

Western University
Department of Psychology
Psychology 9736 001
Professional Foundations in Psychology
Fall 2025
WIRB 611, Tuesdays from 9:00-12:00

Enrollment Restrictions

Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in Psychology

Instructor and Teaching Assistant Information

Instructor: Ryan Stevenson

Office: WIRB 6128

Office Phone: 519-661-2111 ext. 81182

Office Hours: By appointment

Email: rsteve28@uwo.ca

Course Description

This course provides introductory to professional foundations of psychological research. Each week a faculty member and students will lead a presentation/discussion of a key skill needed for conducting research in psychology (ethics, scientific writing, open science practices, etc).

Course Format

In person

Course Materials

All required readings for this course will be resources posted on the course's OWL website. You will also need a computer account, which gives you access to the UWO network.

Methods of Evaluation

Draft scholarship research proposals (2): 20% each

These will be draft proposals in CGS-M scholarship format. The first will be a rough draft, and students will be asked to provide feedback on other students' drafts. The second will be a final draft.

Participation during presentations: 30%

This will test your preparation for the class via your willingness to ask questions and engage with the faculty presenter.

Journal Club presentations: 10% each

These are presentations of a primary source research article of your choice. It is intended to assess your ability to present information to your classmates in a way that is clear but concise, with minimal use of visual aids. The goal is not only to convey the information in the article, but to facilitate discussion of

broader topics, methods, and the scientific process. Number of presentations will be 3, depending on class size.

Course Timeline

Date (examples)	Presenter	Topic (examples)
Sept 16, 9:00	<i>Lecture</i>	Course overview, how to be a good grad student
Sept 23, 9:00 Sept 23, 10:30	Lecture Student presentation/workshop	Grantsmanship
Sept 30, 9:00 Sept 30, 10:30	National Truth and Reconciliation Day	Non-instructional
Oct 7, 9:00 Oct 7, 10:30	Lecture Student presentation/workshop	Scientific Writing
Oct 14, 9:00-12:00	Lecture Student presentation/workshop	How to conference
Oct 21, 9:00 Oct 21, 10:30	Lecture Student presentation/workshop	Working with human participants
Oct 28, 9:00 Oct 28, 10:30	Student presentation (3) Lecture	Figures and presentations
Nov 4, 9:00	READING WEEK	N/A
Nov 11, 9:00 Nov 11, 10:30	Lecture Student presentation/workshop	Open Science
Nov 18	SFN	N/A
Nov 25, 9:00 Nov 25, 10:30	Lecture Student presentation/workshop	Writing workshop / Ethics
Dec 2, 9:30-11:30 Dec 2, 11:30	Lecture Student presentation	Alternative career paths Jenny Richmond-Bravo, David Feeney

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism-detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Health/Wellness Services

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Accessible Education Western (AEW)

Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program.

Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education Western (AEW), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AEW and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.