

# **PSYC\*6740: Research Seminar in the Neurosciences and Applied Cognitive Sciences A**

## **Land Acknowledgement**

The University of Guelph campuses reside within the lands of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum. We recognize that the Anishinaabe, Hodinohso:ni, Lūnaapéewak and Huron-Wendat peoples have inhabited these lands for centuries and we respect their enduring relationships with these lands. We are committed to working towards decolonization and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and enhancing the engagement of and supports for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students.

## **General Information**

**Course Title:** PSYC\*6740 Research Seminar in NACS A

### **Course Description:**

This course provides a weekly point of contact for all graduate students and faculty in the Neuroscience and Applied Cognitive Science (NACS) area. Students will gain exposure to a broad scope of NACS-related research, and will develop the skills needed to assess and critically evaluate the research of others. These critical thinking skills are invaluable and can help researchers better evaluate their own research. As well, students will develop oral and written communication skills that enable them to understand and communicate with researchers from a variety of different fields of study. These skills are essential given the multidisciplinary nature of research in Neuroscience and Applied Cognitive Science.

**Credit Weight:** 0.5

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

**Campus:** Main campus

**Semester Offering:** Fall 2025 and Winter 2026. All first year Masters students in NACS are required to register. Psychology 6740 is a 2-semester course, and students will have to **register twice**, once in the Fall and once in the Winter. Students receive INP at the end of the Fall term and a numeric grade at the end of the Winter term.

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

Fall: Wednesdays from 3:30-5:20 pm, either Enhanced Clinical Learning Addition (ECLA) building, room 3708 or remote (Zoom).

Winter: either Alexander Hall (ALEX) 028 LEC or remote (Zoom).

**Note:** if the classroom listed on web advisor is different, please ignore that and refer to my emails for the location of these seminars

## **Instructor Information**

**Instructor Name:** Elena Choleris

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

**Office location and office hours:** by appointment

## **GTA Information**

GTA Name: Ariella Golden

GTA Email: ariella@uoguelph.ca

GTA office hours: Meeting by appointment, e-mail at all times.

GTA office location: by appointment

## **Course Content**

### **Specific Learning Outcomes:**

- Increased familiarity with ongoing NACS-related research both within the Psychology Department the broader field (Southern Ontario, Canada, and potentially internationally).
- Proficiency with delivering conference-style research talks.
- Proficiency with taking information away from other's research talks, including how to ask useful post-talk questions.
- Increased familiarity with writing research proposals.

### **Seminars:**

Attendance is mandatory for all students and all scheduled meetings (this course fulfills a breadth requirement of the graduate program). Class time is used to host invited speakers, including those from other universities, and to hold graduate student talks. There may also be occasional course meetings. Meeting dates and speaker information are listed on CourseLink and may change throughout the year.

All NACS students should also plan to attend the day long Neuroscience day, which is held every spring; it is a day of poster sessions and talks.

### **Course Assignments and Tests:**

1. *Oral presentations.* Students in Psychology 6740 are required to give two oral presentations on their research: a **10-minute** presentation at the end of the Fall term (see "NACS seminar schedule") and a 10-minute presentation towards the end of the Winter term (see "NACS seminar schedule"). Presentations may be research proposals or reports on collected data. Performance on these two oral presentations will constitute 50% of the final grade (25% per presentation). All faculty and graduate students (all Master and PhD students) will be involved in the evaluation of these presentations. Using rating sheets, faculty and graduate students will assign numeric grades to presentations and indicate strengths and weaknesses. The course coordinator will use these evaluations to calculate the overall grade: 60% of the grade will be based on faculty ratings and 40% on graduate student ratings.

2. *Written research report.* Students in Psychology 6740 will be required to submit a written research report no later than the last day of class (**April 6**). For this assignment, students should write a 15-20 page research report (actual length and scientific format to be agreed upon with the student's advisory committee). This research report should contain an introduction, methods, and any data collected to this point, and it should also include a reference section. In the introduction, a minimum of 10 pages should be devoted to literature review. The research report is to be submitted to all members of the student's thesis advisory committee who will evaluate the

written research report. Marks from the various members of the advisory committee will be averaged to form the overall grade for the research report. This constitutes 50% of the final grade on the course.

NOTE: You will notice that you are required to do a talk in March. You will also probably have additional deadlines around that time. That means it is highly advisable for you to begin work on your written research report long before this time or (to quote Lana Trick) you will go nuts! This paper is worth 50% of your mark.

## **Course Resources**

### **CourseLink:**

Grades will be posted to CourseLink and/or WebAdvisor.

## **Course Policies**

### **Grading Policies**

Your oral presentations and written research report must be completed by the assigned deadlines in order to pass the course. If you are unable to meet a course-related deadline, contact the course instructor as soon as possible.

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

All classes will be recorded and may be posted for restricted access. If you disagree with this policy you should notify the instructor as soon as possible.

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. Similarly, any material created by the course instructor or students is intended for those enrolled in this course solely. Under no circumstances are you allowed to disseminate course materials to external parties.

### ***Online behaviour***

According to the University Secretariat, students have a responsibility to help support community members' access to the tools they need to engage in their learning and development, both in and outside of the classroom. An example of this type of responsibility is the requirement to abide by the following:

Section 4.3.3. Disruption - to not interfere with the normal functioning of the University, nor to intimidate, interfere with, threaten or otherwise obstruct any activity organized by the University, including classes, or to hinder other members of the University community from being able to carry on their legitimate activities, including their ability to speak or associate with others.

As such, inappropriate online behaviour will not be tolerated. Examples of inappropriate online behaviour include:

- Posting inflammatory messages about your instructor or fellow students
- Using obscene or offensive language online
- Copying or presenting someone else's work as your own
- Adapting information from the Internet without using proper citations or references
- Buying or selling term papers or assignments
- Posting or selling course materials to course notes websites
- Having someone else complete your quiz or completing a quiz for/with another student
- Stating false claims about lost quiz answers or other assignment submissions
- Intentionally 'corrupting' an uploaded assignment to artificially extend a deadline
- Threatening or harassing a student or instructor online
- Discriminating against fellow students, instructors and/or TAs
- Using the course website to promote profit-driven products or services
- Attempting to compromise the security or functionality of the learning management system
- Sharing your username and password

## **University Policies**

### **Disclaimer**

Please note that the COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings, changes in classroom protocols, and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. This includes on-campus scheduling during the semester, mid-terms and final examination schedules. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/>) and circulated by email.

For information on safety protocols, follow these links: <https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campuses/how-u-of-g-is-preparing-for-your-safe-return/>

<https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campuses/spaces/#ClassroomSpaces>

Please note, these guidelines may be updated as required in response to evolving University, Public Health or government directives

### **Illness**

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g. final exam or major assignment).

### **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:](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml)

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## **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](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml) is detailed in the Graduate Calendar:

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

## **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 [Student Accessibility Services](#) as soon as possible.

For more information, contact [SAS](#) at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email [accessibility@uoguelph.ca](mailto:accessibility@uoguelph.ca) or see the website <https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/accessibility/>

## **Course Evaluation Information**

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

## **Additional Course Information**

Course instructors are allowed to use software to help in detecting plagiarism or unauthorized copying of student assignments. Plagiarism is one of the most common types of academic

misconduct on our campus. Plagiarism involves students using the work, ideas and/or the exact wording of other people or sources without giving proper credit to others for the work, ideas and/or words in their papers. Students can unintentionally commit misconduct because they do not know how to reference outside sources properly or because they don't check their work carefully enough before handing it in. As the 2014/15 Undergraduate Calendar states: "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" (p. 31).