

PSYB90H3 Supervised Introductory Research Project in Psychology

2021-2022 Fall-Winter Sessions



Department of Psychology & Neuroscience

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to, and experience in, ongoing theoretical and empirical research in any field of psychology. Supervision of the work is arranged by mutual agreement between student and instructor. Students will typically engage in an existing research project within a supervisor's laboratory. Regular consultation with the supervisor is necessary, which will enhance communication skills and enable students to develop proficiency in speaking about scientific knowledge with other experts in the domain. Students will also develop documentation and writing skills through a final report and research journal.

NOTE: This course takes place across two consecutive terms (i.e., students receive a total of one half-credit spread across 2 semesters). Also, note that this course can only satisfy the "Additional credits in Psychology" program requirement.

Application Process

Please read and follow these instructions carefully. Note ROP299H1 and LINB98H3 are exclusions to PSYB90H3.

- 1) Read the General Information Sheet.
- 2) Complete the top portion of the application
- 3) Supervisor information:
 - a. In the application form, have your supervisor fill in your "Project Title" and provide their signature and contact information.
Note: If your supervisor is not a member of the UTSC faculty, you must obtain a co-supervisor in Psychology at UTSC, and also obtain their signature on the application form.
 - b. Together with your supervisor, write a one-page summary of the project to be completed along with the marking scheme. Include this with your application form.
 - c. Your supervisor(s) must review your transcript to ensure you meet all the prerequisites for this course. Submit your transcript with your application form.
 - d. Email the completed application package to Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) by **Friday August 20, 2021 at 5:00 pm**.

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Application Form

TO BE COMPLETED BY STUDENT:

First Name:		Student #:	
Last Name:		Phone #:	
Email:		Date:	
Signature:			

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISOR:

Project Title:
(appears on transcript):

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Supervisor:

Name:	Signature:	Date:
Email:		

Co-supervisor:
(if applicable)

Name:	Signature:	Date:
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Confirm all prerequisites have been met by checking the boxes below:

At least an 80% average in PSYA01 and PSYA02

A minimum of 4.0 credits completed and no more than 9.5 credits completed

At least a 3.0 cGPA

Enrollment in a PSY, MHS, NRO, or LIN program

Notes:

- Please append an e-copy of the transcript from ACORN.
- Please append an outline of the work to be performed
- If the potential supervisor is not a member of the UTSC faculty, please indicate a co-supervisor in Psychology at UTSC, and obtain their signature above.

TO BE COMPLETED BY PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT:

Departmental Endorsement:	Signature:	Date:
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General Information

Requirements and Deadlines

The supervised introductory research course is to be completed over two consecutive semesters, and is worth 0.5 credits.

You will gain fundamental research skills and hands on experience conducting psychological research. This work will enable you to better understand and think about core findings in psychology which you will learn about in subsequent courses at the B-, C-, and D-level, and in particular prepare you for research projects at the higher levels of the psychology, mental health studies and psycholinguistics programs (e.g., theses, supervised studies).

The due date for your assignment is the last day of classes in the winter term: **Friday, April 8, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.** This is a fixed university deadline and is NOT subject to change by you or by your faculty supervisor. A penalty of **5% per day** will apply after the due date. In extraordinary cases, an extension of up to 5 business days can be approved by the Chair of the Division, and should be requested at the earliest possible time to psychology-program-supervisor@utsc.utoronto.ca. Extensions beyond 5 business days can only be granted through a formal petition.

Procedure

Ordinarily, you will begin the research at the start of the semester, meeting with your faculty supervisor to determine the details and schedule of the project you will be working on. Once under way, you will work on carrying out the project, meeting regularly with your supervisor(s) and fellow lab members.

Following each meeting, you will complete a research journal to keep you on track with your project (see Evaluation and Submission section below).

Specific projects will require different levels of student involvement. However, you will have “hands-on” supervision of the day-to-day work by your supervisor(s) and other members of the lab. The scope of the project will be reduced so that you learn about the entire experimental project, but home in to develop proficiency in a narrower portion of the project commensurate with the knowledge and skills of a second-year undergraduate student. **The first entry in the research journal should clearly outline your tasks and responsibilities.** Toward the end of the winter semester, you should be presenting drafts of your final report to your supervisor(s) for feedback and revision, so that everything can be finalized by the deadlines specified above.

Undergraduate students conducting an independent research project for a course that involves human participants will need to complete, along with their faculty supervisor, an [Undergraduate Ethics Review Protocol Form – Student-Initiated Projects](#). It is the responsibility of both the student and the supervisor to understand and comply with federal and University policies governing research involving humans and to submit an ethics protocol. This should be discussed in your early meetings with your supervisor. Completed forms must be submitted to psychology-undergraduate@utsc.utoronto.ca for review by the Psychology Delegated Ethics Review Committee prior to data collection. Once approved, a protocol number and expiry date will be provided. Protocols may take up to 3-4 weeks to be reviewed so it is highly advisable to submit protocols early and within the first term of the course-based research project to avoid delays in project completion. Course-based research reviewed through the Psychology Delegated Ethics Review Committee must be minimal risk in order to proceed.

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Communication

All inquiries concerning the progress of your research, writing requirements, evaluation, or any other issues related to your project should be directed to your faculty or off-campus supervisor.

If you have an off-campus supervisor, you should provide them with a copy of these policies. Any questions or concerns an off-campus supervisor has should be directed to the faculty co-supervisor.

Announcements and resources will be provided through the course Quercus page throughout the year, and it is your responsibility to check the page and your University of Toronto email address regularly.

Evaluation and Submission

Evaluation in the course will be based solely on the appraisal by your supervisor(s). The basic template rubric will comprise the following:

- 1) Evaluation of lab work over the term (40% of grade). This includes attendance and contribution to lab meetings, and conducting research in an efficient, effective and professional manner, including consistent attendance and completion of tasks assigned by the supervisor (e.g., recording audio files, running participants, coding data). Students will be expected to work at least 6 hours per week in a research lab (or on lab-related tasks in the field).
- 2) Research journal (20% of grade). Each student is expected to keep a research journal to record their activities every week, including lab hours, tasks and progress, research ideas, challenges encountered in their work, and comments on discussions held with other lab members regarding the research project. This journal will also include step-by-step tutorials that explain how they complete each task that they are assigned suitable for use in educating other students on the technique.
- 3) Final Report (20% of grade). Students will provide a summary report on the skills that they acquired and how the project advanced as a result of their contributions to the lab.
- 4) Additional requirements as assigned by supervisor(s) (20% of grade).

The submission procedure is as follows: **No later than Friday, April 8, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.**, you will submit an electronic **PDF** copy of your final report (including appendices) through the course Quercus page, and an identical copy of your research paper to your supervisor. The date and time of your submission will be recorded by Quercus, which will be used to apply any late penalties.

You will receive written feedback from your supervisor(s). Off-campus supervisors will be required to submit the final mark, breakdown of grades and feedback on the final paper directly to the on-campus faculty co-supervisor via email no later than 1-2 weeks after the due date.

[Note: Whether or not the research works out as anticipated will not affect your grade. You will be graded on the quality of your work and you will in no way be penalized if the data are not ideal.]

You and your supervisor may agree on an arrangement for the work to be undertaken and for scheduling along the way, but the rules you have just read above apply to all Psychology research students and cannot be contravened in individual cases.