The Honours Thesis 2016-2017

PSY4276 – PSY4676
School of Psychology
Plan

- Objectives of the program
- The coordination of PSY 4276
- The main events for the year
- How to find a supervisor
- The evaluation and the Prizes
- The conferences
Objectives of the program

From the lectures in class to the lab:
- Learning by doing
- Learn to elaborate a real research project
- Test your resources and your capacities

Preparation for graduate studies
- You are supervised by a researcher
- You orally present your project
- You orally present your results or you prepare a poster
- You write a thesis on your research activities
The Honours BA without a thesis

- Why 2 options?
  - Better use of the School’s resources
  - Better match with the needs of the students

- The option without a thesis:
  - 2 more courses at the PSY 4000 level
Which one should I choose?

The option without a thesis may be for you if:
- You have no interest in research activities
- Your career choices do not involve research activities
- You do not wish to go to complete a post-graduate degree in psychology
- You do not have the required average

The option with a thesis is for you if:
- You are in the B.Sc Honours program
- Your career choice will require research skills
- You want to complete a post-graduate degree (most of Canadian Universities require experience in research)
- … you want to keep your options open
Some advantages of the thesis

- Learn more about how to conduct research project
- You will identify more clearly your research interests
- Presentation at conferences and submission of a paper for publication
- Your letter of references may more clearly reflect your skills and capacities
- Meet an interesting challenge: Make a first contribution to science
The coordination of PSY 4276

- Services: consultation, information sessions on thesis, conflict management
- Special events: information sessions on Scholarships, Graduate Studies, the Annual Honours Conference, the Annual Ontario Universities Conference
- Evaluation of papers
- Management of the course
Events: September to December

- Information sessions in September
  - Meet supervisors still available
  - Information session on scholarships (mid-September)
  - Meetings with the Program Directors (experimental and clinical)
  - Information session on ethics in research
  - Meeting with the graduate students

- Activity in October
  - Information session on progress report (mid-October)
  - Submission of a progress report and oral presentation (15 min) of your project (end of Oct.)
Events: January to April

- Submission of a draft of Intro and Method sections (end of January)
- Submission of an abstract for the Honours conference (end of Feb)
- The Honours Thesis Conference: Oral presentation or poster presentation (mid-March)
- Submission of your paper (end of March)
- Review and evaluation of the paper (April)
- The Ontario Universities Honours Conference
- Final grades and the selection of the winners for the prizes
How to find a supervisor

- Who are they?
  - Regular professors
  - Adjuncts professors
  - Clinical professors
  - Total: [approx. 60] – Professors on academic leave

- How to choose a supervisor?
  - What are your own interests? (in more than one domain)
  - Identify supervisors that match your interests
  - Look for information on supervisors
  - Contact the supervisors to find out what they are working on and if you can work with them
When should I look for a supervisor?

● You can start your search for a supervisor at the beginning of April.

● Official list of supervisors for 2016-2017 will be available in June 2016 (School of Psychology - Undergraduate office).
Things you should consider

- The type of supervisor that suits you
  - What are you expecting?
  - Supervisor style: Autonomy supportive, structured,…

- Try to learn about the research laboratory

- Things to do
  - Clarify your expectations
  - Establish a structure and clear deadlines
  - Keep your supervisor informed

- When should the research begin?
To do list: September

- Choice of a supervisor
- Choice of a research topic
- The literature review
- The theoretical framework and the hypotheses
- The research method: design, measures, procedures and planification
- Preparation of questionnaires, forms, ethics, recruitment etc.
- Scholarships forms
The Annual Honours Thesis Conference

- This is the celebration of several months of work
- The 3 main activities:
  - Morning: Presentation of posters
  - Afternoon: Oral presentation and guest speaker
  - Wine and cheese
- The activities are open to the public
- This year’s conference is on March 18 (FSS 4004)!
The review of the papers and Prizes

- Review and evaluation of your paper
  - Your supervisor proposes a grade
  - A reviewer proposes a grade
  - The coordinator examines both and determines the grade

- Two Prizes of $1000
  - Best thesis - PSY4276
  - Meilleure thèse - PSY4676
  - Selected by a committee of professors
The Ontario Universities Honors Thesis Conference

- Early May
- Location 2017: University of Ottawa
- Participants: Honours Students
- Communication: English and French
What is Ethics?

**Definition:**
- the discipline dealing with what is good and bad and with moral duty and obligation
- the principles of conduct governing an individual or a group
- a set of moral issues or aspects (as rightness)

(Merriam Webster)
What Needs to be Submitted

Any research project involving human subjects/participants, including:

- Individual and Group Interviews (in person, by phone)
- Surveys, questionnaires (in person, by mail, online)
- Experiments (for ex. participant observation, running on a treadmill, cognitive testing, reading tasks, brain scans, etc.)