



PSY400Y5Y – Psychology Undergraduate Thesis

Delivery Method: IN-PERSON
Schedule: MO 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Room Location: MN3295 (Maanjiwe Nendamowinan)

Contact Information

Dr. Emily Impett

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Office hours: by appointment

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide you with experience in conducting psychological research. Students will work closely with a supervisor on the different phases of a research project, including development of a hypothesis, research design, ethics approval, testing participants, data analysis, interpretation, and writing. In addition, students will meet together to discuss their projects as well as general topics important to the conduct of research, and, most importantly, to gain experience in giving oral presentations on research. In addition to writing a thesis, you will be required to give a presentation based on the thesis at the annual Thesis Day in late April.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Identify key concepts and theories related to their thesis topic
- Gain familiarity with issues of general importance in psychology, including research ethics and contemporary perspectives on optimizing the scientific method in academic psychology
- Critically evaluate scientific arguments and research
- Develop oral communication skills through seminar-style presentations and discussions
- Explore interests in psychology through independent inquiry and research
- Use hypothesis-driven methods of scientific inquiry to answer psychological questions
- Analyze and interpret data using quantitative and/or qualitative techniques
- Develop written communication skills through the production of a thesis
- Foster a strategy for taking the next steps in one's educational or career path

Course Evaluation

Your final mark consists of three components:

1. A grade from your supervisor based both on your work in the planning, execution, and analysis of your study and on the various drafts of the written thesis itself: **65%**
2. A grade based on the written thesis from an independent reader, another faculty member: **15%**
3. A grade from the Thesis Coordinator based on your participation in the in-class meetings (fall semester), zoom writing days (winter semester), your presentations in class and on Thesis Day, and the work you are required to hand in during the year: **20%**

Note: There are no written tests in this course, but attendance is mandatory. Missed classes (or arriving late) will negatively impact your final mark. Attendance at Thesis Day and at the Practice Talks are absolutely mandatory. Failure to attend Thesis Day (and/or Practice Talks) will result in a failing mark for the course.

Email

According to official university policy, all students MUST have their utoronto.ca email address listed in ACORN, and all correspondence between faculty and students must take place via a utoronto email address. Therefore, if you want to receive email from the instructor about this course, and if you want to correspond with her about your marks or assignments, etc., you MUST use your utoronto.ca email. Any email correspondence should contain PSY400 in the subject line.

If you would like to update your ACORN address, please login to ACORN at <http://www.rosi.utoronto.ca> / Under the "Current Email Address" section, ensure that your utoronto.ca email is listed. If your utoronto.ca email is not listed, you can click on the red "Edit" button to update your email address. Then click on save, then logout, and close the web browser.

Course Webpage

The website associated with this course is accessible via <http://q.utoronto.ca>

Note: You don't need to create a new login for Canvas; it already knows who you are. You just need your UTORid and password. This is the same login that gets you onto the wireless network with your laptop, and the same one that you use to check your email. If you're confused about your UTORid or don't remember your password, go to: <https://www.utorid.utoronto.ca/>

In order to access course material, monitor course information, and view your grades you must log into Canvas. If you have any general questions regarding Canvas, please visit the following help site: <https://library.utm.utoronto.ca/faculty/canvas>

Extension of Time Special Consideration Request Process

Students who seek to be granted more time to complete their term work beyond the due date without penalty, owing to circumstances beyond their control (e.g., illness, or an accident), must do so by submitting a request **directly to the Instructor** for the period up to and including the last day of the term. The decision as to whether or not to apply a penalty for the specified period rests with the Instructor.

Students who seek to be granted more time to complete term work beyond the last day of the term must submit their request directly to the Department. This request covers the period following the last day of classes and ends the last day of the exam period. This is done by submitting a request via the online Special Consideration Request form at <https://utmapp.utm.utoronto.ca/SpecialRequest>. You are advised to seek advising by the departmental Undergraduate Counsellor prior to the deadline.

Supporting Documentation

The University is temporarily suspending the need for a doctor's note or medical certificate for any absence from academic participation. However, you are required to use the Absence Declaration tool on ACORN found in the Profile and Settings menu to formally declare an absence from academic participation. The tool is to be used if you require consideration for missed academic work based on the procedures specific to our campus/department.

Penalties for Lateness

A penalty of 10% per calendar day (i.e., including week-ends and holidays, during which students are not able to submit term work) up to and including the last day of classes, will be applied by the Instructor. After the last day of classes, the penalty of 10% per calendar day will be applied by the Undergraduate Counsellor on behalf of the Department. No penalty will be assigned if request for special consideration, described above, was successful.

Academic Guidelines

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have met all prerequisites listed in the UTM Calendar for this course. If you lack any prerequisites you WILL BE REMOVED from the course up until the last day to add a course. Further information about academic regulations, course withdrawal dates and credits can be found in the University of Toronto Mississauga Calendar at: <http://www.erin.utoronto.ca/regcal/>. You are encouraged to read this material. If you run into trouble and need advice about studying, preparing for exams, note taking or time management, free workshops and advice are available from the Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre at 905-828-5406.

AccessAbility Services

The University provides academic accommodations for students with disabilities in accordance with the terms of the Ontario Human Rights Code. This occurs through a collaborative process that acknowledges a collective obligation to develop an accessible learning environment that both meets the needs of students and preserves the essential academic requirements of the University's courses and programs. Students requiring academic accommodations for learning, physical, sensory, or mental health disabilities or medical conditions should contact the [AccessAbility Office](#) (2037B Davis Building).

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto Mississauga is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, UTM treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously.

The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters outlines behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the process for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

1. Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
2. Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
3. Making up sources or facts.
4. Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

On tests and exams:

1. Using or possessing unauthorized aids.
2. Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test.
3. Misrepresenting your identity.

In academic work:

1. Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
2. Falsifying or altering any documentation required, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

With regard to remote learning and online courses, UTM wishes to remind students that they are expected to adhere to **the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters** regardless of the course delivery method. By offering students the opportunity to learn remotely, UTM expects that students will maintain the same academic honesty and integrity that they would in a classroom setting. Potential academic offences in a digital context include, but are not limited to:

Remote assessments:

1. Accessing unauthorized resources (search engines, chat rooms, Reddit, etc.) for assessments.
2. Using technological aids (e.g. software) beyond what is listed as permitted in an assessment.
3. Posting test, essay, or exam questions to message boards or social media.
4. Creating, accessing, and sharing assessment questions and answers in virtual "course groups."
5. Working collaboratively, in-person or online, with others on assessments that are expected to be completed individually.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources.

Academic Rights

You, as a student at UTM, have the right to:

- Receive a syllabus by the first day of class.
- Rely upon a syllabus once a course is started. An instructor may only change marks' assignments by following the University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy provision 1.3.
- Refuse to use turnitin.com (you must be offered an alternative form of submission).
- Have access to your instructor for consultation during a course or follow up with the department chair if the instructor is unavailable.
- Ask the person who marked your term work for a re-evaluation if you feel it was not fairly graded. You have up to one month from the date of return of the item to inquire about the mark. If you are not satisfied with a re-evaluation, you may appeal to the instructor in charge of the course if the instructor did not mark the work. If your work is remarked, you must accept the resulting mark. You may only appeal a mark beyond the instructor if the term work was worth at least 20% of the course mark.
- Receive at least one significant mark (15% for H courses, 25% for Y courses) before the last day you can drop a course for H courses, and the last day of classes in the first week of January for Y courses taught in the Fall/Winter terms.
- Submit handwritten essays so long as they are neatly written.
- Have no assignment worth 100% of your final grade.
- Not have a term test worth more than 25% in the last two weeks of class.
- Retain intellectual property rights to your research.
- Receive all your assignments once graded.
- View your final exams. To see a final exam, you must submit an online Exam Reproduction Request within 6 months of the exam. There is a small non-refundable fee.
- Privacy of your final grades.
- Arrange for representation from Downtown Legal Services (DLS), a representative from the UTM Students' Union (UTMSU), and/or other forms of support if you are charged with an academic offence.

Equity Statement

The University of Toronto is committed to equity and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect. As a course instructor, I will neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual in this course and wish to be alerted to any attempt to create an intimidating or hostile environment. It is our collective responsibility to create a space that is inclusive and welcomes discussion. Discrimination, harassment and hate speech will not be tolerated. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns you may contact the UTM Equity and Diversity officer at edo.utm@utoronto.ca or the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union Vice President Equity at vpequity@utmsu.ca.

Please note that this outline is subject to change depending on the needs of the class (we may need additional time to cover a topic). Any changes to the syllabus will be announced in class one week before. However, the assignment dates are fixed.

Course Outline	
2022	Tentative Schedule for Fall Term
Sept 12	Introduction
Sept 19	Conducting literature reviews (Guest speaker: Szurmak); Presentation Tips (Impett); Preregistration (Guest Speaker: Sisson) [complete first set of readings]
Sept 26	Presentation 1 (research article, 5 students) Fall timeline due
Oct 3	NO CLASS – Prof out of town
Oct 10	NO CLASS - Thanksgiving
Oct 17	Presentation 1 (research article, 5 students)
Oct 24	Presentation 1 (research article, 4 students)
Oct 31	NO CLASS
Nov 7	Presentation 2 (research proposal, 5 students)
Nov 14	Presentation 2 (research proposal; 5 students)
Nov 21	Presentation 2 (research proposal; 4 students)
2023	Tentative Schedule for Winter Term
Jan 16	In Person Writing Day: Discussion (complete second set of readings) and Overview of Zoom Writing Days
Jan 23	Zoom Writing Day (10:00 – 12:00)
Jan 30	NO CLASS, but Methods and Winter Timeline due
Feb 20	NO CLASS: Reading Week
Mar 6	Zoom Writing Day (10:00-12:00)
Mar 13	Zoom Writing Day (10:00-12:00)
Mar 20	Zoom Writing Day (10:00-12:00)
Mar 27	Zoom Writing Day (10:00-12:00)
Apr 3	Zoom Writing Day (10:00-12:00)
Apr 10	NO CLASS
Apr 17	In-Person Practice Day (7 students)
Apr 24	In-Person Practice Day (7 students)
Apr 28	Thesis Day

List of Readings (can be accessed via the university library or on Quercus)

Sept 19, 2021

Coquitt, J. A., & George, G. (2011). Part 1: Topic choice. *The Academy of Management Journal*, 54, 432-435.

Bono, J. E., & McNamara, G. (2011). Part 2: Research design. *The Academy of Management Journal*, 54, 657-660.

Crüwell et al. (2018). 7 easy steps to open science: An annotated reading list. Preprint available: <https://psyarxiv.com/cfzyx/>

January 16, 2022

Jaremka et al. (2020). Common academic experiences no one talks about: Repeated rejection, impostor syndrome, and burnout. *Perspectives in Psychological Science*, 15, 519-543.

Grant, A. M., & Pollock, T. G. (2011). Part 3: Setting the hook. *The Academy of Management Journal*, 54, 873-879.

Sparrowe, R. T., & Mayer, K. J. (2011). Part 4: Grounding hypotheses. *The Academy of Management Journal*, 54, 1098-1102.

Zhang, Y., & Shaw, J. D. (2012). Part 5: Crafting the methods and results. *The Academy of Management Journal*, 55, 8-12.

Geletkanycz, M., & Tepper, B. J. (2012). Part 6: Discussing the implications. *The Academy of Management Journal*, 55, 256-260.

Presentations

All students will give three presentations: two in the fall semester and one in the winter semester. In the fall semester, each student will give a presentation about a research article of choice related to their thesis and a research proposal presentation. Each presenter will have 20 minutes total for each presentation (10 for the presentation and 10 minutes for feedback and questions). The scheduling of the two presentations in the fall semester (who goes when) will be determined by a lottery. In the case of all presentations, if for some reason the time you have been assigned doesn't work for you (e.g., you have a lot of other assignments due at that time), you are free to change times with someone else in the class. Please inform Professor Impett in advance.

It is highly recommended that you practice all presentations first with your supervisor before giving them in class.

First presentation: You will present an article that is relevant and important to your thesis, *as if it were your own research*. The article you use for the first presentation will provide some familiarity—to you, me, and the other students—with key research in your chosen topic. Presentations typically have five sections: background, research questions/hypotheses, methods, results, and discussion.

Second presentation: You will present your proposed thesis, including background research and proposed methods and results.

Third presentation: You will deliver a full-length practice talk of the talk you will give on Thesis Day. As a reminder, students should first practice their presentations with their respective

supervisors and/or their labs. If your presentation does not meet expectations at this point (including if you go over the strict 10-minute time limit), you will need to record another presentation and send it to the instructor for feedback.

Participation: Your course mark from the instructor is based (in part) on the quality of your presentations and the quality (not just quantity) of feedback you provide to your peers. Your instructor will give you a rough estimate of your presentation/participation marks at the end of the fall semester (which will be revised based on winter term participation). In the winter term, you will be required to participate in at least three out of the six scheduled zoom writing sessions.

Major Requirements and Deadlines

1. In-class presentations in fall and winter semesters (see dates above)
2. Fall timeline (September 26, 2022)
3. Winter timeline and first draft of Methods (email to instructor): January 30, 2022
4. First drafts of Introduction, Results, and Discussion: To be discussed with individual supervisor
5. Winter semester zoom writing days (need to participate in at least three)
6. Thesis submission: April 23 by 11:59 pm via email (send electronic copies to Thesis Coordinator and to Supervisor)
7. Practice talks for Thesis Day: April 17 and 24, 2023
8. UTM Psychology Department Thesis Day: April 28.

Penalties: All late assignments are penalized by 10% per day.

Details of Evaluation

Your supervisor will evaluate your performance according to the following criteria:

1. Did the project involve a substantial intellectual contribution from the student? To what extent were important design issues resolved by the work and reasoning of the student?
2. To what extent did the student conduct the research in a timely fashion and complete the data collection and/or analyses, as well as other phases of the project to the satisfaction of the supervisor?
3. To what extent did the student analyze the data effectively, with a clear appreciation of the most useful questions to be put to the data? To what extent did the student understand the findings and their implications?
4. To what extent did the student successfully communicate the thesis work in early drafts of the thesis and in conversations with the supervisor?
5. To what extent was progress seen over the course of the year, with the development of a greater understanding of the research process?

Your independent evaluator will evaluate your performance according to the following criteria:

1. Are the hypotheses/predictions/research questions clear? Are they appropriately supported by the background literature reviewed?
 2. Was the research design appropriate for the question? Was the sample size adequate (allowing some leniency given the time constraints of the thesis project)?
 3. Could someone adequately replicate the study based on the methods section?
 4. Are the results and data analyses clearly and completely described? Are the interpretations/conclusions clearly linked to the data? Are limitations, implications, and future directions addressed?
 5. Is there evidence of original thinking and creative contribution in this thesis?
 6. Does the thesis conform to the APA (version 7) guidelines for manuscripts?
 7. Is the thesis well written? Is the writing clear, logical, and complete?
- If I were to come up with an entirely new schedule (meet for whole year):