

PSYC*4880, Course Outline: Winter 2025

General Information

DUE to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic some courses are being offered virtually and some face to face. **Psychology 4870 and 4880 will be presented in the Face-to-Face format.** The course has a set day, time and location of class.

That means that for this class, lectures, exams, in-class exercises, and in-class quizzes are going to take place face-to-face in the assigned classroom at the designated time.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, your classroom has been equipped with improved ventilation equipment. University of Guelph **strongly recommends** that you wear a protective mask in class to reduce the risk of catching or spreading COVID-19 and it also **strongly recommends** that all students, faculty, and staff be vaccinated against COVID-19. (These were the guidelines as of July 1st, 2022.) However, please see the website listed below for the most recent information on COVID-19 requirements at University of Guelph and what to do if you become ill.

If you develop a cough or any respiratory illness symptoms, according to university guidelines you must wear a properly fitted (medical) mask in all public settings (including in class) for 10 days after the start of your symptoms.

<https://news.uoguelph.ca/covid-19/safety-practices/>

Course Title: Honours Thesis I and Honours Thesis II

Course Description:

Students develop their Honours Thesis project across two (normally successive) semesters by working closely with a faculty supervisor. 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.

During 4880, students will complete data collection and/or analysis for their research project, and will write their thesis. Class time will be used to learn about writing the final thesis and preparing for the poster presentation.

This course is offered using the Face-to-Face format. The course has set day, time, and location of class.

Credit Weight:

PSYC*4870 (0.5 credits), PSYC*4880 (1.0 credits)

Academic Department (or campus): Psychology

Semester Offering: Fall 2024 and Winter 2025

Class Schedule and Location:

Winter: Mondays: 2:30 - 5:20PM

MCKN 229

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Shayna Skakoon-Sparling

Instructor Email: s.sparling@uoguelph.ca

(please include PSYC 4880 in subject of all emails).

I will attempt to respond to emails within 48 hours, Monday through Friday. I may respond through an announcement in class or on CourseLink if the answer pertains to the whole class.

Office location: MacKinnon Extension, room 4016

Office hours: by appointment (virtual or face to face)

GTA Information

Name: Samantha Joubran

Email: sjoubran@uoguelph.ca

Virtual office hours: by appointment

Course Content

Specific Learning Outcomes:

- 1) **Depth and Breadth of Understanding:** Demonstrates knowledge of key concepts in psychology, and integrates that knowledge across disciplinary and sub-disciplinary boundaries.
A successful student will be able to:
 - Integrate and use knowledge gained in prior courses on study design, analysis, and content by designing and implementing their own independent research project.
 - Conduct a literature review on the topic of 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.
A successful student will be able to:
 - Integrate and synthesize the existing research literature in order to provide a clear justification/rationale of their own study objectives, methods, and analyses.

- 3) **Creativity:** The ability to adapt to situations of change, to initiate change and to take on intellectual risks.
A successful student will be able to:

- Generate and evaluate creative approaches to the study of their own and their colleagues' proposed research topic.
 - Adapt to different situations and emergent challenges in the process of research by generating and evaluating creative solutions to problems and creative ways of investigating topics.
- 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.
A successful student will be able to:
- Locate relevant information and use it to identify gaps in the existing knowledge base and design research questions and hypotheses to address these gaps in a written research proposal and thesis.
- 5) **Methodological Literacy:** The ability to understand, evaluate, and design appropriate methodologies for rigorous psychological science.
A successful student will be able to:
- Design a methodology to answer their proposed research questions and test their hypotheses, taking into account the available research populations and contextual circumstances.
- 6) **Quantitative Literacy:** Includes numeracy and competence in working with numerical data.
A successful student will be able to:
- Conduct data collection and analyze data using appropriate quantitative or qualitative methods.
 - Interpret their study's findings; write the results and discussion sections with logical and evidence-based arguments.
- 7) **Oral Communication:** Includes interpersonal skills, oral (speaking), and active listening as they apply to psychology.
A successful student will be able to:
- Deliver an oral presentation that integrates and summarizes their research proposal.
 - Communicate effectively with other academics in a professional context using a poster presentation of their honours thesis.
 - Present information in ways that are readily understandable to people from a variety of psychology backgrounds.
 - Actively listen, reflect upon, and respond to questions while acknowledging limitations to one's own 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).
A successful student will be able to:
- Communicate constructive feedback to peers on the content and delivery of their oral presentations.

- Write a research proposal that includes proposed methodology using APA style (or another, if required by the field of study).
- Write a thesis document using APA style (or another, if required by the field of study).
- Write in a sophisticated scientific manner, clearly conveying the key messages to a target audience.
- Include a breadth of vocabulary appropriate to the discipline of psychology.
- Avoid grammar, spelling, and functional errors.

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.

A successful student will be able to:

- Design and prepare research ethics forms and obtain ethics approval for their project.
- Understand potential ethical issues with their own research.

10) **Professional Behaviour:** An ability to interact with others in a respectful manner, manage several tasks at once, and prioritize tasks appropriately.

A successful student will be able to:

- Negotiate and plan deadlines with supervisor for draft submissions and final papers.
- Communicate with supervisor and instructor about expectations, research activities, performance, and feedback. Reflect meaningfully on feedback and enact positive change.
- Clearly delineate roles and expectations with other lab members.
- Submit early drafts of the work to supervisor in order manage the work progression.
- Deliver final versions of all assignments according to deadlines and expected quality to supervisor, instructor, and teaching assistant.
- Be respectful of others' points of view and their time in class, meetings, and other professional settings.

Land Acknowledgement:

The University of Guelph resides on the ancestral lands of the Attawandaron people and the treaty lands and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land and offer respect to our Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Métis neighbours. Today, this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples and acknowledging them reminds us of our important connection to this land where we work and learn.

It's important for us, as researchers and/or aspiring clinicians, to acknowledge the past failures of our field to respect the experiences of indigenous peoples, as well as different ways of knowing (e.g., "two eyed seeing"). Moving forward we must all strive to do better, particularly in conducting research or working with clients in culturally sensitive ways.

Lecture Content:

Date	Topics and Activities
Jan 6	<i>No Class</i>
Jan 13	Welcome to PSYC 4880
Jan 20	<i>No Class</i>
Jan 27	Conducting Analyses and Planning your Results Section
Feb 3	<i>No Class</i>
Feb 10	Stress Management & Work-Life Balance
<i>Feb 17</i>	<i>Reading Week!</i>
Feb 24	How to Create an Effective Poster
March 3	<i>No Class</i>
March 10	How to write and format a final honours thesis paper
March 17	<i>No Class</i>
March 24	Final Reflection Paper & Opportunity for Q & A
March 31	<i>No Class</i>
April 4	<i>Thesis Poster Conference!</i>

Labs: none

Seminars: none

Course Assignments and Tests:

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).

1. **Weekly activity log**
(worth 10% of final grade – evaluated by Supervisor)

Students will be required to keep a log of all thesis-related activities across both the fall and winter semesters. Log entries should record the nature and duration of each activity, as well as important knowledge and skills learned during each activity. Substantive comments about the research process is required. Each entry should not exceed one-page in length, but could be as short as a few sentences. Please discuss expectations with your supervisor at the start of the semester. Advisors are required to give students feedback about their progress regularly throughout the term and may find it helpful to structure this feedback in relation to the weekly activity log.

Supervisors should submit their activity log grades to the course instructor and TA for April 15th. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO INFORM THEM OF THIS DEADLINE.

**2. Written Honours Thesis
(worth 25% of your mark – evaluated by Supervisor).**

By 5pm on April 6th, 2024, students must submit their written honours thesis to their supervisor. Supervisors must submit the resulting grade to the course instructor and GTA by April 15th. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO INFORM THEM OF THIS DEADLINE.

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.

**3. Poster Presentation
(worth 19% of your mark – evaluated by Faculty/Graduate Student judges).**

Students will be expected to prepare a poster for the Honours Thesis Poster Conference, scheduled for April 4th. Faculty and graduate students from the Department of Psychology will be invited to attend in person.

Three judges (not your supervisor) will evaluate the poster presentation. In the event that a face-to-face poster session is not possible, details of about a virtual poster session will be provided on CourseLink. A PDF copy of your poster is to be uploaded to Courselink's dropbox by 11:59pm on March 31st. Do not submit multiple copies – only the first copy will be accepted.

**4. Final Reflection Paper
(worth 5% of your mark - evaluated by Skakoon-Sparling/ TA)**

The final reflection paper must be uploaded to the Courselink dropbox by 11:59pm on April 8th. It should be a maximum two double spaced pages and should reflect how the students' abilities or perspectives have developed, with regard to any one of the learning outcomes, as a result of their experience in this course. Students should discuss both their struggles and their successes.

**5. Contribution to Project
(worth 10% of your mark - evaluated by Supervisor)**

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, organization, and execution of the project. Supervisors should submit their grades to the course instructor and TA by April 15th. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO INFORM THEM OF THIS DEADLINE.

<u>Assignment of Test</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Contribution to Final Grade</u>	<u>Learning Outcomes Assessed</u>
Weekly activity log	Due to supervisor every week of both semesters.	10%	Written Communication, Critical and Creative Thinking, Professional and Ethical Behaviour
Written Honours Thesis	April 6 th	25%	All learning outcomes
Poster Presentation	April 4 th	20%	Critical and Creative Thinking, Communication, Professional and Ethical Behaviour
Final Reflection Paper*	April 8 th	5%	Inquiry and analysis, Written communication
Advisor's evaluation of student's contribution to project	April 15 th	10%	All learning outcomes

Additional Notes:

*The final reflection paper must be completed to pass the course.

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 PSYC*4870, students must have satisfactorily completed the thesis proposal, presented it in class, have an ethics protocol submitted, and contributed to class discussions of the various proposals. Furthermore, students must have attended scheduled classes, completed the constructive feedback reviews and contributed to class discussion in a meaningful way.

Final examination date and time: No final exam

Course Resources

Required Texts: none

Other Resources:

See CourseLink for all other course resources.

Additional Costs:

There are no additional costs, as long as poster printing is coordinated with course GTA by the posted deadline.

Course Policies

Grading Policies

Marks for final reflection paper 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%.

[Undergraduate Grading Procedures](#)

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

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 is intended for those enrolled in this course solely. Under no circumstances are you allowed to disseminate course materials to external parties.

University Policies

Disclaimer:

Please note that the ongoing 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.

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.

Instructors shall not determine if academic misconduct has occurred. This is up to the Associate Dean Academic's office. Instructors shall not assign a grade of zero even if they believe that the student has committed some form of academic misconduct (e.g., copied material from a website like CourseHero) on an assignment or exam.

Instructors can determine if a student has poorly paraphrased and/or improperly cited material and can provide a grade accordingly as long as this is clearly identified as part of the assessment criteria via a rubric or other assessment tools.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

[Academic Misconduct Policy](#)

University Policy on the Use of AI Technologies

Students' work must reflect their unique intellectual capacity and demonstrate the application of critical thinking and problem solving. Unauthorized use of AI to complete assessments violates the fundamental intellectual purposes of the University and does not demonstrate student achievement of course learning outcomes.

Submission of materials completed by AI, without permission of the instructor, constitutes an offence under the University's academic misconduct policies, either as a form of plagiarism or the use of unauthorized aids.

Acceptable use of AI should be determined by the course instructor and faculty supervisor and may vary across disciplines, programs and types of assessments. In setting out course requirements and assessment criteria, the instructor and faculty supervisor should specify allowable uses of AI, if any, through the course outline and/or the learning management system (e.g., CourseLink). Clarity about the acceptable use of AI is critical for students and instructors. Students are responsible for appropriately referencing how and to what extent they have used AI in assessments in keeping with University and course requirements.

**Please note that the use of AI is not permitted for PSYC*4870 or 4880.*

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).

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. 54335 or email accessibility@uoguelph.ca or the [Student Accessibility Services Website](#)

Student Feedback Questionnaire

These questionnaires (formerly course evaluations) will be available to students during the last 2 weeks of the semester. Students will receive an email directly from the Student Feedback Administration system which will include a direct link to the questionnaire for this course. During this time, when a student goes to login to Courselink, a reminder will pop-up when a task is available to complete.

[Student Feedback Questionnaire](#)

Drop date

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is Friday April 4, 2025. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the [Schedule of Dates in the Academic Calendar](#).

Instructors must provide [meaningful and constructive feedback, at minimum 20% of the final course grade, prior to the 40th class day](#). For courses which are of shorter duration, 20% of the final grade must be provided two-thirds of the way through the course.

[Current Undergraduate Calendar](#)

Copies of Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time. You should continually back-up your work to cloud storage or an external device (e.g., a memory key) to ensure your hard work is not lost if lose access to your computer for any reason.

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. 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.

In this course, your instructor will be using Turnitin.com to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to prevent plagiarism in the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences.

A major benefit of using Turnitin is that students will be able to educate and empower themselves in preventing misconduct. In this course, you may screen your own assignments through Turnitin as many times as you wish before the due date. You will be able to see and print reports that show you exactly where you have properly and improperly referenced the outside sources and materials in your assignment.

A Note on The Grading of This Course:

Grades and other evaluations reflect your performance in a course. In other words, your mark is something that you earn based on your effort as well as the quality of your work; it is not something assigned to you at random by your supervisor, the instructor, or your TAs. Sometimes you can work really hard on an assignment or test and still receive a grade lower than what you hoped for. Similarly, I could try really hard to knit a sweater and the result may still not fit the wearer the way I hoped it would, no matter the amount of time or effort I felt I had expended.

Your supervisor, your TA, and I will take time to carefully evaluate the performance of all our students throughout the course (as noted above). If you feel that an error has been made in the grading of an assignment, I encourage you to raise your concerns with us; however, I will ask that you be able to present strong evidence of a grading error if you do so. Importantly, if you are unclear about the value of an assignment or exam for any course, please take time to clarify with your instructor and/or your TAs well before the due date of an assignment and well before the end of the semester.