The Honours Thesis 2017-2018

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 thesis

From the lectures in class to the lab:
- Learn to elaborate a research project

Preparation for graduate studies
- You are supervised by a researcher
- You present orally your project
- You present your results at a conference
- 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 (B.A. minimum 8.0)

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 meet all the requirements for admission

http://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/psychology/programs/honours-thesis
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
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 (beginning of March)
- The Honours Thesis Conference: Oral presentation or poster presentation (end of March)
- Submission of your paper (early April)
- Review and evaluation of the paper (April and May)
- 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. 65] – 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 May.
- Official list of supervisors for 2017-2018 will be available in June 2017 (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: August and September

- Choice of a supervisor
- Choice of a research topic
- Start the literature review
- Understanding of the theoretical framework and the hypotheses, the research method (design, measures, procedures and planification)
- Preparation of questionnaires, forms, ethics, recruitment etc.
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 24 (Gym, 200 Lees)!
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 in English- PSY4276
  - Meilleure thèse en français- PSY4676
  - Selected by a committee of professors
The Ontario Universities Honors Thesis Conference

- May 5th
- Location 2017: University of Ottawa
- Participants: Honours Students
- Communication: English and French