

# **PSYC\*6760: Research Seminar in the Neurosciences and Applied Cognitive Sciences B**

## **General Information**

**Course Title:** PSYC\*6760 Research Seminar in NACS B

### **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:** 0.0

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

**Campus:** Main campus

**Semester Offering:** Fall and winter. PSYC\*6760 is a required course for all NACS graduate students except those taking PSYC\*6740. That is, all PhD students, and all students in MA2 or beyond, should enroll every year. This is a 2-semester course. Students will have to register twice, once in the fall and once in the winter. They will receive INP at the end of the Fall term and a 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 comfort with critically evaluating peer work.

### **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.

All NACS students should also attend the day long Neuroscience day. It is a day of poster sessions and talks. All 6760 students are strongly encouraged to submit either a poster or a 5 minute talk for Neuroscience day. This gives you a chance to present your work to local neuroscientists.

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

For this course, students are graded as either Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory on their official transcript. However, there will also be a numeric grade associated with this course that is inserted into the student's file and sent to the advisor. It is used as an index of student progress in the student evaluation meeting at the end of the academic year, and may be used when deciding scholarships/awards. The numeric grade is determined using the following calculation.

*1. Oral presentation.* Students in Psychology 6760 will be required to give one-10 min oral presentation on their research, either in the Fall or Winter term. Dates for these presentations will be arranged at the beginning of the Fall term. The grade on this presentation will constitute 65% of the numeric grade associated with 6760. All NACS faculty and graduate students (all Masters and PhD students) will be involved in the evaluation of oral presentations. Using rating sheets, faculty and graduate students will assign numeric grades and indicate strengths and weaknesses for each presentation. The course coordinator will use these evaluations to calculate the overall grade: 60% of this grade is based on faculty ratings and 40% on graduate student ratings.

*2. Big picture / Burning questions:* One goal of the course is for students to develop the ability to learn from researchers from a variety of different fields and it is essential that students meaningfully engage with the material. Based on student and faculty requests, faculty speakers were invited for the Fall 2013/Winter 2014 terms. Part of each student's evaluation will be based on his or her "Big picture/Burning questions" for these faculty talks. At the end of each talk, students are each required to submit their own unique "Big Picture/ Burning question". Students have the option of either writing down one question that came to their mind as it relates to the presented research or writing down one thing that they learned from the talk that has ramifications for the way they do their research (they should indicate how this has ramifications on the way they do research). These Big picture/Burning questions" must be submitted to the course coordinator no later than 5:30 p.m. on the day the talk is given. An average grade is calculated after dropping your two lowest marks for these questions, and will contribute 25% of the numeric grade associated with the course. See note in Grading Policies below for if you miss a talk.

*3. Participation mark.* An important part of the research seminar is participation, and one way you can participate is by giving feedback to your fellow students. This will help them insofar as it will allow them to improve and you may alert them to important issues to consider for their

thesis. Every student will be giving a talk and you will be asked to provide helpful comments/suggestions/encouragement in a written evaluation sheet. You may also choose to assign a numerical evaluation. This is important because the numerical evaluations from students form part of the grade for the oral presentation. Your participation mark is based on the number of evaluations you hand in. Evaluation sheets will be handed out at the beginning of each talk, and your participation mark will be based on the number of evaluations you complete and hand in over the year. These evaluations must be handed in at the end of the class—Make sure to put your name on the evaluation sheet!

### **Summary: Weighting on each component of the course**

Oral presentation	65%
Big picture/burning questions	25%
Participation	10%
<b>Total</b>	<u>100%</u>

## **Course Resources**

### **CourseLink:**

Grades will be posted to [CourseLink](#).

## **Course Policies**

### **Grading Policies**

If students cannot attend a talk, they can choose one of the following 3 options for Big Picture/Burning questions:

1. They can consider it one of the 2 per year that they drop.
2. They can read a published paper by the speaker and base their Big Picture/ Burning Question on that. If they take this option they will also have to give the full reference for the paper they are writing about and include a one-paragraph précis of the main research question for this paper, written in their own words in addition to their Big Picture/ Burning Question. They will need to email this to [naseem@uoguelph.ca](mailto:naseem@uoguelph.ca) within 5 days of the day the specific talk is given (i.e. the deadline is midnight on the Sunday after the talk).
3. They can take a zero on the “Big Picture/Burning Question” assignment for that speaker.

## **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](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/sec_d0e1483.shtml)

### **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 Graduate Calendar:

[https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/sec\\_d0e1770.shtml](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](#) at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email [csd@uoguelph.ca](mailto: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 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016*. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the [Academic Calendar](#):  
[https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/sec\\_d0e1483.shtml](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/sec_d0e1483.shtml)