



a place of mind

PSYCHOLOGY 349 / 449

HONORS SEMINAR

2017-18

PROFESSOR:

Dr. Larry Walker
office: [Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies](#)
6371 Crescent Road (Thea Koerner House)
email: walker@psych.ubc.ca
website: <http://larrywalker.ca>
office hours: email for appointment

TEACHING ASSISTANT:

Boaz Saffer
office: Kenny 2011
email: bysaffer@psych.ubc.ca
office hours: Thursday, 1:00-2:00

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. For information about the BA and BSc honors programs in psychology, please access the Department's website «<http://psych.ubc.ca/undergraduate/honours-program/>» and the University Academic Calendar «<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=12,197,282,101>» for BA students and «<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=12,215,410,436>» for BSc students.

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 professional issues, practical research skills, and writing and presentation skills. The course involves exposure to a range of research areas within psychology. Participation in out-of-class activities (e.g., attending departmental colloquia and completing online tutorials) is also integral. Some regularly scheduled class meetings will be replaced by mini-conferences or social events, intended to promote a sense of community among honors students. Regardless, total class time will not exceed 32 hours over the course of the year (equivalent to the 24 scheduled 80-minute class sessions).

- Tuesday classes – 12:30-1:50 in Angus 292
- Friday classes – 4:30-7:30 in Kenny Suedfeld Lounge 2510/2512

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 (partly 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 Saturday, **March 31st** (about 1 week before the end of

classes). 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 feedback on these preliminary versions. As a starter, the introduction section of your thesis is due part way through the fall term (**October 31st**).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- **class presentation (10%)** – At some point during the course, each student is 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. Students may choose either of the following types of presentation: (a) 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; or (b) teach a relevant topic, such as some research design, methodology, statistical analysis, etc.
- **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 (and to access recordings of previous colloquia). 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%) – due October 31st
 - preliminary Method (5%) – due November 28th
 - preliminary Results (5%) – due February 27th
 - final thesis and research performance (35%) – due March 31st
 - *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 (20%)** – The PSA Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference (PURC) is held at the end of the winter term each year; this year it is scheduled for **April 6th and 7th**. 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 are responsible 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 attendance and participation (10%)** – This course involves active participation. Students are expected to share their ideas and opinions in discussions, and to ask questions in response to class presentations. 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.

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 05 (Tuesday) | Imagine UBC orientation (no daytime classes) |
| Sept 08 (Friday) | potluck meal (hosted by fourth-year students) and course overview |
| Sept 12 (Tuesday) | 1. psychology as a discipline |
| Sept 19 (Tuesday) | grad student perspectives (Boaz Saffer) |
| Sept 26 (Tuesday) | no class |
| Oct 03 (Tuesday) | 2. applying for grad school and funding |
| Oct 10 (Tuesday) | 3. scholarly integrity; 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/ »; third-year students submit certificate of completion to the TA at bysaffer@psych.ubc.ca |

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Oct 17 (Tuesday) | 4. writing an Introduction section <i>homework</i> : read Bem (2003) |
| Oct 24 (Tuesday) | no class |
| Oct 27 (Friday) | presentations (4 – TBD): |
| Oct 31 (Tuesday) | Introduction section due 5. writing a Method section |
| Nov 07 (Tuesday) | no class |
| Nov 14 (Tuesday) | no class |
| Nov 17 (Friday) | presentations (4 – TBD): |
| Nov 21 (Tuesday) | presentations (3 – TBD): |
| Nov 28 (Tuesday) | Method section due, along with revised Introduction writing tips Walker research talk |
| Dec 01 (Friday) | fall term ends |
| Jan 03 (Wednesday) | winter term begins |
| Jan 09 (Tuesday) | 6. writing a Results section, reporting statistics, presenting tables and figures |
| Jan 16 (Tuesday) | no class |
| Jan 19 (Friday) | presentations (4 – TBD): |
| Jan 23 (Tuesday) | 7. writing an Abstract presentations (2 – TBD): |
| Jan 30 (Tuesday) | 8. preparing poster presentations |
| Feb 06 (Tuesday) | presentations (3 – TBD): |
| Feb 13 (Tuesday) | presentations (3 – TBD): |
| Feb 19-23 | midterm break |
| Feb 27 (Tuesday) | preliminary Results section due, along with revised Introduction and Method 9. writing a Discussion section |
| Mar 06 (Tuesday) | no class |

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Mar 09 (Friday) | presentations (4 – TBD): |
| Mar 13 (Tuesday) | PURC preparation tutorial |
| Mar 20 (Tuesday) | no class |
| Mar 27 (Tuesday) | no class |
| Mar 31 (Friday) | final paper/thesis due |
| Apr 03 (Tuesday) | potluck lunch (hosted by third-year students) |
| Apr 06 (Friday) | classes end winter term |
| Apr 06-07 (Friday & Saturday) | PSA Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference |

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

– see <http://psych.ubc.ca/community/colloquia/> for updated schedule

| | |
|---|--|
| 28 September 2017 12:30-1:50 Leonard S. Klinck Bldg – room 200 | Joseph Simmons University of Pennsylvania |
| 2 November 2017 5:00-6:15 Jack Poole Hall Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre | <i>Quinn Memorial Lecture</i> Robert T. Knight University of California – Berkeley |
| 9 November 2017 12:30-1:50 Leonard S. Klinck Bldg – room 200 | Sue Frantz Highline College |
| 11 January 2018 12:30-1:50 location – TBD | Del Paulhus University of British Columbia |
| 18 January 2018 12:30-1:50 location – TBD | <i>Michael Chandler Lecture</i> Lisa Feigenson Johns Hopkins University |
| 25 January 2018 12:30-1:50 location – TBD | Jennifer Tackett Northwestern University |
| 8 March 2018 12:30-1:50 location – TBD | Kate McLaughlin University of Washington |
| 22 March 2018 12:30-1:50 location – TBD | James MacKillop McMaster University |
| 29 March 2018 12:30-1:50 location – TBD | Jens Pruessner McGill University |
| 5 April 2018 12:30-1:50 location – TBD | Adam Grant University of Pennsylvania |

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> |
|------------|--|