

PSYC 4909 D : PROJECT FOR B.SC. HONOURS IN PSYCHOLOGY

Instructor	Deanna C. Whelan
Term	Fall 2026/Winter 2027
Course Delivery	In-person
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Office Location	Loeb A535
Office Hours	By request

COURSE DESCRIPTION/INSTRUCTOR'S STATEMENT

This section of the Honours Project is a structured, in-person course designed to help you develop and demonstrate the skills you have built throughout your undergraduate degree. It is an active, skills-based course—you will be working on your project every week, both in and outside of class.

Class time will include a mix of short lectures, guided activities, and individual and group work. A central feature of the course is a supportive learning community, where students work closely with one another through writing groups, peer review, and collaborative exercises to strengthen writing, critical reading, presentation, and communication skills.

You will choose an area of psychological research that is personally meaningful and work with that topic across all assignments. The fall term focuses on building subject-matter expertise and academic writing skills, while the winter term shifts toward communicating your work to different audiences to support your transition to the workplace or further study.

A note on expectations: This is a fourth-year capstone course and carries a significant workload. Work is distributed across the year through regular, smaller tasks that build toward larger deliverables. As a result, consistent weekly effort is essential—this is not a course that can be completed through last-minute work or “catching up.”

EVALUATION (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Students will complete frequent, scaffolded assignments that build toward larger deliverables. These include a range of written and applied components such as a research essay, blog posts, reflective writing, and presentations (e.g., slides and academic posters).

The course is built around an active learning environment, meaning that many skills are developed through in-class activities, peer interaction, and ongoing feedback. Some group work is graded, and peer evaluation contributes to presentation grades.

Attendance and engagement are essential to success in this course. Many course components—including skill development, feedback, and some assessed activities—occur during scheduled class time. Students are therefore expected to attend regularly, come prepared, and actively participate throughout the year.

There is no final exam.

TEXT

Required: The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 7th edition.

Although there is only the APA manual as a required textbook for this course, for assignments, you will be expected to find and read *many* articles, which can be accessed through Carleton's library. Some readings and online videos will also be assigned throughout the course.