

**PNB 4D06 /4DD6 /4D09
2011-2012**

Instructor:

Dr. T.L. Lewis
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Coordinator:

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Website:

<http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/psychology/thesis>

TAs:

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Office Hours: by appointment

Format:

- In Term 1, each student attends class 2 hours per week.
- September classes will be Tuesdays 2:30 - 4:30 in T-13, 127
- From October 4th – November 29th, we divide into three groups, each comprised of a mixture of 4D06, 4DD6, and 4D09 students. Breakout rooms for the group meetings will be posted before October 4th.
- Wednesday, November 30th there will be one more tutorial for all 4D09 students only. This meeting will take place as one group in our original classroom (T-13, 127).
- In Term 2, we have only a few classes and they are all together in T-13, 127 on Tuesdays, 2:30 - 4:30 pm.

Optional Reading: R.J. Sternberg, The Psychologist's Companion (4th Edition).
Electronic version available on course website.

Evaluation:

The final grade for the thesis will be determined by the grade provided by your supervisor (worth 80% or 90%) and the grade that you earn in thesis class (worth the remaining 20% or 10%--see below). Your supervisor's grade is based on an overall evaluation of your laboratory work and of your written thesis document. The grades submitted by your supervisor and from thesis class are completely independent. Therefore, your supervisor does not know what your final thesis grade will be.

Marking Scheme for 4D09:

- Thesis: 80% (graded by your supervisor)
- Poster Presentation 10% (held on Tuesday April 3rd, 2012 and graded by 3 independent judges)
- Class meetings: 10% (graded by your TA in consultation with Dr. Lewis)
 - Summary of thesis topic 1% (due October 4th—see Format)
 - Presentation 4%
 - Participation 4%
 - Library project 1%

Marking Scheme for 4D06 and 4DD6:

- Thesis: 80% or 90% (graded by your supervisor)
- Poster Presentation (optional) 10% (held on Tuesday April 3rd, 2012 and graded by 3 independent judges)
 - Class meetings: 10% (graded by your TA in consultation with Dr. Lewis)
 - Summary of thesis topic 1% (due October 4th)
 - Presentation 4%
 - Participation 4%
 - Library project 1%

Summary of thesis topic (1%-- hard copy due before 2:30 p.m. October 4th)

The goal of this assignment is to verify that you and your supervisor have agreed on a thesis topic for you and that you understand the purpose of your proposed study. Your job is to write something resembling an abstract of a journal article that is no more than 200 words giving a tentative title for your thesis, and a brief background, purpose, and method for your proposed study. Your submission must be signed by you and your supervisor. The signatures verify that you and your supervisor have agreed on the topic for your thesis. If your topic changes significantly after this date, you will lose your 1% credit for this assignment.

Oral Presentation (4%)

Students will give an individual PowerPoint presentation on their proposed thesis research on a date to be assigned between October 11th and the end of semester. Your grade will be based on scholarly merit of the presentation, delivery, clarity of slides, and on ability to answer questions.

Participation (4%)

You are expected to attend all scheduled classes and student presentations. Your grade for participation will be determined primarily by your attendance at, and involvement in, the student presentation sessions. To get credit for a missed session, you must submit appropriate documentation to me for missed work. It is your responsibility to follow-up with your TA immediately after your return to classes.

Library Project (1%)

There will be a library assignment testing your library skills. The project will be assigned September 27th and will be due by e-mail to your tutorial leader before 2:30 p.m. on October 4th.

Thesis Submission and Deadline

A copy of the thesis must be e-mailed, in one PDF file, to the Psychology Department at pthesis@mcmaster.ca and to the supervisor **no later than Wednesday, April 11th, at 5 p.m. If this file is not received, by 5 p.m. on that day, a grade of F will be recorded for 4D06, 4DD6, or 4D09.**

Extensions of the deadline are rarely granted. If the supervisor thinks an extension is warranted, he/she can request that the student obtain a "Request for Incomplete" form from the course coordinator. This form is completed and signed by the student, the supervisor, and the Chair of the Department of Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour. This form must be returned to the student's Faculty Office and a copy must be sent to the Associate Dean of Science, if the student is not registered in the Faculty of Science. However, please remember that an incomplete grade on the thesis likely will delay graduation.

For Students Conducting Research in a Hospital Setting

Hospitals have their own requirements, many of which must be completed before research begins. For example, the requirements for doing research at Hamilton Health Sciences are:

- Immunization clearance
- Police clearance for placements with the McMaster Children's Hospital at Chedoke
- Signed confidentiality agreement
- Signed learner undertaking and agreement form (expectations for the placement)
- Completion of WHMIS learning package and quiz
- Completion of fire learning package and quiz
- Completion of Student Orientation Handbook.

If documentation of completion of ALL of these requirements has not been received by the time the final grades are due, then the student will receive an INC until these are completed.

Academic Integrity Policy Reminder

See the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm

Any student who infringes one of these resolutions will be treated according to the published policy. Any instance of Plagiarism will be dealt with in the most severe terms allowable by the Senate Policy on such matters.

Missed Work Relevant to Thesis Class

If you are absent from the university for a minor medical reason, lasting fewer than 5 days, you may report your absence, once per term, without documentation, using the McMaster Student Absence Form. Absences for a longer duration or for other reasons must be reported to your Faculty/Program office, with documentation, and relief from term work may not necessarily be granted. When using the MSAF, report your absence by e-mail to your TA (e-mail addresses listed above). You must then contact your TA within 2 working days by email to learn the consequences of the missed work.

At certain points in the course it may make good sense to modify the schedule outlined below. The instructor reserves the right to modify elements of the course and will notify students accordingly (in class and post any changes to the course website).

Term 1

September 13	Course outline & Meet the TAs in T-13, 127 Ethics I: Dr. Faure in T-13, 127
September 20	Ethics II: Dr. Maurer in T-13, 127
September 27	Library & search tools: Andrew Colgoni in T-13, 127
October 4	Designing an Oral Presentation: meet in tutorial rooms Library assignment due before 2:30 on Oct 4 th via e-mail Written summary of thesis topic due before 2:30 at tutorial
October 11	Student Presentations in breakout rooms
October 18	Student Presentations in breakout rooms
October 25	Student Presentations in breakout rooms
November 1	Student Presentations in breakout rooms
November 8	Student Presentations in breakout rooms
November 15	Student Presentations in breakout rooms
November 22	Student Presentations in breakout rooms
November 29	Student Presentations in breakout rooms
November 30	Student Presentations for 4D09 only (in T-13, 127)

Term 2 (Tuesdays in T-13, 127)

January 3	No class
January 10	Content of a written thesis
January 17	Statistics: Dr. Beston
January 24, 31	No class
February 7, 14, 21, 28 March 6	No class
March 13	Poster Preparation
March 21, 27	No class
April 3	Poster Session in Student Centre
Wed April 11 th , by 5pm	Thesis due