

PSYD98: THESIS IN PSYCHOLOGY

FALL-WINTER 2020-2021



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO
SCARBOROUGH

Course Description

This course is designed to provide students in the Specialist programs in Psychology or Mental Health Studies with an intensive research apprenticeship in their field. In the process of collaborating with a faculty advisor, students will develop the skills necessary to conduct and present original research. These skills include library research, designing experiments, collecting and analyzing data, interpreting results, writing, and public speaking.

Instructor & Contact Information

Kyle Danielson, PhD
k.danielson@utoronto.ca

Office hours are by appointment via
calendly.com/kdanielson

If there are no available appointments, please email for more options.

Prerequisites

Admission to PSYD98 requires the supervision of a faculty member in the Department of Psychology at UTSC, or the supervision of a researcher outside the University with the co-supervision of an internal faculty member. More information regarding admission to the course can be found on the UTSC Department of Psychology website.

Additionally, students must ordinarily have the following prerequisites to enrol in the course:

- Specialist in PSY or MHS
- cGPA of 3.3 or higher
- Completion of the following courses or their equivalents: PSYC02, PSYC70, and PSYC08 or PSYC09

Learning Outcomes

By the conclusion of this course, you should...

...have experience carrying out an original research project from start to finish, including:

- Proficiency in formulating a research question and hypotheses
- Proficiency in conducting a literature review
- Proficiency in operationalizing a research question using appropriate methodological techniques
- Experience in collecting data using such methods
- Experience in analyzing and reporting data using appropriate statistical methods
- Proficiency in drawing conclusions from such data

...be well versed in ethical issues in psychological science, including experience in submitting and amending ethics protocols for research with human and non-human animal subjects

...be proficient in presenting research in the following formats: an oral research proposal, a conference poster, and a formal paper

...be proficient in writing an abstract according to the standards of the field

...know how to craft and update a curriculum vitae (CV) according to the standards of the field

...be proficient in communicating and collaborating with colleagues at various levels of experience (e.g., other undergraduate student peers, graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and research supervisors)

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Course Materials

All materials for this course are accessible through Quercus (q.utoronto.ca) using your UTORid. There are no required materials to purchase. It is essential that you check Quercus frequently, preferably by having your email notifications turned on and monitoring your University of Toronto email address. All course announcements and changes will be communicated in this manner.

Course Grades

Your mark in PSYD98 is determined as follows. Details regarding each of these components can be found elsewhere in this document:

- 60% Thesis supervisor's mark**
- 15% Secondary reader's mark**
- 25% In-class components**

In-class components (25%)

25% of your thesis mark comes from work you do in the thesis class. The in-class work is broken down as follows:

- Ethics (10%)**
- Thesis Proposal (10%)**
- Oral Presentation (30%)**
- Introduction and Methods Drafts (15%)**
- Final Poster Presentation (35%)**

Thesis Submission

Your final thesis paper must be submitted as **one document in .pdf format on Quercus by 5:00pm on Monday, April 5.**

Late submissions will be penalized at 5% per day (or partial day) off **each** the primary supervisor and secondary reader marks.

Although you are strongly encouraged to work directly with your supervisor on drafts of your thesis, **only the copy submitted to Quercus will be marked.**

Class Meetings

Meetings for this course will take place online via Bb Collaborate, accessible through Quercus. Class will **not** meet each week, so be sure to see the course calendar below for the schedule. You are strongly encouraged to attend class live when possible, but recordings will be made available on Quercus should you be unable to attend.

Thesis Supervisor Mark (60%)

The bulk of your grade in PSYD98 is determined by your thesis supervisor based on your final paper and your performance in their lab throughout the year. As such, it is **essential** that you maintain consistent communication with your thesis supervisor regarding their expectations and your progress.

Secondary Reader Mark (15%)

To ensure objectivity in grading, your thesis will also be read by another faculty member in Psychology, who will anonymously provide a grade on your paper. This reader will be a psychological scientist, but your thesis may be outside their area of specialization. You should be sure to write your thesis in a way that is accessible to such a person.



In-class components (25% of total course grade)

Ethics (10% of in-class grade)

All research involving living animals, human or non-human, must be approved by the appropriate ethics review board before the research can begin. There are three components to the ethics assignment for this course. Even if an ethics component in this course seems irrelevant to you right now, adequate preparation at this stage will assist you in your future research endeavours. Ethics requirements are due on Quercus by **11:59pm on October 1**.

- 1. Meeting with supervisor to determine ethics requirements; submission of form documenting meeting.** Each student must meet with their supervisor as soon as possible to determine what review procedures are required for their projects. You should schedule this meeting with your supervisor as soon as possible after the start of the term. In some cases, a student may be joining an ongoing project for which ethics protocols have already been filed. In other cases, a student and supervisor may be required to submit an amendment to a supervisor's existing ethics protocol. In many cases, a student is starting a new project that will require submission of a new ethics protocol in collaboration with the supervisor.
- 2. Completing Introductory Tutorial for the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS-2).** All students, regardless of whether they are working with live humans this year or not, must complete the TCPS-2 training by navigating to: <http://tcps2core.ca/welcome>. The training is also available in French if you prefer. Submit your certificate of completion on Quercus. If you already have a TCPS-2 certificate, you may submit it instead of re-taking the course. TCPS (1) certificates do not count; you must have TCPS-2.
- 3. Training in Ethical Research with Animals.** All students, regardless of whether they are working with live animals this year or not, must complete the University of Toronto's Division of Comparative Medicine (DCM) short course on ethics in animal research. The course comprises its own Quercus page, to which all thesis students will be invited in mid-September. The course must be completed in its entirety by the deadline.

Thesis Proposal (10% of in-class grade)

By 11:59pm on October 16, you must submit on Quercus a brief proposal for your thesis project. This proposal should include: a rationale for the research (e.g., a hole in the existing literature), a research question, hypotheses, and a brief description of the methodology. You should construct this short proposal in collaboration with your research supervisor. Note that this research proposal will likely evolve as you and your supervisor continue to meet throughout the year: that's ok! This proposal will be marked for completion. Incomplete, disorganized, informal, or outline drafts will not receive credit. The proposal should be approximately 300-500 words in length.

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In-class components (25% of total course grade)

Oral Presentation (30% of in-class grade)

In mid- to late-**November**, we will have three classes with online oral presentations. In these presentations, you will be asked to make a brief (15- to 20-minute, depending on the number of students enrolled in the course) presentation of your thesis project, in which you substantiate the proposal that you turned in earlier in the term. You should, in your presentation, make a clear statement of the research question, hypotheses, research design, methodology, and planned data analyses. You may, but are not required, to present preliminary data (some, but not all, students will have data to present at that time, and your decision to do so will not affect your mark). After your presentation, you will answer questions from your classmates for up to 5 minutes, again depending on the number of students in the course. Much more information will be available later in the term, including a detailed marking rubric.

Each student's **presentation date** will be determined as follows: By **11:59pm on October 23**, a survey will be due in which you express your desired presentation dates (choice 1, choice 2, and choice 3). The list of students enrolled in the course will be randomized, and the first student on the list will receive their top choice. Each following student will receive their top choice if space permits, and otherwise will receive their second or third choice depending on their place on the list. **It is therefore essential that you are prepared to present on any of the three presentation dates;** however, in the past all students have received their first or second choice.

Introduction and Methods Drafts (15% of in-class grade)

On **January 29 by 11:59pm**, you will need to turn in a **draft** of the introduction section and the methods section of your thesis. These drafts will be distributed to two of your peers in the class, who will work with you to provide edits and suggestions. You, in turn, will provide edits to two peers by **11:59pm on February 5**. Turning in of the drafts and working with your peers will both be marked for completion. This process ensures that 1) you do not leave all the writing to the last minute, and 2) that you benefit from both giving and receiving peer feedback.

Virtual Thesis Day and Poster Presentations (35% of in-class grade)

By **11:59pm on March 30**, you will submit an electronic research poster via Quercus along with a short, five-minute video presentation of your poster. This video will take the format of you speaking over the still image of your poster, as if you were in a conference presenting the poster to an audience. It need not (but may) include your face at the beginning or end. Many more details about the poster, the video, and Virtual Thesis Day 2021 will be forthcoming. Please plan to attend class virtually for Thesis Day on **April 6 (10:00am-4:00pm)**.

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Course Calendar

PSYD98 does not meet every week. Much of your work in this course comes from your laboratory research and writing. However, you must attend or watch the recorded lectures on each of the following dates to avoid falling behind. You are strongly encouraged to attend class live via Bb Collaborate whenever possible.

Date	Topic	Items due/due dates
September 11	Introductory Meeting	Research survey due by 11:59pm, Friday, September 18
September 25	Library Research Workshop Sarah Guay, UTSC Library	
October 2	Ethics in Human and Animal Research; Writing a Research Proposal	Ethics components (3) due by 11:59pm, Thursday, October 1
October 9	Applying to Graduate School Prof. Suzanne Erb, Chair, Department of Psychology	Research proposal due by 11:59pm, Friday, October 16
October 23	Preparing a CV	Presentation dates survey due by 11:59pm, Friday, October 23
October 30	Giving Effective Oral Presentations	
November 13, 20, and 27	Class Presentations	
January 8	Thesis Formatting	
January 22	Writing Workshop	Introduction and Methods drafts due by 11:59pm, Friday, January 29
February 12	Optional Writing Support Workshop	Introduction and Methods peer reviews due by 11:59pm, Friday, February 5
March 12	Poster Formatting	
April 6 (Tuesday) 10:00am-4:00pm	Virtual Thesis Day	Electronic poster due by 11:59pm, Tuesday, March 30

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Course Policies

Please read these course policies carefully before commencing work on your thesis.

Ethical and Responsible Conduct: Please treat yourself, your classmates, and your instructional team with respect both in and outside of class. The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another's differences. U of T does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities.

Academic Integrity: The University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences.

Potential offences in papers and assignments include using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement, submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor, making up sources or facts, obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

Turnitin.com: Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Lecture Recordings: This course, including your participation, will be recorded on video and will be available to students in the course for viewing remotely and after each session.

Course videos and materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other source depending on the specific facts of each situation, and are protected by copyright. In this course, you are permitted to download session videos and materials for your own academic use, but you should not copy, share, or use them for any other purpose without the explicit permission of the instructor.

For questions about recording and use of videos in which you appear please contact your instructor.

Late Work Policy: Late work is not accepted in PSYD98. Any work submitted after the due date and time will receive a score of 0%. For work missed due to extenuating circumstances, please see the following section: "Missed Term Work".

Missed Term Work: Everything described above is considered a required part of the class. Evaluation is most fair when all students complete all components with no special consideration being applied. However, in the case of some extenuating circumstances, you may apply to the Department or to the University for an exception to this missed work policy, using the procedures below. These policies below are standard for all courses in Psychology at UTSC. Note the clause below regarding term work due at the end of the semester: **because the thesis is due on the last day of classes, only extensions of 5 days or fewer can be administered by the Psychology Department. Longer extensions must be petitioned through the Registrar's Office.**

Missed Term Work due to Medical Illness or Other Emergency

All students citing a documented reason for missed term work must submit their request for accommodations within three (3) business days of the deadline for the missed work.

Submit via email to: Keely Hicks, Departmental Assistant, keely.hicks@utoronto.ca

Students must submit BOTH of the following:

A completed Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), and
Appropriate documentation to verify your illness or emergency, as described below.

Appropriate documentation:

For missed ASSIGNMENTS due to FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS or SELF-ISOLATION REQUIREMENTS:

Email the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (uoft.me/PSY-MTW) to Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca), and

Declare your absence on ACORN (Profile & Settings > Absence Declaration)

For missed ASSIGNMENTS due to OTHER ILLNESS:

Email the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (uoft.me/PSY-MTW) to Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca, along with the Self-Declaration of Student Illness Form (uoft.me/PSY-self-declare-form).

For missed ASSIGNMENTS due to ACCESSABILITY REASONS:

If your desired accommodation is within the scope of your Accommodation Letter (ex. your letter includes “extensions of up to 7 days” and you need 1-7 more days), email the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (uoft.me/PSY-MTW) to Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca), and attach a copy of your letter. Specify how many days extension you are requesting in your email.

If your desired accommodation is outside the scope of your Accommodation Letter (ex. your letter includes “extensions of up to 7 days” but you need more time than that) you will need to meet with your AccessAbility consultant and have them email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) detailing the accommodations required.

For missed ASSIGNMENTS in OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES:

Email the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>) form to Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca), along with:

For the death of a family member/friend, provide a copy of the death certificate.

For U of T varsity-level or professional athletic commitments, an email from your coach or varsity administrator should be sent directly to Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) well in advance of the missed work, detailing the dates and nature of the commitment.

For religious accommodations, please email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) well in advance of the missed work.

For circumstances outside of these guidelines, please email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) on or before the date of the test / assignment deadline to describe your circumstances and determine appropriate documentation.

Documents covering the following situations are NOT acceptable: medical prescriptions, personal travel, weddings, personal/work commitments.

As stated above, your documents must be submitted within three (3) business days of the deadline for the missed work.

After submitting your documentation:

Within approximately one to five business days, you will receive a response from your instructor detailing the accommodations to be made (if any).

You are responsible for checking your official U of T email and Quercus course announcements daily, as accommodations may be time-critical.

You should continue to work on your assignments to the best of your ability, as extension accommodations may be as short as one business day, depending on the nature of the illness/emergency.

If an accommodation has been granted but you are unable to meet the conditions of the accommodation (ex. you need a longer extension, or you missed a make-up test), you will need to repeat the missed term work procedure and submit additional forms to request further accommodation.

Completion of this form does NOT guarantee that accommodations will be made. The course instructor reserves the right to decide what accommodations (if any) will be made. Failure to adhere to any aspect of this policy may result in a denial of your request for accommodation.

Missed Accommodations

If an accommodation is granted but a continued illness/emergency prevents you from meeting the requirements of your accommodation, you must repeat the missed term work procedure to request additional accommodations.

(E.g.) If you miss a make-up midterm, you would need to submit another Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form. If your original medical note / documentation included the date of the make-up midterm, then only the Request form is required. If the date of the make-up midterm fell outside of the dates indicated on your original medical note/other documentation, then a new medical note/other appropriate documentation must also be submitted.

Importance of Three Business Day window:

If you are unable to submit your documents within the three business day window, you must email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) within the three business day window to explain the nature of the delay, and when you will be able to provide your documents. Exceptions to the documentation deadline will only be made under exceptional circumstances.

NOTE: Assignments due at end of term (!!)

Instructors cannot accept term work any later than five business days after the last day of class. Beyond this date, you would need to file a petition with the Registrar's Office (<https://www.uts.utoronto.ca/registrar/term-work>).

AccessAbility: 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 Office as soon as possible.

AccessAbility Services staff (located in Rm AA142, Arts and Administration Building) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations 416-287-7560 or email ability@uts.utoronto.ca. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Religious Accommodation: The University has a commitment concerning accommodation for religious observances. I will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, examinations, or other compulsory activities on religious holy days not captured by statutory holidays. According to University Policy, if you anticipate being absent from class or missing a major course activity (like a test, or in-class assignment) due to a religious observance, please let me know as early in the course as possible, and with sufficient notice (at least two to three weeks), so that we can work together to make alternate arrangements.

Online Learning and Educational Technology: This term is going to be different for all of us, and we will be using a number of new technologies and learning strategies, not all of which have been tested fully. It is really important that we all maintain patience and compassion for one another during this process. Please bear with me as I navigate teaching in this new environment, as I will do so when considering the difficulties of your learning in this new environment. Where there are technical issues that affect the entire class, I will make a strong effort to correct the problem in a way that is fair to everyone. If there are specific technologies or online accommodations that do not work for you in your particular situation (e.g., due to equipment constraints, living situations, time zones, etc.), please let me know as soon as possible so that we can come to a solution that works for you and is also fair to everyone else.