

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

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 and winter. 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 3:30-5:30 pm in MacKinnon 316.
Winter: TBD

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Naseem Al-Aidroos

Instructor Email: naseem@uoguelph.ca

Office location and office hours: MCKN 4018

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 both 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.

Course Assignments and Tests:

1. Oral presentations. Students in Psychology 6740 are required to give two oral presentations on their research: a 5 minute presentation at the end of the Fall term (November 26th) and a 10 minute presentation at the end of the Winter term (either March 18th or March 25th).

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 NACS faculty and graduate students (all Masters 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 2nd). For this report, students need to write a 15-20 page research report (APA format). 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 student's thesis supervisory committee will evaluate the written research report. Marks from the various members of the supervisory 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 the last week of March. You will also probably have additional deadlines around that time. That means it is highly advisable for you to complete 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](#).

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.

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:](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/sec_d0e1483.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/sec_d0e1770.shtml) is detailed in the Graduate Calendar:

https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/sec_d0e1770.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 the Centre for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible.

For more information, contact [CSD](mailto:csd@uoguelph.ca) at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email csd@uoguelph.ca or see the website: <http://www.csd.uoguelph.ca/csd/>

Course Evaluation Information

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

Drop date

The last date to drop two-semester courses, without academic penalty, is *January 15th, 2016*. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the [Academic Calendar](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/sec_d0e1483.shtml):
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