

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

(Rm AA-205)

Instructor: Suzanne Erb
Office: SW-627A
Office hours: Tues 1-3 pm
E-mail: erb@utsc.utoronto.ca

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. Oral presentation | 40% |
| 4. Poster presentation | 35% |

1. Attendance/participation

The class will not meet every week during the year. For scheduled classes, however, attendance is mandatory (except where indicated). 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 Presentation

Students will give a 20-25 min oral presentation of their thesis project, followed by a 5-10 min discussion period. Presentations must include a well-developed background of current literature in the relevant research area that provides a sound rationale for the research question under study. A clear statement of the research question and hypotheses must be provided, as well as detailed description of the methodology, research design, and data analysis techniques. Because presentations are scheduled for relatively early in the year, it is not expected that most students will have data to present. If, however, a student has preliminary results that they wish to share, they may do so. In all cases, a discussion and interpretation of anticipated (or obtained) results, within the context of the published literature, must be provided.

Tips on giving effective oral presentations will be provided in class on Oct 21.

3. Ethics

All research in the University that involves living animals, human or non-human, 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. Many students will need to submit an "Undergraduate Ethics Review Protocol Form - Student-Initiated Projects" for approval by the Psychology "Delegated Ethics Review Committee" (DERC). The protocol form is available at <http://www.utoronto.ca/psych/experiential-learning>. Please speak with me, Ainsley Lawson, and 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 2).* All students are required to complete this tutorial online (<http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/education/tutorial-didacticiel/>), and obtain a certificate of completion to submit to Prof Erb on Sept 30.

3. *Attending presentation on Ethics in Animal Research.* This presentation will be given by Dr. David Hanwell, our university veterinarian, in class on Sept 30.

4. Poster Presentation

Students will present posters of their projects during a thesis day on April 3. 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, and the structure of the poster session, will be provided later in the term.

BLACKBOARD PORTAL

The U of T Blackboard Courseware Portal will be used in this course to post announcements and any relevant course materials.

FINAL THESIS SUBMISSION

Students are required to submit 2 copies of their final thesis by **Monday April 3 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.](#)

STATEMENT REGARDING ACCESSIBILITY

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the *AccessAbility* Services as soon as possible.

AccessAbility Services staff (located in Rm SW302, Science Wing) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations 416-287-7560 or email ability@utsc.utoronto.ca. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

MISSED TERM WORK DUE TO MEDICAL ILLNESS OR EMERGENCY

All students citing a documented reason for missed term work (this includes assignments and midterm exams) must bring their documentation to the Undergraduate Course Coordinator, Ainsley Lawson, **within three (3) business days** of the term test / assignment due date. All documentation must be accompanied by the departmental [Request for Missed Term Work form](http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW) (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>).

In the case of missed term work due to illness, only an **original copy** of the [official UTSC Verification of Illness Form](http://uoft.me/PSY-MED) (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MED>) will be accepted. Forms are to be completed in full, clearly indicating the start date, anticipated end date, and severity of illness. The physician's registration number and business stamp are required.

In the case of other emergency, a record of visitation to a hospital emergency room or copy of a death certificate may be considered.

Forms should be dropped off in SW427C between 9 AM - 4 PM, Monday through Friday. Upon receipt of the documentation, you will receive an email response from the Course Instructor / Course Coordinator within three business days. The Course Instructor reserves the right to decide what accommodations (if any) will be made for the missed work.

Note that this policy applies only to missed term work (assignments and midterms).

Missed final exams are dealt with by the Registrar's Office

(<http://www.uts.utoronto.ca/registrar/missing-examination>).

SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS

| DATE: | TOPICS: |
|--|--|
| Sept 2 | No class scheduled |
| Sept 9 | Introductions and overview |
| Sept 16 | Graduate training and career workshop |
| Sept 23 | Ethics in science and the peer review process |
| Sept 30 | Ethics in animal research |
| Oct 7 | No class scheduled |
| Oct 14 | READING WEEK |
| Oct 21 | Giving Effective oral presentations |
| Oct 28 | No class scheduled |
| Nov 4 | No class scheduled |
| Nov 11 | Oral presentations |
| Nov 18 | Oral presentations |
| Nov 25 | Oral presentations |
| <i>....WINTER BREAK.....</i> | |
| Jan 6 | No class scheduled |
| Jan 13 | Writing Workshop I |
| Jan 20 | No class scheduled |
| Jan 27 | Writing Workshop II - thesis development |
| Feb 3 | No class scheduled |
| Feb 10 | No class scheduled |

| | |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| Feb 17 | READING WEEK |
| Feb 24 | Poster workshop |
| Mar 3 | No class scheduled |
| Mar 10 | No class scheduled |
| Mar 17 | No class scheduled |
| Mar 24 | No class scheduled |
| April 3 | Theses due by 5:00 pm |
| April 3 | Poster Day |

OTHER DATES TO CONSIDER

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Sept 15 | 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm, Rm MW-324: Master's CGS awards (NSERC/SSHRC/CIHR) and Ontario Graduate Scholarship (for Master's/PhD) |
| Date TBD (May 2017) | Ontario Psychology Undergraduate Thesis Conference |