

HumBehv 2HB0 – Professional Development – Fall 2016 – Course Syllabus

NOTE: Please see the HumBehv-2HB0 AvenueToLearn page for updated syllabus information!

Instructor

Dr. Scott Watter Office: Psychology, Room 408
Phone: 905 525 9140 x.23031 Office Hours: by appointment

Contact

To contact the instructor, please EMAIL: watter@mcmaster.ca

- this is *by far* the quickest and most reliable way to contact me! Don't leave voicemail – just email me please. It will help if you put "2HB0" in the subject line of your email.

Your TA is Rita Abdel-Baki: abdelbr@mcmaster.ca

ALSO - please send email from your @mcmaster.ca account! - gmail, hotmail, yahoo, etc. is often filtered as spam. It becomes VERY difficult to keep track of 100+ students via gmail accounts, when many usernames /aliases are ambiguous with respect to your personal identity at McMaster. PLEASE help me (and yourself), and correspond via your McMaster email address for this class. (Emails from non-McMaster addresses may experience substantial delays in getting a response (if any), depending on how quickly we can figure out who you are.)

Class Times

Friday 10:30am – 11:20pm, JHE-264

Attendance is REQUIRED. To get credit for this class, you MUST attend 2/3 or more of the classes scheduled after fall break (beginning with class on Friday 21 October). NOTE that there is NO CLASS on Fri. 28th October.

That means you MUST attend 4 of the 6 remaining classes to get credit for the class. If you do not, you will be required to retake the class next year. We will take attendance in class and keep records.

Most of the good advice and helpful information you will get out of this class will be presented and discussed verbally during class time. Mostly there will NOT be lecture slides or summaries posted online – you will need to come to class to get this information first hand.

Course Objectives

This tutorial was designed with several purposes in mind:

1. To provide professional development instruction early in your undergraduate program, when you can start to make good use of it (and that is not generally provided in other classes). This includes knowledge and skills that every student needs to have to succeed at University, and to make the most of your Human Behaviour program, but are otherwise not really taught to you.
2. To allow students the opportunity to provide feedback about the program and discuss future developments with the Department.

Avenue to Learn

In this course we will be using McMaster's online course content system, Avenue to Learn. 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.

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. Detailed instructions for logging in and using Avenue can be found on the website above.

Materials and Fees

Course textbook:

There is no required textbook for the course. Several books that many students have found very useful in helping them with writing, and generally understanding and doing well in University, are listed below. These are **NOT REQUIRED** for the course – but they might be helpful to your progress through university in general.

Zinsser, W. (2006). *On Writing Well*. Collins: New York.

Northy, M., & Timney, B. (2015). *Making Sense in Psychology: A Student's Guide to Research and Writing*. 2nd Edition. Oxford University Press Canada: Toronto.

On Being a Scientist: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in Research: Third Edition (2009). National Academic Press, USA.

<http://www.nap.edu/catalog/12192/on-being-a-scientist-a-guide-to-responsible-conduct-in>
(free PDF download)

The “Making Sense” book is often used in our 4th year thesis course – it is relatively cheap, and worthwhile for your whole undergrad program here (not just your final year). “On Being A Scientist” is a long-established and excellent introduction and guide for new researchers that is required reading for all new graduate students (and pretty good for any undergrads interested in understanding the research process as well).

MacID:

You will need to activate your MacID if you have not already done so, to work on the computers in the labs, and to receive course emails. See <http://www.mcmaster.ca/uts> for information on obtaining and activating your MacID.

AvenueToLearn:

You should check the HumBehv-2HB0 course on Avenue regularly for course announcements, etc.

Assessment

This course is graded on a Complete/Fail basis. You must adequately complete the course requirements in order to pass the class. If you don't pass, you will need to repeat 2HB0 again in the following year – it is a REQUIRED course for this program. The course requirements are minimal, and designed to help you think usefully about and reflect on your undergraduate career and beyond.

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2. There is one short writing assignments required for the class:

ASSIGNMENT ONE is due on November 25th October, to be submitted online on Avenue2Learn.

Instructions:

Take some time to think, and then write a one-paragraph response to each of the following questions:

- Why did you enroll in your specific BAsC program?
- What do you hope to learn while in this program?
- What do you hope to accomplish before you graduate?
- Where do you hope to go/what do you hope to do after you graduate?

In writing the answers to these questions, you should try to consider this writing as not just an exercise to be completed, but try to take a few minutes and reflect on not just the content of the answers themselves (e.g., you want to go to be a counsellor), but also to reflect on your own reactions to completing this exercise (e.g., how sure are you of the answers?; how much anxiety does this provoke?; do you think you will have the same answers in a year?)

Changes in course requirements

The university reserves the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and note any changes.

The professor reserves the right to change any and all course requirements if the need should arise. Any change in the course requirements will be posted on the webpage and emailed to the class, and the details will be announced in class. Any concerns about announced changes should be addressed with the professor as soon as the changes are announced.

Academic Integrity Policy

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Signing a class attendance form for someone other than yourself is academic dishonesty.

Missed Assessment

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”. Please note these regulations have changed beginning Fall 2015.

If you have any questions about the MSAF, please contact your Associate Dean’s office.

All excuses for missed exams, assignments, etc. must be submitted through the office of the Associate Dean of your faculty. It is then also **YOUR** responsibility to speak with your professor **as soon as possible**.

Schedule – Lectures, Topics, Labs & Exams

Week 1 – Sept 9

Introduction; understanding your BAsC program.

Week 2 – Sept 16

Information on Early Childhood Education. Guest speaker: Melodie Spencer.

Week 3 – Sept 23

Information on the Generalist BAsC program; what is a BAsC?; getting to post-grad programs.

Week 4 – Sept 30

Ethics – part 1.

Week 5 – Oct 7

NO CLASS TODAY.

Week 6 – Oct 14

NO CLASS – Mid Term Recess

NOTE: It is a COURSE REQUIREMENT to attend a MINIMUM of 4 out of the remaining 6 classes in order to get credit for this course (from Oct. 21 to Dec. 2)! Attendance will be taken in class.

Week 7 – Oct 21

Ethics – part 2.

Week 8 – Oct 28

NO CLASS TODAY.

Week 9 – Nov 4

To be scheduled – please see Avenue to Learn – topic order depends on guest speaker availability. (This and following weeks, topics include: 1. Autism specialty program & guest speaker; 2. other postgrad programs in psychology at Mohawk College & guest speaker; 3. career trajectory and what the BAsC prepares you for; 4. Research and lab opportunities within the BAsC program, research preparation in PNB versus BAsC programs.)

Week 10 – Nov 11

To be scheduled – please see Avenue to Learn for updated information.

Week 11 – Nov 18

To be scheduled – please see Avenue to Learn for updated information.

Week 12 – Nov 25

ASSIGNMENT ONE is DUE TODAY (online submission).

To be scheduled – please see Avenue to Learn for updated information.

Week 13 – Dec 2

Wrapping up; feedback about the Human Behaviour program; other good advice.