentations:</i> Stella Baehring, Brandon Woo, & Natalie Wong
Nov 29 (Tuesday)	<i>presentations:</i> Hanne Collins, Garricia Lee, & Joey Rootman
Dec 02 (Friday)	Method section due, along with revised Introduction fall term ends
Jan 03 (Tuesday)	winter term begins grad student panel
Jan 10 (Tuesday)	<i>presentations:</i> Marie Turcott, Harry Chuang, & Levana Fernadi
Jan 17 (Tuesday)	writing a Results section, reporting statistics, presenting tables and figures
Jan 24 (Tuesday)	<i>presentations:</i> Oren Princz-Lebel, Theresa Aba Adams, & Thalia Lang
Jan 31 (Tuesday)	<i>presentations:</i> Eunice Ip, Emma Ward-Griffin, & Iris Lok
Feb 07 (Tuesday)	writing an Abstract <i>presentation:</i> Kiki Jang
Feb 14 (Tuesday)	<i>presentations:</i> Candy Chua, Ping Tomczyk, & Kyle Dadgar
Feb 20-24	midterm break

Feb 28 (Tuesday)	preliminary Results section due, along with revised Introduction and Method preparing poster presentations
Mar 07 (Tuesday)	presentations: Catherine Li, Mikayla Pachkowski, & Sebastian Leon
Mar 14 (Tuesday)	writing a Discussion section make-up presentation(s), if necessary
Mar 21 (Tuesday)	PURC preparation – informal tutorial with TA
Mar 28 (Tuesday)	PURC preparation – informal tutorial with TA
Mar 31 & Apr 01 (Friday & Saturday)	PSA Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference
Apr 04 (Tuesday)	potluck lunch (hosted by third-year students)
Apr 06 (Thursday)	classes end winter term final paper/thesis due

DEPARTMENT COLLOQUIA (report on one of these is a course requirement)

Thursday, September 15 12:30-1:50 Woodward 6 Nancy Eisenberg (Arizona State University)	<i>“Children’s Effortful Self-Regulation: Conceptualization and Relations to Adjustment and Maladjustment”</i>
Thursday, October 20 12:30-1:50 Woodward 6 Michael Miller (University of California, Santa Barbara)	<i>“Barack Obama, John Dean & Other Criterion Shifters”</i>
Thursday, November 3 12:30-1:50 Woodward 6 Jane Risen (University of Chicago)	<i>“Believing What We Don’t Believe: Acquiescence to Superstitious Beliefs and other Powerful Intuitions”</i>
<i>Quinn Memorial Lecture</i> Thursday, November 10 5:00 TBD Ellen Bialystok (York University)	<i>“Bilingualism as a Form of Neuroplasticity: Consequences for Mind and Brain”</i>
Thursday, January 12 12:30-1:50 TBD Regan Gurung (University of Wisconsin, Green Bay)	<i>“Cultivating Learning: Capitalizing on Psychological Science”</i>
Thursday, February 16 12:30-1:50 TBD William Cunningham (University of Toronto)	<i>“The Dynamics of Goal Selection and Maintenance”</i>
Thursday, March 2 12:30-1:50 TBD Rena Repetti (University of California, Los Angeles)	<i>“Putting Family Relationships Under the Microscope”</i>
Thursday, March 23 12:30-1:50 TBD John Cacioppo (University of Chicago)	<i>“Social Neuroscience Through the Lens of Social Isolation”</i>

COURSE POLICIES (for additional information see the section of the UBC Calendar on academic regulations «<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,0,0,0>»):

Email	Ensure that you regularly check the email address that you have registered with the University.
Academic accommodation	The University accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with and been assessed by UBC's Access and Diversity Office. The University also accommodates students whose religious observances conflict with attendance and submitting assignments. Please inform the professor early in the course if you require any accommodation on these grounds.
Academic concession	If you encounter medical, emotional, or personal problems that affect your attendance or academic performance, please notify the professor as well as your faculty's Academic Advising Office. See the section of the UBC Calendar on academic concession « http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,48,0,0 ».
Grade distribution	Note that the honors seminar course is not subject to the grade distribution requirements typical of other courses in the Department of Psychology.
Office hours	You are encouraged to attend office hours (both professor and TA) not only to ask questions about the honors seminar, but also to chat about more general issues in psychology, graduate school, careers, and so on.
Class etiquette	Please, in consideration of the professor and other students: (a) no audible communication devices (cell-phones, etc.); (b) minimal disruption if you arrive at class late or need to leave early; (c) no personal conversations; and (d) do not be "off-task" with your devices during class (texting, surfing, etc.).
Late assignments	Extensions on assignments are given on compassionate grounds but are only granted <i>in advance</i> . Extensions are granted on medical grounds only if you provide a physician's note indicating that you were incapacitated and providing the dates of your incapacity. Extensions are not given because of academic or employment workload or conflicts. Marks will be deducted for late assignments (10% of the assignment's value for each day beyond the deadline).
Format of assignments	Adherence to format requirements will be part of the evaluation of assignments. Spelling and grammar will be considered in evaluating all written work.
Cheating and other academic offences	Cheating devalues the genuine achievement of other students and will not be tolerated. See the UBC Calendar « http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,0,0 » for additional information regarding academic offences and penalties.

Plagiarism	<p>Plagiarism is a form of academic misconduct in which an individual submits or presents the work of another person as his/her own. Scholarship quite properly rests upon examining and referring to the thoughts and writings of others. When referring to the ideas or findings of someone else, acknowledge such with author/date citations. When quoting directly, indicate such with quotation marks and author/date/page citations. Plagiarism is also submitting the same or similar paper more than once at this or another institution. The University subscribes to <i>TurnItIn</i>—a service designed to detect and deter plagiarism. See the UBC Calendar «http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,0,0» for additional information regarding academic offences and penalties. Also see the tutorial regarding plagiarism on the Library website «http://parsnip.library.ubc.ca/ikblc/ai/». If you have any questions as to whether or not what you are doing might constitute even a borderline case of academic misconduct, please talk with the professor, your research supervisor, or the TA.</p>
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