

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS
IN PSYCHOLOGY (PSYD98) OR NEUROSCIENCE (NROD98)

(Rm AA208)

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OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this course is to provide students pursuing a specialist degree in Psychology or Neuroscience with an intensive research apprenticeship in their discipline. In the process of collaborating with a faculty advisor, students will develop the skills necessary to conduct and present research. These skills include library research, designing experiments, collecting and analyzing data, interpreting results, writing, and public speaking.

COMPONENTS OF EVALUATION

The overall breakdown of your evaluation for the course is:

Supervisor grade	60%
Second reader grade	15%
Class grade	25%

The breakdown of your evaluation for the class component is:

1. Attendance and participation in scheduled meetings	15%
2. Ethics requirement	10%
3. 2 short oral presentations	50% (25% each)
4. Poster presentation	25%

1. Attendance/participation

The class will not meet every week during the year. For scheduled classes, however, attendance is mandatory. Attendance will be taken at each meeting, and information about your contributions to the class will be made available to your supervisors. The opportunity the class time affords students to develop public speaking skills and to engage in discussion about research with peers is an important part of the overall research experience. Students must attend at least 50% of classes in order to receive any of this portion of the grade; students will earn part or all of the grade, depending on how many

classes they attend in excess of 50%, and their level of participation in all classes they attend.

2. Oral Presentations

Students will give two oral presentations (10-15 min), one in the fall term and one in the winter term:

1. Presentations of Thesis Proposal (fall term)

During the first term, students will make oral presentations describing their proposed thesis projects. Presentations should include a brief background of relevant literature, clear statements of hypotheses and predictions, and proposed methods and data analysis techniques. For many students, these presentations will provide an opportunity for feedback, while projects are still in a relatively early stage of development. Presentations should be 10 min.

2. Results presentation (winter term)

Toward the end of the second term, students will present their final results (or preliminary analyses of data collection if necessary). The idea is to give a presentation of the type that would be given at a scientific conference. You should tell us what you did, why you did it, what you found, and what it means. Presentations should be no more than 15 min.

3. Ethics

All research in the University that involves living animals, human or nonhuman, including thesis research, must be approved by the appropriate ethics review board before the research can begin. There are 3 components to the ethics assignment for this course, and all students, regardless of whether they are doing human or animal research, are expected to complete each component:

1. *Meeting and understanding ethics requirements for your project.* All students must consult with their supervisor first thing in the term to determine what review procedures have been followed for their projects and whether additional review proceedings are required before the work can be carried out. Some students will need to submit an “Undergraduate Ethics Review Protocol for Self-Initiated Projections” for internal review. The protocol form is available at <http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~psych/undergraduates.html>. Please speak with me, Hanan Kayyali, or your supervisor about the procedures for submitting these protocols for review. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of your supervisor to ensure that your projects have met the necessary ethics review requirements; however, it is an important part of your education to know and understand what those requirements are. For this reason, you are asked to have a conversation with your supervisor about the ethics requirement for your particular project as early in the term as possible.

2. *Completing Introductory Tutorial for the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS).* All students are required to complete

this tutorial online (<http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/english/tutorial>) by Oct. 19, and obtain a certificate of completion to submit to Prof Erb on or before Oct. 19.

3. *Attending presentation on Ethics in Animal Research*. This presentation will be give by Dr. George Harapa, our university veterinarian, in class on Oct. 12.

4. *Poster Presentations*

Students will present posters of their projects during a thesis day at the end of the year (the date will be during the exam period, and will be determined by the registrar's office so as not to conflict with exams). This is a great opportunity to present your final work and receive feedback from professors and peers. More details about what should be included in the content of the posters will be provided in the second term.

INTRANET

This course will be organized and managed using the intranet. The intranet will be used to make class announcements and post presentation schedules.

FINAL THESIS SUBMISSION

Students are required to submit 2 copies of their final thesis by **Mon April 8 at 5 pm**. Late submissions will be subject to a penalty of 5% per day. Details on where to make submissions will be provided at a later date.

This schedule is subject to change in the first few weeks of class, depending on final enrollment numbers.

SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS

Date:	The topic is:
Sept. 21	-Welcome and Overview -Preliminary scheduling of presentations
Sept 28/Oct 5	-No scheduled meetings; however, students are encouraged to meet with their supervisor during these weeks to establish a time-line for their project, and to discuss ethics approval for their project. This would also be a good time to complete the tri-council on-line tutorial for ethical conduct in research involving humans.
Oct 12	Presentation on <i>Animal Ethics in Research</i> (George Harapa, University Veterinarian)
Oct 19	-Tips for giving effective oral presentations -Final scheduling of presentations -Submit certificates of completion for tri-council on-line tutorial.
Oct 26	-Presentations – Thesis Proposal
Nov 9	-Presentations – Thesis Proposal
Nov 16	-Presentations – Thesis Proposal
Nov 23	-Presentations – Thesis Proposal
Nov 30	-Presentations – Thesis Proposal
	2013
Jan 25	-Review of Term 2 milestones/updates -Progress check -Scheduling of presentations
Mar 1	-Presentations –Results
Mar 8	-Presentations –Results
Mar 15	-Presentations –Results
Mar 22	-Presentations –Results
Mar 29	-Presentations –Results
TBA	Poster Day (to be scheduled during exam period)