

## Department of Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour Pre-Registration On-Line Ballot

### **PRE-REGISTRATION ON-LINE BALLOT FOR 2018-2019 SESSION:**

The ballot will be available February 13, 2018. Students will find a link to the Ballot once it is open on the PNB home page. <http://pnb.mcmaster.ca/>

Opens: February 13, 2018 – Submission Deadline: March 5, 2018

The Ballot includes the thesis courses (PNB 4D06, 4DD6, 4D09), and the Individual Study courses (PNB 4QQ3, 4Q03, 3QQ3, 3Q03) – that is courses requiring individual supervision. On the Ballot, you can rank up to 10 supervisors from the drop-down menus listing both Internal and External Supervisors. You can work on your ballot from day to day changing information and saving the changes without actually submitting it. Once you are sure it is complete, you **MUST CLICK** on the SUBMIT button to have it submitted to the department. You can also resubmit if you need to as long as it is before the deadline. The Ballot does not work on a first-come first-served basis. The supervisors only have access to the Ballots after the closing date of March 5, 2018. You do not need to submit a resume or grade report with the Ballot.

After your Ballots have been submitted, the supervisors have access to any student's Ballot who has listed them as a supervisor. The supervisors do not see the other supervisors selected but they do see their ranking. The supervisors rank the students they are interested in and submit their portion of the Ballot. Once the Ballot closes to the supervisors, the Ballot matches up students and supervisors. The Ballot then automatically sends an e-mail to all the students (McMaster e-mail accounts) with the results. The e-mails with the results will be sent on March 27, 2018 .

### **THESIS COURSES (PNB 4D06, 4DD6, & 4D09)**

A List of Potential Supervisors for Thesis and Individual Study courses can be found at <http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/pnb/undergraduate.html> (scroll down the page).

There are internal supervisors (department faculty members) and external supervisors (affiliates of the department who are outside the department). PNB 4DD6 is only available to Hons. Bio & Psych students.

You should contact potential supervisors **BEFORE** you submit your ballot. On the ballot you should list at least 3 or 4 supervisors – this gives you a better chance of being placed. There is a lot of very interesting research being conducted; don't be too narrow in your focus when selecting potential supervisors – read their web pages and find out what is going on in their research. It is the individual supervisor who selects which students they will take and most supervisors want to meet with students before that decision is made. So start e-mailing and setting up appointments.

Students do not need to come up with their own project to do a thesis. Usually students are incorporated into the ongoing research.

What is the difference between PNB 4D09 and PNB 4D06 or 4DD6 thesis courses? PNB 4D09 requires: (1) three units of additional work; and (2) a poster presentation at the In-House Thesis Conference to be held March 2018 (PNB 4D06 and 4DD6 students have an option to present or not).

A PNB faculty member will be teaching the class component of the thesis courses – there is a common meeting time for the three thesis courses – two hours per week is set aside although the class will not necessarily meet every week – this is particularly the case in the second term. The primary purpose of the meeting time is to help students acquire and/or sharpen their skills for conducting and presenting research – e.g., these skills include library research, writing, public speaking, designing experiments, as well as collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data.

## **INDIVIDUAL STUDY COURSES**

### **Individual Lab Study Courses (Research courses)**

PNB 4QQ3, 3QQ3

PNB 4QQ3 may be used as a capstone course and can be repeated for a total of 6 units. For students unable to find a thesis supervisor and who are thinking of applying to graduate school, this is a good alternative for obtaining research experience. It is similar to a thesis, except there is no course component and you do not have the formal write-up at the end. You may repeat 4QQ3 with the same supervisor or with a different supervisor.

### **Individual Library Study Courses (Library courses)**

PNB 4Q03, 3Q03

PNB 4Q03 may be used as a capstone course.

These individual study courses involve independent library-based projects. They provide students with the opportunity to study in depth, under the supervision of an individual faculty member, a topic in psychology of mutual interest. The student is expected to read widely on the topic and to produce a major written document.

#### Note:

- (1) The Ballot does not include PNB 3I06 (Applied Practicum) or PNB 2QQ3 (Individual Research Practicum). These courses have their own applications (see information on these course codes on the PNB web page).

If you have any questions, please contact Ann Hollingshead, [hollings@mcmaster.ca](mailto:hollings@mcmaster.ca), Ext. 23005.