

**Honours Seminar & Thesis
PSYC 349 001 and 449 001
2022-2023
Terms 1 and 2
Tuesdays, 12:30-1:50
Henry Angus 334**

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We acknowledge that the UBC Vancouver campus is situated within the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam). We are grateful to live, work, and play on this land.

Diversity and Inclusion

University courses should be conducive to learning and rigorous intellectual inquiry within a context in which everyone feels included and respected—regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, political or religious affiliations, ability, age, social status, etc. All students in this class are encouraged to express themselves thoughtfully when discussing course material; and, when you do express yourself, it's important that you do so in a manner that shows respect for every other member of this class. Our goal is not necessarily to agree, but rather to disagree without being threatening or alienating. If a statement or behaviour is likely to offend others, it should not be shared with the class (if you wish, it can be shared with me in office hours). If at any point you feel threatened, alienated, or offended by anything that happens in class, please let me or a TA know.

As your instructors, we strive to keep learning about diverse perspectives and identities, and it is very important to us that this be an inclusive space. If at any point you feel that either of us are failing to live up to an inclusive space in this course, please let us know.

You can find additional information about resources pertaining to equity, diversity, and inclusion, including information on the Psychology Department's Committee on Equity and Inclusion, on the Psychology Department's website: <https://psych.ubc.ca/about/equity-inclusion/>

The Honours Program

The honours program is designed, first and foremost, to prepare students for research-focused graduate programs in psychology. This is not necessarily the way all (or even most) honours programs in psychology are structured, and the curriculum and expectations reflect this goal.

It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with graduation requirements for your honours program

For information about the BA and BSc honours programs at UBC, please see the Department's website:

<http://psych.ubc.ca/undergraduate/honours-program/>

See also the University Academic Calendar

for BA Psychology students:

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=12,197,282,101>

for BSc Behavioral Neuroscience students (stream being replaced by Neuroscience...):

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=12,215,410,436>

Note that requirements for the BA versus BSc paths differ, and the BSc in Behavioural Neuroscience is being phased out. I strongly encourage ALL students, but especially new 3rd years, to make sure you understand the program requirements. If you have questions, please ask and we will try to help!

Course Description

The honours seminar is a requirement of each year of the two-year honours program in psychology. The course will serve as a complement to the time you will be spending actively doing research in laboratories in the psychology department, and will provide information on how to perform psychological research, how to communicate your research findings in both oral and written form, and how to critically evaluate research hypotheses and data. There will also be training on the careers of psychological scientists, especially how they got to where they are (for instance, getting into and being in graduate school, what it is like to be a faculty member, etc.).

Course Format

Class meetings will be held in a seminar format, with the primary focus on practical research skills and communication. You will be taught, explicitly, to write a research proposal and each section of your thesis, and you will have multiple opportunities for both group and individual class presentations. Between-class activities, such as attendance at departmental colloquia, outside readings, and engaging in online tutorials are expected activities in preparation for class discussion.

Please note that during some weeks this class has very few demands: all that you need to do is come to class and listen carefully to lectures or give feedback on others' presentations. Other weeks there might be several papers to read, written assignments to be handed in, etc. *This is not unlike the ebb and flow of workload in graduate school/academia, and you are expected to come prepared to each and every class and to meet all deadlines barring significant reason not to: **please plan accordingly.***

Attendance and Participation

This course, and success in graduate school and beyond, depends on your active participation. Barring illness, students are expected to attend class every week, and students will sign themselves in with Francis at the start of each class. If there is some reason you cannot be in class, please let Francis and I know ahead of time. Participation includes coming prepared for class discussions (doing all outside readings, etc.). In class, you will be given myriad opportunities to share ideas and opinions, and to ask thoughtful questions of your fellow students.

****Class participation, especially in a seminar, can be extremely intimidating for all of us (it certainly was for me when I was in your position, and participating in discussions at conferences, asking questions during colloquia, etc. intimidates me to this day!). Basically, in my experience, it's one of those things that, the more you do it, the easier it gets. No one asks perfect questions all the time (but you are undoubtedly your own worst critic). For better or worse, active participation, including confidence expressing a dissenting opinion (especially to a "superior"!)** is a huge part of the research process, and graduate students are expected to do this all the time.

Rather than something some of us are good at and others not, think of it like a skill we must learn just like anything else. Helping you hone this skill, particularly feeling comfortable putting oneself out there, is a big goal of this course. I'm willing to bet that none of us feels this is easy – let's help each other get better at it in a supportive environment.**

Course Presentations

Speaking in front of others, and communicating clearly and at the right “level” for your audience, is no easy feat, and yet is critical for success in psychology and related fields. This course is designed to give you multiple, largely low-stakes, opportunities to practice these skills. Thus, at several points throughout the course you will give a brief talk in class, either with a group or on your own. Topics will vary, and may include summaries of empirical papers/research, reporting on your own research and/or experiences to date, informing us about the research/career of a psychologist of colour (see: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1i7Eacoyv9VVg2lBbCV-KJZg4nSGvR_VZF0ysOyOGG8g/edit#gid=666010790), teaching students about a relevant topic, etc.

The longest of these talks will be formal and graded. This talk should be 10 minutes long, on a topic of your choosing. *Please run your topic by me and Francis at least 2 weeks prior to your talk.* In the first semester, 4th years will present (this can be a talk on your thesis research from last year; but it CANNOT be a talk you have given before). In the second semester, 3rd years will present. See course schedule for dates; see rubric on Canvas. *Please sign up for a slot for your presentation by the end of the second week of class.*

Research Project

Being an honours student means you do more than just take classes and learn about work performed by others – you actively participate in the research process, including creating and communicating about novel research results. The actual research will happen entirely outside of the context of this class, and each student must have a research supervisor and a lab in which to work. Your overall research performance will be communicated to me by your supervisor; this report, and your research paper, will contribute substantially to your course grade (see details below). It is your responsibility to find a laboratory in which to perform your research project; **anyone who has yet to secure a position should schedule an appointment with me right away to discuss options.** *You will identify your research design in class (via a very brief verbal report) on October 11th.*

Research Paper

Students are required to produce a written product of their research each year. The paper should be in the form of a manuscript suitable for submission as a journal article (using APA-style formatting). The paper is due by 12:30 PM on the last day of our seminar: **Tuesday, April 11th, 2023.** Although this may vary somewhat, I expect the length of your final papers to be between 20 and 30 pages long, not including references. *I cannot imagine an effective thesis that is under 20 pages in length.*

A formal research proposal and then preliminary versions of most parts of the paper (each worth 5% of your course grade) are due at specific points throughout the year (intro, methods, results; discussion is optional). You will receive feedback on these preliminary versions within 2 weeks. You will hand in a revised version of your intro and methods sections; this revision will also be graded; your grade will reflect the quality of your revisions based on the feedback you received.

The first written assignment is a research proposal, which is separate from the final research paper and should be 1 single-spaced page (plus a page of references) written in the style of a Tri-Council fellowship application proposal (resources will be provided and are linked below). Your proposal is due **Tuesday October 18th before class.** *For due dates for all subsequent writing assignments, see the course calendar below.*

PURC Conference Presentation and Participation (PURC dates: April 7th and 8th, 2023)

At the Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference, you will present the results of your honours thesis to your peers and to other psychology students and faculty members. 3rd years will present posters, 4th years will give talks. Presenting at this conference is required for the course, and **students are responsible for meeting deadlines such as registering and paying fees (note that inability to pay fees will NOT affect your PURC participation).** An announcement usually goes out in January or February, or check the PSA website: <https://psa.psych.ubc.ca/>

All students will give practice PURC presentations during the second semester. *Please sign up for slots by the end of the second week of class.*

All honours students are expected to attend PURC in its entirety. At a regular academic conference, giving your own poster/talk is a small fraction your attendance – you are primarily there to learn from others. Plus, you are a member of the honours psychology community, and we try to support each other by attending each other's talks, looking at each other's' posters, and asking thoughtful questions. ****If you have some significant conflict and are unable to attend some of PURC, please let us know ASAP****

* Note that UBC also has MURC, a Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research Conference, typically on a weekend in March. This is another opportunity for presenting your work (and adding to your CV!) that you should consider, though it is not required for this course/honours. See <https://students.ubc.ca/career/events-workshops/multidisciplinary-undergraduate-research-conference/attend-murc>

Science Journalism Assignment

An opportunity to practice science journalism. Please attend (or view a recording of) one of the public colloquia sponsored by the Department this year - see <https://psych.ubc.ca/news-events/colloquia/> for a current schedule and to access recordings of colloquia (you may write about this year's talks only, and only psychology department colloquia!). Colloquia are typically held on Thursdays, 12:30-1:50. Your assignment is to write a first-hand account of one of these talks, for a public audience, in 300 words or less.

In this report, you should:

- identify the speaker and provide the title of the talk
- explain the importance of the topic
- summarize one of the speaker's main points
- tell us something about yourself that makes this point meaningful to you
- comment on the stylistic aspects of the presentation
- creativity welcome!!

Submit your report to the Canvas website for the course before the February reading break (**by 5 PM on Friday, Feb 17th**). Graded by the TA.

*Note: you are only **required** to attend/watch one colloquium to complete this assignment; however, you are **strongly encouraged to attend them all**. Watching talks across areas in psychology has myriad benefits, including but not limited to exposing you to important, cutting-edge ideas across areas of psychological research, broadening your methodological knowledge, and **learning how to give effective (and perhaps ineffective!) research presentations**.*

Grading

*Notes: All written assignments should be in Word format adhering to APA style; to be submitted on Canvas. All assignments should be double spaced EXCEPT FOR the research proposal, which is **1 page, single spaced**. 3rd years' assignments graded by the TA; 4th years' assignments graded by the professor. The TA grades all Science Journalism submissions.*

Attendance and Participation: 10%

Formal Course Presentation: 10%

Research project and paper: 60%

(Due Term 1)

Proposal 5%

Preliminary introduction 5%

Preliminary methods 5%

(Due Term 2)

Revised introduction and methods 5%

Preliminary results 5%

Preliminary Discussion 0% -- ENTIRELY OPTIONAL; your opportunity for feedback (no late submissions accepted)

Final Paper 20%: due Tuesday, April 11th @ 12:30 PM

Research Performance 15% Grade is determined by your supervisor

PURC Presentation: 15%

Science Journalism: 5%

Course Infrastructure and Policies

Academic Accommodation

The University, and this course, accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with and been assessed by UBC's Center for Accessibility. We also accommodate students whose religious observances conflict with attendance and submitting assignments. Please let me know ASAP if you require any accommodation on these grounds. For official UBC policies regarding academic accommodation, refer to the UBC calendar:

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,34,0,0>

Academic Concession

If you encounter medical, emotional, or personal problems that affect your attendance or academic performance, please notify us. *Our intention is to help you succeed in this course and in your general academic trajectory; we cannot help you if you do not keep us informed of your situation.* For official UBC policies regarding in-term academic concessions, refer to the UBC calendar: <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,329,0,0>

Grade Distribution

As honours students you are likely aware of the required grade distributions for psychology courses. *The honours seminar is not subject to these requirements.* Expect year-end grades to have an average of ~80-85% (*yes, that means that many of you will receive a lower grade in this course than your GPA*). You will receive grades on all graded assignments throughout the course, and so your end of semester grade should not come as a complete surprise to you; that said, 45% of your grade is made up of your final thesis, your PURC performance, and your lab performance. *You should expect your grades to be worse early in the year; it is a goal of this course to help you to improve your performance/grade along the way. That said, if you are concerned about the grades you are receiving, please come talk to us sooner than later.*

Office Hours/Meetings

You are actively encouraged to meet with us to discuss the course, but also to chat about more general issues in psychology, graduate school, careers, etc. etc.

Assignment Formatting

Adherence to formatting *will* be considered in evaluation of written assignments, including spelling, grammar, spacing, APA style, references, etc. *This is an easy way to either boost, or lower, your grades!*

Cheating and other academic offences

Cheating devalues the genuine achievement of other students and will not be tolerated. See the UBC Calendar on academic offences and penalties. <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,0,0>

Plagiarism is a form of academic misconduct in which an individual submits or presents the work of another person as his/her own. However, academic scholarship, quite properly, rests upon examining and referring to the thoughts and writings of others. In doing so, proper credit **must** be given. When referring to/discussing the ideas or findings of someone else, acknowledge such with author/date citations (in APA style). When quoting directly indicate such with quotation marks and author/date/page citations (but note that direct quotes are *vanishingly rare* in psychology writing; instead we reproduce the arguments in our own words and cite the original origin). Plagiarism is also submitting the same or similar paper/presentation more than once at this or another institution. The University subscribes to

TurnItIn—a service designed to detect and deter plagiarism. We reserve the right to run your submissions through this service.

Note also the information on the Library website: <https://help.library.ubc.ca/planning-your-research/academic-integrity-plagiarism/>

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 me, your research supervisor, or the TA.

*******Some Resources**

APA Style Manual, 7th Edition (2020): <https://apastyle.apa.org/products/publication-manual-7th-edition>

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 <https://psychology.yale.edu/sites/default/files/bemempirical.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.]

Kuhn, T. S. (2012). *The structure of scientific revolutions*. University of Chicago press.

Nosek, B. A., Ebersole, C. R., DeHaven, A. C., & Mellor, D. T. (2018). The preregistration revolution. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 115(11), 2600-2606.

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.

Spiegelhalter, D. (2019). *The art of statistics: How to learn from data*. New York: Penguin.

MOXIE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEUsx2oLqD4>

BETTER POSTERS: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RwIbhcCA58&feature=youtu.be>

The UBC G+PS website is FILLED with amazing information sessions about everything from crafting CVs and personal statements to introductions to research tools like R, OSF, and Github:

<https://www.grad.ubc.ca/current-students/professional-development/events>

Awards

The Psychology Department awards the Morris Belkin Prize each year for the best PSYC 449 Honours paper. The three best theses are awarded the Canadian Psychological Association Certificate of Academic Excellence. *Note:* Honours students are often competitive for other UBC awards, including the Jean Bolocan Prize (outstanding BA student in final year of study), the Eric Eich Award (outstanding BA student in final year of study), the Richard Tees Award (outstanding BSc student in final year of study), the PSA Awards (for outstanding marks and departmental involvement), the Peter Crocker Award (most outstanding student in the health area), and the International Undergraduate Award in Psychology.

Award Eligibility:

<https://students.ubc.ca/enrolment/courses/creditdfail-grading/maintaining-awards-loan-eligibility>

Maintaining awards and loan eligibility (note: to be eligible for the Dean's list you must have at least 27 graded credits per year)

Scholarships, prizes, and other academic awards are normally awarded to undergraduate students who have achieved all of the following:

- Registered in at least 24 percentage-graded credits (Note. Awards calculations are based on 24 percentage-graded credits. Taking a course for Credit/D/Fail grading will make you ineligible if you do not have 24 percentage-graded credits).
- Attained a standing in the top 10% of his/her year and faculty, or an average of 75% or higher
- Received a passing grade in all courses
- Completed all courses (e.g., no missing grades or standing deferred courses)

Specific Awards are listed here:

<https://students.ubc.ca/enrolment/finances/awards-scholarships-bursaries>

Awards directed toward Experimental Psychology students:

<https://students.ubc.ca/enrolment/finances/award-search/vancouver/faculty-arts/departmentspsychology/1300?destination=enrolment/finances/awardsearch/result%3Fcampus%3DVancouver%26faculty%3DARTS%26dept%3DPSYC%26level%3DUNGR%26type%3DAI%26name%3D%26id%3D>

Awards directed toward Honours students:

<https://students.ubc.ca/enrolment/finances/awards-scholarships-bursaries/premier-undergraduatewesbrook-scholarships>

Course Schedule

Please consider this outline *flexible*. Depending on our progress, the issues that arise as we move through the year, and the state of the COVID-19 pandemic, we may shift around dates, add/delete readings, etc.

Term 1:

Week 1: Sep 13th

In class: Student introductions. Course introduction and syllabus overview. Social event hosted by 4th years

To prep for class: N/A

Additional Assignments due today: N/A

Week 2: Tuesday, Sep 20th

In class: Joint meeting with Jim's section. Panel discussion with graduate students (led by TAs)

To prep for class: Think of **at least 2 questions** (about anything!) you have about graduate school to ask of expert panel

Additional Assignments due today: N/A

Week 3: Tuesday, Sep 27th

In class: The ethics of conducting, and reporting, psychological research

To prep for class: Read (1) Bem, 2003; (2) Simonsohn et al., 2010; (3) Nosek et al., 2018; & (4)

<https://www.wired.com/story/were-all-p-hacking-now/>

When you're reading, consider where different authors agree versus disagree. What are the risks and benefits associated with each approach? Come to class ready to discuss.

Additional Assignments due today: 349s ONLY: Take TCPS2 Course on Research Ethics (CORE;

<https://tcps2core.ca/welcome>), submit TCPS2 certificate to TA

Week 4: Tuesday, Oct 4th

In class: How to write a research proposal (Kiley); Applying for tri-council funding & graduate school (Francis)

To prep for class: Read 2 (or more!) example successful MA proposals. OPTIONAL: Read UBC's advice on applying for fellowships <https://www.grad.ubc.ca/scholarships-awards-funding/resources-award-applicants/tips-best-practices>

Read APA tips for applying to graduate school

<http://www.apa.org/education/grad/applying.aspx>

Read CGSM info page

https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/students-etudiants/pg-cs/cgsm-bescm_eng.asp; review APA style

<https://apastyle.apa.org/products/publication-manual-7th-edition>

Additional Assignments due today: N/A

Week 5: Tuesday, Oct 11th

In class: **Everyone: 2-minute presentations of your thesis research plan** (no slides)

To prep for class: Prep, and practice, practice, practice your 2-minute presentation. Should have the same basic structure as your research proposal

Additional Assignments due today: N/A

Week 6: Tuesday, Oct 18th

In class: Joint session with Jim's section: Interview with Dr. Nancy Sin, Health Area

To prep for class: Think of **at least 2 questions** you have about being a faculty member that you would like to ask Dr. Sin.

Additional Assignments due today: **Research proposals due before class today (5%)**

Week 7: Tuesday, Oct 25th

In class: **How to write an introduction section**

To prep for class: N/A
Additional Assignments due today: N/A

Week 8: Tuesday, Nov 1st

In class: Creating effective presentations

To prep for class: Watch at least 2 youtube videos on effective presentations (including posters, plus at least one from MOXIE)

MOXIE for public speaking: <https://www.youtube.com/c/MoxieInstitute/videos>

BETTER POSTERS: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Rw\]bhkCA58&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Rw]bhkCA58&feature=youtu.be)

Additional Assignments due today: N/A

Week 9: Tuesday, Nov 8th

In class: 4th years: presentations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (10 minute talks on something of your choosing)

To prep for class: N/A

Additional Assignments due today: N/A

Week 10: Tuesday, Nov 15th

In class: How to write a methods section; 4th years: presentations 6, 7

To prep for class: N/A

Additional Assignments due today: Preliminary introduction sections due before class today (5%)

Week 11: Tuesday, Nov 22nd

In class: 4th years: presentations 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

To prep for class: N/A

Additional Assignments due today: N/A

Week 12: Tuesday, Nov 29th

In class: 4th years: presentations 13, 14, 15, 16

To prep for class: N/A

Additional Assignments due today: N/A

Week 13: Tuesday, Dec 6th

In class: Party hosted by 3rd years to celebrate being halfway through the year! Everyone will give a very short update on your experience so far this year (very casual; no slides). What has gone well? What challenges have you faced? 3rd years: what has surprised you about your experience thus far? 4th years: how is your experience so far similar to/different from last year?

To prep for class: Plan your update, come to class ready to offer advice to others

Additional Assignments due today: Preliminary methods sections due before class today (5%)

*****Winter Break*****

Course Schedule

Term 2:

Week 1: Tuesday, Jan 10th

In class: Thinking critically about empirical papers (QALMRI method). Do QALMRI for [paper TBA] in groups of 5-6 (6 total groups) of mixed year; each group will present their answer to one letter to the class.

To prep for class: Read QALMRI handout & [paper TBA]

Additional Assignments due today: N/A

Week 2: Tuesday, Jan 17th

In class: Writing a results section, reporting statistics, presenting figures and tables; 3rd years: presentations 1, 2

To prep for class: N/A

Additional Assignments due today: N/A

Week 3: Tuesday, Jan 24th

In class: 3rd years: presentations 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

To prep for class: N/A

Additional Assignments due today: N/A

Week 4: Tuesday, Jan 31st

In class: Writing an abstract; 3rd years: presentations 8, 9, 10

To prep for class: N/A

Additional Assignments due today: Revised intro and methods section due before class today

Week 5: Tuesday, Feb 7th

In class: 3rd years: presentations 11, 12, 13, 14

To prep for class: N/A

Additional Assignments due today: N/A

Week 6: Tuesday, Feb 14th

In class: Group check-in: How are things going? What do you need help with to get you to a completed thesis project in 8 short weeks? 3rd years: presentations 15, 16, 17

To prep for class: Consider what advice you'd like to receive; come to class ready to offer advice

Additional Assignments due today: Science journalism due before class today (5%)

Tuesday, Feb 21st

No class: Reading Break ☺

Week 7: Tuesday, Feb 28th

In class: Writing a discussion section

To prep for class: N/A

Additional Assignments due today: N/A

Week 8: Tuesday, Mar 7th

In class: 4th years: PURC Practice Talks 1,2,3,4,5

To prep for class: N/A

Additional Assignments due today: Preliminary results sections due before class today (unless your presentation is today) (5%)

Week 9: Tuesday, Mar 14th

In class: 4th years: PURC Practice Talks 6,7,8,9,10

To prep for class: N/A

Additional Assignments due today: Preliminary results sections due for 4th years with presentations last week (5%)

Week 10: Tuesday, Mar 21st

In class: 4th years: PURC Practice Talks 11,12,13,14,15,16

To prep for class: N/A

Additional Assignments due today: OPTIONAL Preliminary discussion sections due before class (0%)

Week 11: Tuesday, Mar 28th

In class: 3rd years: PURC Practice 1-2 minute poster pitch 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9

To prep for class: N/A

Additional Assignments due today: N/A

Week 12: Tuesday, April 4th

In class: 3rd years: PURC Practice 1-2 minute poster pitch 10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17

To prep for class: N/A

Additional Assignments due today: N/A

April 7th-8th: PURC (presentations 15%)

Week 13: Tuesday, April 11th

In class: Wrap-Up/Lessons Learned

To prep for class: Come ready to share a Lesson Learned this year!

Additional Assignments due today: Final papers due before class today!! (20%)