

PSYC 3700 A : COGNITION HONOURS SEMINAR

Instructor	Dr. David Sidhu
Term	Fall 2026/Winter 2027
Course Delivery	In Person
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Office Location	Loeb A826
Office Hours	By Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION/INSTRUCTOR'S STATEMENT

There are two main components to this course.

The first involves a deep exploration of several topics in Cognitive Psychology by reading and discussing journal articles.

The second component involves developing a research question (on one of the topics we discuss) and a methodology to test it. You will develop the research question in groups (with help from the instructor and TA), before completing the rest of the project individually. This will include analysing simulated data for your research study. You will then write a “mini-thesis” reporting the study. Over the course of two semesters, you will be guided through all aspects of this process. You can think of this like a “practice run” for doing an honours thesis, with detailed instruction and support on all stages of the project. Even if you don't go on to do a thesis, you will learn many useful skills.

The course will include:

- Learning to read, discuss and critique journal articles.
- Practicing presenting journal.
- Learning to formulate sound research questions and hypotheses, and then developing methodologies to test them.
- Being guided through analyses and visualizations of simulated data in R.
- Developing your writing skills through writing exercises.
- Developing good work habits.
- Learning to write an APA style research paper.
- Gaining experience preparing and submitting an ethics proposal.
- Learning to deliver research posters and presentations.
- Learning about careers in psychology.

EVALUATION (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Evaluation will include class participation, written assignments, in class presentations, leading class discussions, lab activities.

TEXT

A set of peer-reviewed journal articles, digital copies of which will be available for free through the Carleton University library and/or Brightspace. There will also be free readings provided which are related to the process of writing an honours thesis (e.g., on writing, formatting, reading articles).