Psych 499 A-B-C
Orientation meeting
Friday September 9, 2016
Today’s Session

• **Psych 499 Coordinator**
  – Richard Eibach, PAS 3053, reibach@uwaterloo.ca

• **REG Coordinator & Ethics Administrator**
  – Michelle Manios, PAS 3013, regadmin@uwaterloo.ca

• **Psychology Library Liaison**
  – Tim Ireland, tireland@library.uwaterloo.ca
• **The Honours Thesis is a unique opportunity**

  – apprenticeship in how to conduct research from inception to completion

  – individual interaction and collaboration with faculty member and graduate students

  – capstone experience for undergraduate honours degree

  – essential preparation for graduate studies
General Remarks

• Finding Information on Psych Dept. Webpage
  – Current Undergrad Students
    • Courses
      – Psych 499 A/B/C

• Information on:
  – Honours thesis handbook (updated)
  – Orientation meetings
  – Deadlines & Important dates
  – Oral Presentation Schedule
  – Contact information
  – And more….. (e.g., where to find a sample thesis)
Agenda

• Supervisors
• Course format
• Common mistakes
• Additional opportunities
Supervisors

• Finding a supervisor
  – **Contact faculty members after you’ve enrolled in Psych 499A**
  – **You might have to ask several different profs**
  – **Ordinarily, make email contact first with:**
    • Unofficial transcript
    • Statement of interest (why do you want to work with this particular faculty member)
    • What terms you hope to enroll in Psych 499A/B/C
    • Request an appointment to meet in person
• **Selecting a thesis topic**

  – Consider an on-going project in the faculty member’s lab or suggesting an idea of your own

  – **If suggesting your own topic,**

    • Be prepared to explain why this topic interests you
    • What you have already read on this topic
    • Topic needs to be narrow enough to develop a clear research question and specific, testable hypotheses
Supervision styles

- Some are structured, others less so
- Up to you to establish and maintain regular contact with your supervisor
- Plan accordingly if your supervisor is going on sabbatical
- Be sure to clarify and manage expectations
  - How often will you check in (virtually or f-to-f)?
  - Level of independence expected
  - Due dates
Supervisors are useful to you beyond the thesis

- Letters of reference
- Information about:
  - applying for scholarships
  - applying to graduate programs
Psych 499 enrollment requires a Psych cumulative average of 82%.

Only when you are officially enrolled in 499A can you contact potential supervisors.
Course Format

• There are **3 components:**
  – 499A: literature review, research question(s), & thesis reviewer nominations
  – 499B: research design, proposal, & presentation
  – 499C: data collection, analysis, & final write-up

• **Psych 499 can take 2 to 5 terms**
  – Many students complete the thesis in 2 terms (499A/B in term 1, 499C in term 2)
  – But up to 5 terms might be necessary for coop students

• Be flexible
• **Registering for 499A vs. 499A&B**
  • Email the name of your thesis supervisor by **Sept. 16** to Ayala Stein: aystein@uwaterloo.ca

  - **499A only** –
    - Submit a progress report to Richard Eibach’s mailbox by noon on Thursday, **Dec. 22**
    - Email Thesis reviewer nominations to Richard (reibach@uwaterloo.ca) by **Dec. 5**
    - You will complete your presentation the following term
Course Format, cont’d

- **499A&B** –
  - Email Thesis reviewer nominations to Richard (reibach@uwaterloo.ca) by Sept. 23
  - If you COMPLETE 499B, then you do NOT need to hand in 499A progress report
  - If you do not complete 499B even though registered for it, you MUST complete 499A progress report
  - TIP: book your 499B presentation slot early!

- **At the end of 499C** you will submit your final thesis
Thesis reviewer nominations 499A

- due by Sept. 23 if enrolled in 499A/B, Dec. 5 if only 499A
- Email the following to Richard, reibach@uwaterloo.ca
  - brief description of thesis topic (approx. 50 words)
  - names of 3 faculty members who you’re nominating as your reviewer
- Richard will contact faculty members to find out if they’re available

Reviewer responsibilities:
- read and attend 499B proposal presentation and provide feedback
- read 499C thesis paper
- help assign final grade
• Progress Report 499A
  – 5-10 pages
  – General statement about research area
  – A brief description of relevant literature
  – The research question
  – Outline of further steps
  – Approved by supervisor (need signature) and submitted to Richard Eibach’s mailbox by Dec 22 at noon
• **Research Proposal 499B**
  – Due 2 business days before your oral presentation date (Thurs 4:30pm for a Tues presentation)
  – 10-15 pages
  – Title, Abstract
  – Concise background literature & clear statement of research questions/hypotheses
  – Method (measures/experimental procedures)
  – Expected Results
    • Plans for data analysis & Proposed timeline to complete project
  – Approved by supervisor (signed) and submitted to mailbox of your thesis reviewer
Oral presentation for 499B
- 50 min; talk 20-25 min; remainder for discussion
- Use PowerPoint; Practice in advance
- Explain your rationale, purpose, methods, and hypotheses
- Not formally graded
- Reviewer will ask general questions, probe your knowledge, make suggestions
- Attend other students’ presentations to familiarize yourself with format

(Note: Oral presentation before data collection)
Course Issues

- 499C
  - Ethics approval (or end of 499B)
  - Data collection
  - Analysis
  - Write up (more on next slide)
Final Report 499C

- Due by Dec. 22
- 20-30 pages
- Title, Abstract, Introduction, Literature Review & Hypotheses, Method, Results, General Discussion, References, Tables & Figures, Appendices
- Submit an electronic version and print copy to Ayala Stein: aystein@uwaterloo.ca
- Graded by the Supervisor who comments and suggests a grade range, and 499 Reviewer, who comments and assigns final grade
  - same grade applied retroactively to 499A/B/C
Course Issues

- Reminder:

- Lots to do in each phase, so don’t fall behind
You are responsible for following research integrity standards and university policies

- Strongly recommend that you review UW’s Graduate academic integrity module
- Module provides useful information about properly identifying sources, collaborating with integrity, and honestly recording and reporting research findings
  - [https://uwaterloo.ca/library/get-assignment-and-research-help/academic-integrity/graduate-students-and-academic-integrity](https://uwaterloo.ca/library/get-assignment-and-research-help/academic-integrity/graduate-students-and-academic-integrity)
  - Further UW information/resources about responsible research conduct:
    - [https://uwaterloo.ca/research/office-research-ethics/research-integrity/training-and-resources](https://uwaterloo.ca/research/office-research-ethics/research-integrity/training-and-resources)
• I can’t enroll in Psych 499A because average isn’t high enough.
  – If close to required average, submit a 499A application to Ayala Stein

• I can’t find a supervisor.
  – Approach faculty with a targeted request. Ask faculty members for ideas. Consult with 499 Coordinator.
Common Mistakes

• Don’t allow enough time for:
  – ethics clearance
  – data collection
  – data analysis
  – writing multiple drafts of the final product

• Final product is not APA format or is missing:
  – abstract
  – introduction/overview before literature review
  – clear and specific statement of hypotheses
  – writing for a general psych audience
Ontario Undergraduate Psychology Thesis Conference
- an informal forum for students in Ontario to present a summary of their theses
- either orally or in poster format
- to a friendly and enthusiastic audience of peers and to discuss your work with others who have similar interests

Typically end of April or early May (abstract due earlier)

No registration fee for presenters or faculty members and lunch is provided

Opportunity to network with Psychology students and faculty at other universities

Participants report that the event is very worthwhile and enjoyable

Looks great on graduate school applications

Next location: University of Ottawa!
Who Can Answer Questions

- **Ayala Stein, Psych Undergrad Assistant**
  - Paperwork (enrolment, extensions, etc.)
  - Scheduling 499B presentation
  - Email: aystein@uwaterloo.ca

- **Richard Eibach, Thesis Coordinator**
  - Should I be taking the thesis?
  - Issues with your supervisor
  - Email: reibach@uwaterloo.ca

- **Your thesis supervisor**
  - Research question & literature, designing your study, analyzing data, writing final product
Course Issues

• Thesis Awards
  – Recognize exceptional performance throughout all stages of the thesis project
  – Awarded annually in June for theses completed the prior three terms
  – Nominated by Supervisor
2–Minute Thesis Option

• **Consider creating a short "video snapshot" of your work.**
  – Great way to tell others about your thesis & your experience at UW
  – Create a 1-2 min. video where you explain what you researched and what you found out
  – Use a smartphone or Department’s video camera

• **Logistics**
  – Make your video after you submit 499C paper (within 2 weeks please)
  – You are responsible for emailing your video to Ayala Stein (aystein@uwaterloo.ca)
  – We will review, upload to the Psych Dept. website, and let you know when you can share the link with others

• **Note: Completing a video is optional**
  – Whether or not you choose to capture your thesis on video will in no way affect your grade in PSYCH 499 or eligibility for thesis awards
# Is a Prestigious Graduate Scholarship in Your Future?

Come to an Information Session!

Featuring application processes for OGS, CIHR, NSERC, and SSHRC for Master's, Doctoral and undergraduate students in 3B - 5B with a minimum 80% average in each of the last two academic years.

**Monday, September 12, 4:00-6:00 p.m. | Thursday, September 15, 5:00-7:00 p.m.**

HH — J.G. Hagey Hall, Humanities Theatre

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<td>Transcripts, Research Proposals, Reference Letters and Question Period</td>
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<td>Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) and Question Period</td>
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**5 Minute Pause**

| Vanier CGS-D                                                   | 5:05-5:15               | 6:05-6:15               |
| NSERC Doctoral Awards                                          | 5:15-5:25               | 6:15-6:25               |
| SSHRC Doctoral Awards                                          | 5:25-5:35               | 6:25-6:35               |
| CIHR Doctoral Awards                                           | 5:35-5:45               | 6:35-6:45               |

**Question Period**

*Times are approximate.

There is no cost to attend.