

Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour Senior Thesis Class 2013-14

PNB 4D06; 4D09; 4DD6

(Last updated, September 10 2013)

Instructor: Dr. Karin Humphreys

Email: krh@mcmaster.ca (**preferred contact method**);

You MUST email me from your McMaster email account, otherwise it will likely be spam filtered and I will never even see it.

Phone: 905 525-9140 x23011

Office: PC-410

Office Hours: By appointment.

Course Coordinator: Sally Presutti

Email: pthesis@mcmaster.ca

Phone: 905 525-9140 x23026

Office: PC-102

TAs: Vivian Lee, leev9@mcmaster.ca; Fiona Manning, manninfc@mcmaster.ca; Kasia Pisanski, pisanska@mcmaster.ca

Office Hours: By appointment; Most questions can best be answered before or after lectures, in the tutorials, or via Avenue

Classes: This class has reserved Tuesdays and Wednesdays 2:30pm-4:20pm in Term 1, and Tuesdays 2:30-4:20 in Term 2.

HOWEVER, students will only be required to attend TWO hours of class per week.

Term 1: Week 1-6, all students will be together in lectures in PC-155 during the Tuesday class time.

Week 7-12, (beginning October 22/23) students will be in a small tutorial group, on EITHER

Tuesday, OR Wednesday. Assignment to tutorial groups will be done at the beginning of term.

Term 2: There are only TWO scheduled classes in Term 2 – one lecture in PC-155 on February 25 2014, and the poster session on April 1, 2014. There will, however, be additional drop-in sessions about data analysis questions, thesis questions, grad school application questions, and any other questions with Dr. Humphreys during term 2. (dates to be announced, plus appointments by request)

See schedule below for weekly details

Avenue: The course website is available to registered students by logging into Avenue <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca> You will need to learn how to use Avenue to access the course content, announcements, and discussions. All PowerPoint slides from the lectures will be made available on Avenue only after the lectures, as pdfs. It is your responsibility to keep up to date with class announcements made on Avenue.

In this course we will be using Avenue. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Course objectives and content: In this course you will be proposing an honours PNB thesis, undertaking the research for it, making a research poster (required for 4D09 students, but optional for 4D06 and 4DD6 students), and writing your thesis. In the lectures, you will receive additional information intended to help guide your thesis work, and in the tutorials, you will be making presentations about your research proposal.

Recommended Text: *Making Sense in Psychology: A Student's Guide to Research and Writing*. Margo Northey & Brian Timney. OUP: Canada.

This text is not required, but is strongly recommended as a guide and reference throughout your thesis process.

Changes in course requirements: Details of the course requirements may be subject to change. If requirements are altered, a revised course outline will be posted on the webpage and announced in class. The instructor reserves the right to assign grade cutoffs.

Special Needs: If you have special needs please contact the instructor so accommodations can be made.

Academic Integrity Policy: Please be aware of the University Academic Integrity Policy. Cases of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to: copying or the use of unauthorized aids in tests, examinations and laboratory reports; plagiarism, i.e., the submission of work that is not one's own; aiding and abetting another student's dishonesty; giving false information for the purposes of gaining admission or credit; giving false information for the purposes of obtaining deferred examinations or extension of deadlines; and/or forging or falsifying McMaster University documents. Students who infringe on the resolutions of the University Academic Integrity policy will be treated according to the published policy.

Missed Assessment: If an absence for assessment has been registered, please contact the instructor as soon as possible to arrange for makeup assessment to take place.

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 1, 2014 and graded by 3 independent judges)
- Class meetings: 10% (graded by your TA/Dr. Humphreys)
 - Summary of thesis topic, plus timeline document 1%
 - Presentation 4%
 - Participation 3%
 - Library project 1%
 - Second version of timeline document 1%

Marking Scheme for 4D06 and 4DD6:

- Thesis: 80% or 90% (graded by your supervisor)
- Poster Presentation (optional) 10% (held on Tuesday April 1, 2014 and graded by 3 independent judges)
- Class meetings: 10% (graded by your TA /Dr Humphreys)
 - Summary of thesis topic, plus timeline document 1%
 - Presentation 4%
 - Participation 3%
 - Library project 1%
 - Second version of timeline document 1%

Summary of thesis topic plus timeline document (1%- signed hard copy due in class at 2:30pm October 1)

The goal of this assignment is to verify that you and your supervisor have agreed on a thesis topic for you, that you understand the purpose of your proposed study, and that you and your supervisor have discussed preliminary timelines for the year. 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. You and your supervisor also need to fill out the timeline document. Both the abstract and the timeline must be signed by you and your supervisor. The signatures verify that you and your supervisor have agreed on the topic for your thesis, and have discussed some timelines for completions of various components of the thesis.

Oral Presentation (4%)

Students will give an individual PowerPoint presentation on their proposed thesis research on a date to be assigned between October 22 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 (3%)

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% - due via Avenue at 2:30pm October 15)

There will be a library assignment to demonstrate your library skills. The project will be assigned October 1.

Second Term Timeline Document (1% - signed hard copy due to Sally 5pm, January 28)

This is an updated version of the timeline document handed in during first term. You need to fill in which goals have been accomplished, and updated deadlines for remaining components. This needs to be filled out and signed by both you and your supervisor. (A new form will be distributed via Avenue at a later date.)

Thesis Submission and Deadline

The final 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 Tuesday, April 15, 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 submitted to Sally in the main office room 102. It will be submitted for approval to the Associate Dean of the student's Faculty, and the student will be advised by email, if the request has been approved. This process must not be left to the last

minute. If approved, the forms will 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 will likely 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.

Tentative Outline of Topics

Date	Class Type	Topic
Tu Sept 10	Lecture	Intro
Tu Sept 17	Lecture	Ethics I
Tu Sept 24	Lecture	Ethics II
Tu Oct 1	Lecture	Library Skills
Tu Oct 8	Lecture	How to make presentations
Tu Oct 15	Lecture	Grad School Info
Tu Oct 22	Tutorial	Presentations
Wed Oct 23		
Tu Oct 29	Tutorial	Presentations
Wed Oct 30		
Tu Nov 5	Tutorial	Presentations
Wed Nov 6		
Tu Nov 12	Tutorial	Presentations
Wed Nov 13		
Tu Nov 19	Tutorial	Presentations
Wed Nov 20		
Tu Nov 26	Tutorial	Presentations
Wed Nov 27		
Tu Feb 25	Lecture	How to make a poster
Tu Apr 1	POSTER DAY	