

## **PSYC\*4870 Fall 2016 & PSYC\*4880 Winter 2017 Course Outline**

### **General Information**

**Course Title:** Honours Thesis I and Honours Thesis II

#### **Course Description:**

Students develop the Honours Thesis project across two (normally successive) semesters by working closely with a faculty supervisor. Typically, students take PSYC\*4870 (0.5 credits) in the Fall semester and PSYC\*4880 (1.0 credits) in the Winter semester. The 1.5 credit weighing for the two courses reflects the workload and the standards set for the Honours Thesis project.

#### **Pre-requisites and Registering for the Course:**

Registration for PSYC\*4870 requires (1) the course instructor's signature on an "Instructor consent" waiver form, and (2) a completed Honours Thesis Application Form. Both forms are available at the Psychology Department Website (Under Quick Links and then Forms/Contracts, look under Undergraduate Forms).

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/psychology/sites/uoguelph.ca.psychology/files/public/Honours%20Thesis%20Application%20Form%202016.pdf>

The Honours Thesis Application Form requires students to attach a transcript including grades from the previous semester and to indicate that they have met the prerequisites for the course. Students should have grades appropriate for application to graduate programs (see Graduate Advisory under Major). In addition, the signatures of your faculty supervisor and of the course instructor are needed. The following prerequisites for PSYC\*4870 must be checked by the supervisor and the course instructor: Completion of PSYC\*3371/2 or PSYC\*3370 and PSYC\*3380.

Pre-requisites for PSYC\*4880 include the successful completion of PSYC\*4870, and the completion of or concurrent enrollment in PSYC\*4370 or PSYC\*4900. Please inform me if you are not yet enrolled in PSYC\*4370 or PSYC\*4900.

Special allowances might be made for prerequisites that are in-progress at the time of course selection.

**Credit Weight:** PSYC\*4870 (0.5 credits) PSYC\*4880 (1.0 credits)

**Academic Department (or campus):** Psychology

#### **Class Schedule and Location:**

FALL 2016: Fridays 11:30-2:20, MCKN, Room 232

#### **Instructor Information**

**Instructor Name:**

Leanne Son Hing

**Instructor Email:**  
sonhing@uoguelph.ca

**Office location and office hours:**  
MacKinnon Extension room 3010  
Fall 2016: Mondays 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm or Thursdays 4:00-5:00pm

**Teaching Assistant**  
Rebecca Lee

**Course Content**  
**Learning Outcomes:**

***Critical and Creative Thinking***

***1) Depth and Breadth of Understanding: Demonstrates knowledge of key concepts in psychology, and integrates that knowledge across disciplinary and sub-disciplinary boundaries.***

- Integrate and use knowledge gained in prior design, analysis, and content courses by designing and implementing a major, independent research project.
- Conduct a literature review in relation to the proposed research project by reading and reporting on critical empirical and theoretical work.
- Identify and delineate major theories and empirical evidence related to the proposed research topic.

***2) Inquiry and Analysis: A systematic process of exploring issues, objects and works in psychology through the collection and analysis of evidence that result in informed conclusions or judgments.***

- Integrate and synthesize the research literature in order to provide a clear justification/rationale of the study objectives

***3) Creativity: The ability to adapt to situations of change, to initiate change and to take intellectual risks.***

- Generate and evaluate creative approaches to the study of the proposed research topic.
- Adapt to different situations in the process of research by generating and evaluating creative solutions to problems and creative ways of investigating topics.

***Literacy***

***4) Information Literacy: The ability to know when there is a need for information, where to locate it and the ability to identify the value and differences of potential resources in a variety of formats.***

- Locate information and use it to write a research proposal that identifies gaps in the existing knowledge base and formulate them as research questions and hypotheses.

**5) Methodological Literacy: The ability to understand, evaluate, and design appropriate methodologies for rigorous psychological science.**

- Design a methodology to answer their proposed research questions by tailoring to the available research populations and contextual circumstances.

**6) Quantitative Literacy: Includes numeracy, and competence in working with numerical data.**

- Conduct data collection and analyze data using quantitative or qualitative methods
- Interpret the study results and write results and discussion sections in the light of the results with logical or evidence arguments

**Communication**

**7) Oral Communication: Includes interpersonal skills, oral speaking and active listening as they apply to psychology.**

- Deliver an oral presentation that integrates and summarizes your research proposal.
- Communicate effectively with other academics in a professional context using a poster presentation of the honours thesis.
- Exhibit confidence as a public speaker.
- Demonstrate the ability to present information in ways that the receiving party can easily understand.
- Actively listen, reflect upon, and respond to questions while acknowledging limitations to one's psychological knowledge.

**8) Written Communication: The ability to express one's ideas and summarize theory and research through a variety of writing styles (e.g., American Psychological Association [APA] style, papers, posters).**

- Communicate constructive feedback to peers on content and delivery of oral presentations.
- Write a research proposal that includes proposed methodology using APA style or any other style required by the field of study.
- Write a thesis document using APA style or any other style required by the field of study.
- Write in a sophisticated manner clearly conveying the message of the writer to a target audience.
- Include a breadth of vocabulary appropriate to the discipline of psychology.
- Avoid grammar, spelling, and functional errors.

**Professional and Ethical Behaviour:**

**9) Ethical Issues in Research: Includes the understanding and application of how human and animal rights and cultural relativism applies to ethical decision making in the context of research.**

- Design and prepare research ethics forms and obtain ethics approval.

- Understand potential ethical issues with your research.

***10) Personal Organization / Time Management: An ability to manage several tasks at once and prioritize.***

- Negotiate and plan with supervisor draft submissions and final deadlines.
- Submit to supervisors early drafts of the work in order manage the work progression.
- Deliver all assignments according to deadlines and expected quality.

***This course is designed for students who are planning to apply to graduate school. The learning outcomes described above will ultimately develop the skills necessary for graduate school success.***

**Lecture Content:**

The primary goal of PSYC\*4870 is to assist students in preparing a thesis proposal. Much of students' time will be spent doing independent reading, under the supervision of their faculty supervisors, to explore the relevant literature related to the thesis.

Students will also work with their supervisors to plan their research studies, which they will present during the semester in the form of an oral presentation to the class and at the end of the semester in the form of a written proposal. Students will work at different speeds: some will not start data collection until January while some will finish before December. However, all students should be ready to begin data collection before the Winter semester begins.

Class time may also be devoted to other important issues such as: writing the GREs, applying to graduate school, using Mass Testing and the Participant Pool, conducting research ethically, completing an ethics protocol and helpful writing and presentation tools.

During the second semester, students will complete data collection for the research project, analyze their data and write their honours thesis. There will be few classes. Towards the end of the semester, sessions will be held on writing the final paper and preparing for the poster presentation.

**How Learning Outcomes are Taught and Assessed**

PSYC\*4870 is Pass/Fail.

PSYC\*4880 is for grade. The components of this grade involve work done in the first term (PSYC\*4870) and work done in the second term (PSYC\*4880).

Style for all written deliverables (mid-semester report, research proposal, etc.) should follow APA guidelines (unless your supervisor requires other guidelines).

**1) Mid-semester report: due Monday of the 7<sup>th</sup> week of classes 12pm**

This is a short summary of the progress made on the thesis research. It should be one-page long. The faculty supervisor should read and sign the report before submitting it to me via email. The objective of the mid-semester report is for me to know how you are progressing with each component of the

research proposal. I just need a general summary so I can understand what have you completed so far, and what are you planning to complete. The report should provide a general idea of what is the thesis about and how much has the student progressed on it.

**2) Each student will be required to give a 10-minute ORAL PROPOSAL PRESENTATION to the class, summarizing the planned research.**

Proposal presentations will start on October 28, 2016. The purpose of the oral presentations is (a) for students to develop an appreciation of the diversity of topics being investigated and to foster interests in the broad spectrum of psychological enquiry, (b) to help students develop oral communication skills, and (c) to provide a forum for enquiry and constructive feedback to facilitate and enhance the development of the thesis topic.

The presentation should include a background context into which the study can be placed, a description of the problem to be investigated and an account of the research methodology to be employed. A five-minute question period will follow each presentation. All students will be expected to engage in critical discussion around the presentations. We will hold a class session to prepare you for your presentation.

**\*\*STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENCOURAGING THEIR FACULTY SUPERVISOR TO ATTEND THEIR STUDENTS' PROPOSAL PRESENTATIONS.\*\***

**3) After each oral presentation class, students will submit a constructive feedback review for the presenters.**

The research process is based on continuous reviews and feedback loops, the role of reviewers is essential for research communication and advancement. Students will act as reviewers of the presenters. I will know the identity of the reviewers but the presenter will not know. This is known as blind review.

Students will learn how to provide constructive feedback and how to fill out and submit the constructive feedback reviews. Constructive feedback reviews of each presenter will be submitted through PEAR (<http://www.uoguelph.ca/peartool/>) in the following 24 hours of the presentation session. The reviews will be confidential allowing the reviewers to be blind to the presenters. Once all the blind reviews are submitted, presenters will access the reviews. Please note that I will have access to the identity of the reviewers.

Students will submit constructive feedback reviews for each presenter from at least 3 of the 5 sessions. Students are not required to submit reviews for the session in which they present (although they are welcome to do so, this session will not count towards the minimum 3). Timely, constructive, and complete submission of reviews will count toward 5% of your final grade in PSYC\*4880.

**4) At the end of PSYC\*4870, students will submit their WRITTEN RESEARCH PROPOSALS. First day of the examination period by 12 pm to supervisor and course instructor.**

This should clearly define the research problem and present an appropriate research design to investigate it. The proposal should clearly show how the proposed research relates to the questions drawn from the critical review of the literature. Proposals are typically 10-12 pages long (not counting references and appendices). This is not a page limit. The length of your proposal will depend on your

specific topic and type of research. Your advisor, the one supervising and grading your thesis and proposal, is the best person to ask about expectations in terms of length. Previous to submitting the proposal, you should have delivered a minimum of one draft to your supervisor (deadlines to be negotiated with your supervisor) so you can use the feedback to improve the final proposal.

Proposals contain the following sections:

- Introduction
- Proposed research design and methods
- Plan for data analyses
- References
- All materials (to date) in Appendices

**5) At the end of PSYC\*4880, students will submit their WRITTEN HONOURS THESIS. First day of the examination period by 12 pm to supervisor and course instructor.**

Honours Theses should be written in an augmented APA research report style to allow for a critical review of the literature and detailed description of all aspects of the research project. Appendices should contain all materials used in the study.

Students with their supervisors are responsible for selecting a second reader (a faculty member who is not the instructor). The submission deadline can be negotiated with supervisor and second reader, and should be communicated by the supervisor to the course instructor.

#### **6) Poster presentation**

For those enrolled in PSYC\*4880 during the Winter semester, all students will be expected to prepare a poster and attend the group poster presentation sessions during the final exam period. This session will be scheduled during the month of February and faculty and advisors will be invited.

#### **7) Advisor's evaluation**

Throughout both semesters, the faculty supervisor will evaluate students' contribution by considering their independence in the development and conduct of the project, as well as their creativity, responsibility, and organization. This will count toward 5% of final PSYC\*4880 grade.

**More detailed mapping:**

<b>Assignment or Activity</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Contribution to Final Mark (%)</b>	<b>Learning Outcomes Assessed</b>
Mid-semester Report	Report is due 12 pm Monday of the 7 <sup>th</sup> week of classes.	5%	<b>Critical and Creative Thinking Professional and Ethical Behaviour</b>

Participation in class activities including providing feedback on presentations	All classes Feedback due within 24 hours of presentation sessions	5%	<b>Literacy Communication Professional and Ethical Behaviour</b>
Oral proposal	One of last 5 classes fall term	10%	<b>Critical and Creative Thinking Literacy Communication Professional and Ethical Behaviour</b>
Written Research Proposal	First day of the examination period, 12 pm	15%	<b>Critical and Creative Thinking Literacy Communication Professional and Ethical Behaviour</b>
Written Thesis	First day of the examination period, 12 pm	45%	<b>Critical and Creative Thinking Literacy Communication Professional and Ethical Behaviour</b>
Final Poster Presentation	During Winter semester examination period	15%	<b>Critical and Creative Thinking Communication Professional and Ethical Behaviour</b>
Evaluation of Student Contribution	Fall and Winter	5%	<b>All learning outcomes</b>

**Additional Notes:**

PSYC\*4870 Honours Thesis I GRADE: You will receive a "Pass/Fail" at the end of the first semester. To obtain a passing grade for semester 1, students must have satisfactorily completed the thesis proposal, presented it in class, and contributed to class discussions of the various proposals. Furthermore, students must have attended all scheduled classes, completed the constructive feedback reviews and contributed to class discussion in a meaningful way.

During the first month of PSYC\*4880 Students should revise their thesis proposal and develop an outline of analyses for Results Section, which will serve as the bases for their final thesis.

**Final examination date and time:**

There is not a final exam.

**Final exam weighting:**

There is not a final exam.





## **Course Resources**

See courselink.

## **Additional Costs:**

The department will pay the [printing of the poster if you print at the chemistry department](#). Uwe Oehler of Chemistry is in charge of the printing department. Students printing in other places WILL NOT be reimbursed by the department.

## **Course Policies**

### **Grading Policies**

All written assignments are to be submitted by the due dates using uoguelph email to me, the TA, and your supervisor. Assignments submitted in any other way will not be accepted. Marks will be docked for exceeding the page limit (5% per half page) and for late submissions (5% per day including weekends). If you submit your assignment one day late, this means that your maximum attainable grade on the assignment will be 95% instead of 100%.

### **Course Policy regarding use of electronic devices and recording of lectures:**

Default text: Electronic recording of classes is expressly forbidden without consent of the instructor. When recordings are permitted they are solely for the use of the authorized student and may not be reproduced, or transmitted to others, without the express written consent of the instructor.

### **Expectations about Email Communication**

I prefer that you come to office hours to ask your questions. I will answer emails during office hours because this is the time allocated for helping you with questions and clarification.

As a general rule, I will do my best to answer emails within 48 hours of reception of the email. I do not check or answer emails on Saturdays or Sundays. Therefore if I receive an email on Thursday at 8.00 pm, I will try to answer by Monday at 8.00 pm or earlier.

If the answer to your question can be found in any of the documentation or information available in CourseLink I will suggest that you come to office hours to clarify.

## **University Policies**

### **Academic Consideration**

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for

Academic Consideration:

[Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions](#)

## **Academic Misconduct**

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community, faculty, staff, and students to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring.

University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

[Academic Misconduct Policy](#)

## **Accessibility**

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact the Student Accessibility Services Website as soon as possible.

For more information, contact CSD at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email [csd@uoguelph.ca](mailto:csd@uoguelph.ca) or see the website: [Student Accessibility Services Website](#)

## **Course Evaluation Information**

Please refer to the [Course and Instructor Evaluation Website](#) .

## **Drop date**

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Academic Calendar: [Current Undergraduate Calendar](#)

**Additional Course Information**

The course schedule provided below is to be considered a guideline, and is subject to change.

Class	Date	Activity	Place
1	September 9	Introductions	In class
2	September 16	Presentation // Grad school // Participant Pool	In class
3	September 23	Talk to the Librarian working session. Bring your laptops and your questions.	In class
4	September 30	Read and Write	On your own
5	October 7	Writing tools // Ethics	In class
6	October 14	Read and Write	On your own
7	October 21	Learning Commons on how to deliver an effective oral presentation. Constructive feedback.	In class
8	October 28	Student Oral presentations	In class
9	November 4	Student Oral presentations	In class
10	November 11	Student Oral presentations	In class
11	November 18	Student Oral presentations	In class
12	November 25	Student Oral presentations	In class