

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

### **PRE-REGISTRATION ON-LINE BALLOT FOR 2012-2013 SESSION:**

The ballot is now available (January 31, 2012); here is a link to the ballot:

<https://www.science.mcmaster.ca/~psychology/apps/ballot/studentLogin.php>

The ballot is done in two phases.

1<sup>st</sup> Phase- Opens: January 31, 2012 – Submission Deadline: February 18, 2012

1<sup>st</sup> phase will include the thesis courses (PNB 4D06, 4DD6, 4D09), and the Individual Study courses (PNB 4QQ3, 4Q03, 3QQ3, 3Q03) – that is courses requiring individual supervision.

1<sup>st</sup> phase of ballot must be submitted by February 18, 2012.

Students will be informed through their McMaster e-mail of the results of 1<sup>st</sup> phase by March 30, 2012.

2<sup>nd</sup> Phase – Opens: April 2, 2012 – Submission Deadline: April 17, 2012

2<sup>nd</sup> phase will include lab courses (PNB 3EE3, 3L03, 3LL3, 3MM3, 3S03, 3V03).

2<sup>nd</sup> phase of ballot must be submitted by April 17, 2012.

Students will be informed through their McMaster e-mail of the results of 2<sup>nd</sup> phase by May 25, 2012.

You can work on your ballot from day to day changing information and saving your changes without actually submitting it. Once you are sure it is complete then you MUST CLICK on the SUBMIT button to have it submitted to the department. You can also resubmit if you need to.

### **PHASE I**

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

A List of Potential Supervisors for Thesis and Individual Study courses can be found at (scroll down the page):

<http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/psychology/undergraduate.html>

There are internal supervisors (department faculty members) and external supervisors (affiliates of the department who are outside the department). PNB 4D09 can only be supervised by internal supervisors. 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; (2) a poster presentation at the In-House Thesis Conference at the end of the year (PNB 4D06 and 4DD6 students have an option to present or not), and (3) an Internal supervisor.

Dr. Humphreys 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.

Students in the Biology & Psychology program or the Music Cognition Specialization may use PNB 3QQ3 or 4QQ3 towards their lab requirement but only if supervised by an internal supervisor. Students may also use these courses as credit towards the Level III or IV Psych requirements for their programs. PNB 2QQ3 is not part of the Ballot.

### **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.

## **PHASE II**

### **Lab Courses**

PNB 3EE3, 3L03, 3LL3, 3MM3, 3S03, 3V03

Please select several to ensure you are assigned one. Rank them in order of preference. Students last year were usually assigned to either their first or second choice. Priority is given to students who need a lab to fulfill their program requirement and who have the pre-requisites. If there are places available once everyone has been placed, a second lab course may be possible.

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