

<b>PSYC 598</b>	<b>Honours Thesis and Seminar</b>	<b>Fall 2021</b>
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<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Melissa A. Boyce	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	MS 527
<b>Email:</b>	mboyce@ucalgary.ca	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	MW 3:30 – 4:45pm
<b>Office:</b>	A258		
<b>Office Hours:</b>	By appointment		

### Course Description

This course is required of all honours students and is intended to facilitate completion of the honours thesis and the development of research-related skills. The major goals of this course are to 1) develop your presentation skills, 2) increase your knowledge of the different areas of psychological research, 3) enhance your understanding of how psychological research is conducted, 4) increase your understanding of the ethical issues involved in psychological research, 5) learn about applying for scholarships and graduate programs, and 6) help prepare you for graduate and professional level training.

The fall session seminars will consist of presentations on important information related to the honours thesis (e.g., the process of applying for ethics approval), information on graduate scholarships and programs, and instructions on how to prepare a proposal presentation. Each student will deliver a proposal presentation in the fall term (details below). The winter session will include several information seminars (e.g., how to prepare an effective scientific poster, how to write a thesis) and each student will deliver another presentation on their thesis research (the research presentation). Students will also prepare a research poster and secure feedback on that poster from two of their peers. All students will present their research at the Student Research Conference on **April 29, 2022** (date to be confirmed).

### Course Learning Outcomes

The Department of Psychology is committed to student knowledge and skill development. The table below lists the key learning outcomes for this course, the program-learning outcomes they facilitate (see <https://live-arts.ucalgary.ca/psychology/about#program-learning-outcomes>), and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Conduct and/or analyze the results of a research study under the supervision of a faculty member	Thesis	3, 2	A, A

Prepare a detailed written report that describes, interprets, and draws appropriate conclusions from the results of a research project	Thesis	5, 4, 3, 2, 1	A, A, A, A, A
Critically evaluate others' research presentations in a constructive and professional manner	Discussion Board	2	A
Deliver effective presentations accessible to a broad audience	Oral presentations	5, 4, 2, 1	A, A, A, A
Answer questions about one's own research presentations in an intelligent, thoughtful, and professional manner	Discussion Board	5, 4, 2, 1	A, A, A, A
Prepare a poster presenting key findings of one's own research	Poster	5, 4, 2, 1	A, A, A, A

Notes. PLOs = Program-Learning Outcomes: 1 = demonstrate knowledge of psychological sciences, 2 = think critically and solve problems, 3 = conduct research and analyze data, 4 = communicate effectively, 5 = demonstrate information literacy, 6 = understand and implement ethical principles in a diverse world, 7 = apply psychological knowledge and skills, 8 = Demonstrate multicultural competence and awareness of issues related to equity, diversity,\* and inclusion. Level of PLO achievement facilitated by this course: I = introductory, C = competency, A = advanced.

### **Acknowledgments and Respect for Diversity**

Our classrooms view diversity of identity as a strength and resource. Your experiences and different perspectives are encouraged and add to a rich learning environment that fosters critical thought through respectful discussion and inclusion. The Department of Psychology would also like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in southern Alberta. The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

### **Course Format**

This is an in-person class held on campus.

### **Prerequisites**

Admission to the honours program in psychology.

### **Required Text**

There is no required textbook.

### **Assessment Methods**

<b>Component</b>	<b>Proportion of grade</b>	<b>Due date</b>

Honours project and written thesis	85%	April 15, 2022 at 11:59pm
Fall proposal presentation and responses to questions	4%	October 5 – December 7
Fall presentation questions and feedback	3%	October 5 – December 7
Winter research presentation and responses to questions	4%	Winter dates TBD
Winter presentation questions and feedback	3%	Winter dates TBD
Research poster	1%	March 28, 2022
Attendance at undergraduate conference	ungraded	April 29, 2022 (date to be confirmed)

### **Honours Thesis (85% of the final grade)**

Students will complete a thesis research project under the supervision of a full-time faculty member or an adjunct faculty member. Graduate students may be involved in supervision with oversight by the honours supervisor, but may not formally be considered supervisors or co-supervisors. The thesis must involve original data collection and/or data analysis. Students should clarify supervisor's expectations for the thesis project before the course begins.

**The thesis supervisor must arrange a second reader for the student's thesis.** If the supervisor is an adjunct faculty member, then the second reader must be a full-time faculty member in the Department of Psychology. The supervisor must email the name and email address of the second reader to [psycugrd@ucalgary.ca](mailto:psycugrd@ucalgary.ca) by **November 1, 2021**.

**The completed honours thesis** is to be submitted **no later than Friday, April 15, 2022**. Identical copies of the thesis must be submitted to the supervisor, the second reader, and the Psychology Department. To submit your thesis to the Department, email an electronic copy (in PDF format) to [psycugrd@ucalgary.ca](mailto:psycugrd@ucalgary.ca). Students should consult with their supervisors and second readers to determine whether they prefer to receive a hard copy of the thesis, an electronic copy, or both.

Students seeking an extension for completion of the thesis beyond **April 15, 2022** must complete an Application for Deferral of Term Work and submit it to me for approval (see the University of Calgary Calendar for regulations).

The thesis will be evaluated on the quality of the written document, calibre of the research project (e.g., originality, appropriateness, sophistication of method/design, potential impact of the findings, and contribution to the discipline), and research effort (e.g., your contributions to the design/method, data collection, analysis, interpretation; skills/training acquired during the project).

**Ethics certification** must be in place by **February 4, 2022** or the student may be required to withdraw from the Honours program due to lack of satisfactory progress. Supervisors are responsible for

forwarding appropriate documentation to me (mboyce@ucalgary.ca) on or before this date to demonstrate that ethics certification has been obtained (this is required even in those cases where the student is working on previously approved research).

**Proposal presentation** (Fall; 4% of final grade) and **Research presentation** (Winter; 4% of final grade)  
Students will give two oral presentations using PowerPoint. The Fall proposal presentation, which will be 10 minutes in length, will outline the proposed thesis research (background research, research question, proposed methods, predictions). The Winter research presentation, which will be 12 minutes in length, will describe the entire honours project (including results and interpretation, limitations, and ideas for future research). Each presentation will be followed by a question and discussion period. I will provide feedback on both the content (e.g., quality of rationale for study, clarity of the description of the method, anticipated contribution to the literature) and delivery (e.g., enthusiasm, clarity of speech, eye contact, etc.) of your presentations and assign a letter grade. Students will use the scale “Excellent”, “Very Good”, “Good”, “Satisfactory”, “Needs improvement” to rate other presenters. Students will provide brief written feedback and have the opportunity to pose questions about each student’s project. Each presenter will have the opportunity to respond to these questions, which will form part of the presentation grade. The honours seminar will provide extensive information and guidance to prepare for these presentations. Without instructor approval, students who fail to present either their Fall or Winter presentation on their assigned presentation dates will receive a grade of 0 on the missed presentation(s).

#### **Poster (1%)**

Each student will prepare a poster describing the results of their thesis research. The poster must be submitted electronically to the D2L Dropbox no later than 11:59pm on **March 28, 2022**. If a student has not completed data collection and analysis by that point in time they should base the poster on whatever data have been collected to date (i.e., there must be some data analysis and results discussed even if the analyses presented do not reflect the final results to be reported in the thesis proper). Posters are to be prepared according to the guidelines presented in class in the sessions on poster presentations to be scheduled in January. Students will receive feedback on their posters.

#### **Department of Psychology Student Research Conference (ungraded)**

Each student will present a paper or poster at the Student Research Conference on **Friday, April 29, 2022** (date to be confirmed). Due to program constraints, the number of paper presentations will be limited. Paper presentations will be 12 minutes. Students giving poster presentations will be responsible for creating and printing their own posters. ***Although no grades are assigned for participating in the student research conference, participation is compulsory.*** This conference is an important milestone in students’ academic careers and an excellent opportunity to share their research with a receptive audience.

#### **University of Calgary Academic Integrity Policy**

Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity.

Research integrity, ethics, and principles of conduct are key to academic integrity. Members of our campus community are required to abide by our institutional code of conduct and promote academic integrity in upholding the University of Calgary’s reputation of excellence. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have read and are familiar with the student academic misconduct policy:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>.

## Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades

Psychology course instructors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

**A+ grade: *Exceptional Performance.*** An A+ grade indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.

**A, A- Range: *Excellent Performance.*** Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student's thorough knowledge of subject matter.

**B Range: *Good Performance.*** Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.

**C Range: *Satisfactory Performance.*** Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.

**D range: *Marginally meets standards.*** Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.

**F grade: *Course standards not met.*** Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient for course credit.

### Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

It is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades. To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

### Tentative Class Schedule

Date	Topic/Activity/Readings/Due Date
W Sep 8	<a href="#">Overview of the Honours Seminar and Student Introductions</a>
M Sep 13	<a href="#">Applying for admission to graduate school in psychology and clinical psychology</a>
W Sep 15	<a href="#">Applying for Research Ethics and Access to the Research Participation System</a>
R Sep 16	<i>Last day to drop a class without a penalty</i>
F Sep 17	<i>Last day to add or swap a course</i>
M Sep 20	<a href="#">Applying for admission to graduate school in counselling and school psychology</a>
W Sep 22	<a href="#">Preparing a Proposal Presentation I</a>
F Sep 24	Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses.
M Sep 27	<a href="#">Preparing a Proposal Presentation II</a>
W Sep 29	No Class
M Oct 4	No Class
W Oct 6	<b>Proposal presentations</b>
M Oct 11	Thanksgiving Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.
W Oct 13	<b>Proposal presentations</b>
M Oct 18	<b>Proposal presentations</b>
W Oct 20	<b>Proposal presentations</b>
M Oct 25	<b>Proposal presentations</b>
W Oct 27	<b>Proposal presentations</b>
M Nov 1	<b>Proposal presentations</b>
W Nov 3	<b>Proposal presentations</b>
Nov 7-13	Term Break No Classes
R Nov 11	Remembrance Day (Observed). University Closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.
M Nov 15	<b>Proposal presentations</b>
W Nov 17	<b>Proposal presentations</b>
M Nov 22	<b>Proposal presentations</b>
W Nov 24	<b>Proposal presentations</b>

M Nov 29	Proposal presentations
W Dec 1	Proposal presentations
M Dec 6	Proposal presentations
W Dec 8	Presentation flex day and Wrap Up
R Dec 9	<i>Fall Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half courses.</i>
Dec 13-22	<i>Fall Final Exam Period</i>

## Extra Research Participation Course Credit is Not Offered for this Course.

### Supporting Documentation

Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. Supporting documentation may be dependent on the reason noted in their personal statement/explanation provided to explain their situation. This could be medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, or a statutory declaration, etc. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note.

Students can make a Statutory Declaration as their supporting documentation (available at [ucalgary.ca/registrar](http://ucalgary.ca/registrar)). This requires students to make a declaration in the presence of a Commissioner for Oaths. It demonstrates the importance of honest and accurate information provided and is a legally binding declaration. Several registered Commissioners for Oaths are available to students at no charge, on campus, please see [ucalgary.ca/registrar](http://ucalgary.ca/registrar).

Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

**Reappraisal of Graded Term Work** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

**Reappraisal of Final Grade** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

### Academic Accommodations

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/). Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their

Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>.

### **Academic Misconduct**

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

### **Instructor Intellectual Property**

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

### **Copyright Legislation**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright ([www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf)) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

### **Freedom OF Information and Protection of Privacy**

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary

### **Student Support and Resources**

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>

### **Important Dates**

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **Thursday, September 16, 2021**. Last day add/swap a course is **Friday, September 17, 2021**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Thursday, December 9, 2021**.

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>