

MDSC 508
Honours Thesis and Research Communication

Instructors: Course Coordinators and Preceptors:

Dr. Fabiola Aparicio-Ting (feapartic@ucalgary.ca)

Dr. Donna M. Slater (dmslater@ucalgary.ca)

Research Communication Small Group Preceptors:

Biomedical Sciences (BMED) and Bioinformatics (BINF)

1. Dr. Dave Anderson (david.anderson1@ucalgary.ca)
2. Dr. Stefanie Black (black@ucalgary.ca)
3. Dr. Jean-Baptiste Cavin (jeanbaptiste.cavin@ucalgary.ca)
4. Dr. Kyle Flannigan (kyle.flannigan1@ucalgary.ca)
5. Dr. Rebecca Green (rgree@ucalgary.ca)
6. Dr. Anthony Schryvers (schryver@ucalgary.ca)
7. Dr. Donna M. Slater (dmslater@ucalgary.ca)
8. Dr. Matthew Stephens (matthew.stephens@ucalgary.ca)
9. Dr. Laura Sycuro (laura.sycuro@ucalgary.ca)
10. Dr. Guido van Marle (vanmarle@ucalgary.ca)

Health and Society (HSOC)

1. Dr. Fabiola Aparicio-Ting (feapartic@ucalgary.ca)
2. Dr. Reed Beall (reed.beall@ucalgary.ca)
3. Dr. Katie Chaput (khchaput@ucalgary.ca)
4. Dr. Cathy Eastwood (caeastwo@ucalgary.ca)
5. Dr. Jesse Hendrikse (jlhendri@ucalgary.ca)
6. Dr. Lindsay McLaren (lmclaren@ucalgary.ca)
7. Dr. Kahra Sauro (kmsauro@ucalgary.ca)
8. Dr. Nishan Sharma (sharmn@ucalgary.ca)
9. Dr. Gabrielle Zimmermann (glzimmer@ucalgary.ca)
10. TBA

Office Hours/Policy on Answering Student Emails

Please book appointments by email. Email communications with the instructors and/or TA are welcome. All efforts will be made to respond to emails within 48 hours.

Teaching Assistants:

Daniela Urrego (durrego@ucalgary.ca)

Helen Pethrick (helen.pethrick@ucalgary.ca)

Time and Location:

Fridays 2:30pm to 4:20pm

Foothills Campus

Please consult course schedule on D2L for room location of individual sessions

Prerequisite/Co-Requisite:

Enrolment in the BHSc Honours program and HSOC 408 or MDSC 408 and a minimum cumulative 3.30 GPA, or consent of the director.

Course Description:

Capstone research course in the BHSc to be conducted through any one of the basic research departments. Students would be expected to conduct research. Course also involves weekly small group sessions aimed at building research communication skills. Course culminates with submission of a written thesis that is presented and defended in front of a panel of faculty members in an oral examination.

Overarching Theme

MDSC 508 is the capstone research course in the BHSc program. Students conduct research projects under the supervision of University of Calgary faculty within their major and in a topic of their choosing. This course also involves weekly small group sessions aimed at building research communication and presentation skills. These sessions are a combination of discussion based, face to face small group classes. Direct feedback will be given on presentations and progress reports. These sessions fit with the overall goal of the program to stimulate, encourage and support the importance of collaboration and interdisciplinary research

Global Objectives

MDSC 508 is a research-intensive course. The objective is for the student to demonstrate the capacity to achieve a standard of research competence as befits the relevant discipline(s).

Learning Objectives

By the end of the honours thesis research project, students will:

- With a research question in mind, be familiar with the purpose and process of searching the scholarly literature systematically, leading to the creation of a literature review for their thesis project.
- Be able to assess the appropriateness and limitations of using various research designs
- Demonstrate knowledge of the ethical principles in the design of a research proposal.
- Summarize research effectively and critically.
- Operate as a member of a research team (either as a group or individually with their supervisor) working on a research project within their thesis area.
- Communicate effectively with their research team and team leader to learn about the project.
- Defend their thesis in an oral examination.

By the end of the Research Communication group sessions, students will:

- Appreciate the value of multiple research approaches.
- Be able to articulate the importance of knowledge exchange and transfer.
- Collate, critically review and give an oral presentation summarizing the literature and present relevant background information and work completed to date regarding their Honour's thesis research project.

Required Textbooks

None

Recommended Textbooks/Readings

None

Evaluation

The University policy on grading and related matters is described in section F.2 of the 2019-2020 Calendar. In determining the overall course grade the following weights will be used:

Assessment *	% Grade	Due Date	Assessed by:
Honours Research Project & Thesis			
Research Proposal	10%	October 11, 2019 Submitted through D2L by 12pm	Supervisor
Progress Report	2%	January 17, 2020 Submitted through D2L by 12pm	Group Preceptors
Research Performance Assessment	20% (10% fall 10% winter)	December 6, 2019 March 20, 2020 (supervisor)	Supervisor
Written Thesis	30%	March 20, 2020 Submitted through D2L by 12pm	Supervisor and 2 other examiners
Honours Thesis Oral Exam	20%	April 3, 2020 (Schedule TBA -will be posted in D2L)	Supervisor and 2 other examiners
Research Communication (Friday afternoon sessions)			
Research Exchange Sessions – <i>student attendance mandatory</i>	Part of participation grade	October 25th 2019 & November 1 st 2019 (Group schedules posted in D2L)	Group Preceptors
Research in Progress Oral Presentations –	10%	Jan 31 st , February 7 th , 14 th & 28 th	Group Preceptors

<i>student attendance mandatory</i>		March 6 th , (13 th) 2020 (Group schedules posted in D2L)	
Participation (thoughtful contributions to group sessions)	8%	All group sessions	Group Preceptors

* Descriptions of each assessment item are included in the MDSC 508 Student Handbook. Templates and rubrics are posted in D2L.

** *Note:* There is no Registrar-scheduled final examination

*** *Note:* a passing grade on individual components of the course is not essential for students to pass the course as a whole.

A Note regarding Writing Assignments:

Writing skills are important to academic study in all disciplines. In keeping with the University of Calgary's emphasis on the importance of academic writing in student assignments (section E.2 of 2019-20 Calendar), writing is emphasized, and the grading thereof in determining a student's mark in this course. The Bachelor of Health Sciences values excellence in writing. Competence in writing entails skills in crafting logical, clear, coherent, non-redundant sentences, paragraphs and broader arguments, as well as skills with the mechanics of writing (grammar, spelling, punctuation). The University of Calgary offers a number of instructional services through the Students' Success Centre's Writing Support Services (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/writingsupport/>) for students seeking feedback on assignments or seeking to improve their general writing skills. Students are **strongly encouraged** to take advantage of these programs.

Grading Scheme:

A+ 97-100%	B+ 80-84%	C+ 65-69%	D+ 54-56%
A 90-96%	B 75-79%	C 60-64%	D 50-53%
A- 85-89%	B- 70-74%	C- 57-59%	F 0-49%

Missed Components of Term Work:

Late research proposals, progress reports or theses will automatically receive a mark of zero.

The only exceptions to this policy are those in keeping with the *University of Calgary Calendar* (debilitating illness, religious conviction, or severe domestic affliction) which are received, in writing and with supporting documentation. Traffic jams and late or full busses are common events in Calgary and are NOT acceptable reasons for late arrivals to classes, meetings and examinations. Plan for transportation delays. Plan for computer glitches. Religious observances do not automatically excuse late submissions. Please note that while absences are permitted for religious reasons, students are responsible for providing advance (14-day) notice and

adhering to the other guidelines on this subject, as outlined in the *University of Calgary Calendar*. (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-4.html>).

It is the agreement of all Faculty involved in MDSC 508 that **extensions will NOT be granted** on any component. The only exceptions to this are those in keeping with the University Calendar (illness, religious conviction, or domestic affliction) that are received in writing and with supporting documentation. Please be advised that students should notify the instructor before the assignment deadline to discuss.

Brightspace by Desire2Learn (D2L)

Brightspace (by D2L) is located on the University of Calgary server and will be used extensively for communication with students. **It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they receive all posted communications and documents and that they receive emails sent by instructors or fellow students through D2L.** Only your @ucalgary.ca email address may be linked to D2L. Please ensure that you are regularly checking your @ucalgary.ca account.

A laptop, desktop, tablet or mobile device is required for D2L access. If you need help accessing or using D2L, please visit the Desire2Learn resource page for students: <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/d2l-student/>.

Policies Governing the Course:

Attendance

Attendance is **mandatory** for all Friday 'Research Exchange' and 'Research in Progress' presentation sessions. **Please notify the course coordinators and TAs via email in advance if you plan to be absent from an afternoon presentation session. Absences will be excused in keeping with the University of Calgary Calendar** (debilitating illness, religious conviction, or domestic affliction) **or at the discretion of the course coordinators, and only when the notice is received in writing and with supporting documentation.** A 1% deduction (from the 8% available) on the grade assigned for participation will be assessed for every unexcused absence.

Conduct During Classes

This course will involve class discussions and sharing of ideas and personal views. The classroom should be respected as a safe place to share ideas without judgement - a community in which we can all learn from one another. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a mature and courteous manner during ALL sessions. Students are expected to frame their comments and questions to the instructor and to peers in respectful and appropriate language, always maintaining sensitivity towards the topic.

Students are expected to take notes during each session and should not rely solely on handout material supplied by the instructors.

Electronic Devices

The Bachelor of Health Sciences program aims to create a supportive and respectful learning environment for all students. Research studies have found that student use of electronic devices (laptops, tablets, etc) in the classroom negatively affects the learning of both the user

and those sitting nearby. Inappropriate use of laptops is also disruptive to your fellow classmates and disrespectful to the lecturer. The use of laptops and other electronic note-taking devices is permitted for the MDSC 508 lectures and workshop sessions; however, their use in the classroom should be for course-related work/note-taking only. Please do **NOT surf the web, check email or do other unrelated work**. Students who use their laptops inappropriately or are otherwise disruptive during lectures will be asked to leave. **The use of laptops and other electronic devices will not be permitted for the MDSC 508 Student Research Exchange Sessions or the Student Research Presentation Sessions, except by presenters during their presentations.**

Cell phones (or similar devices) should **be turned off** (not merely silent) upon entering the classroom. Sending/receiving text messages or leaving the class to take calls is disruptive to the entire class and will not be tolerated unless absolutely necessary. Students who disregard this rule during lectures or tutorials will be asked to leave. These items are not permitted under any circumstance during exams.

Copyright

It is the responsibility of students and professors to ensure that materials they post or distribute to others comply with the Copyright Act and the University's Fair Dealing Guidance for Students (library.ucalgary.ca/files/library/guidance_for_students.pdf). Further information for students is available on the Copyright Office web page (<http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>)

A Note Regarding Intellectual Property

Generally speaking, course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may **NOT** be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. **The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited.** Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course **at the same time** may be allowed under fair dealing.

Notebooks, data files and other associated research documents remain the property of the research supervisor during and upon completion of MDSC 508.

Academic Accommodations Based on Disability or Medical Condition

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Accommodations on Protected Grounds other than Disability

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor or to the designated BHSc program contact, Mrs. Jennifer Logan (jljlogan@ucalgary.ca), or to Dr. Ebba Kurz, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Health and Science

Education, Cumming School of Medicine. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Academic Misconduct

The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. The University of Calgary has created rules to govern all its members regarding the creation of knowledge and the demonstration of knowledge having been learned. For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html> Students are expected to be familiar with these standards and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Please know that the University and the Cumming School of Medicine take these rules seriously. **All incidences of academic dishonesty in this course, such as cheating and plagiarism, will be reported to the Associate Dean for investigation;** infractions will be noted on the record of a student found to be guilty.

Recording of Lectures

Audio or video recording of lectures is prohibited except where explicit permission has been received from the instructor.

Other Important Information

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary

Appeals

If there is a concern with the course, academic matter or a grade, first communicate with the instructor. If these concerns cannot be resolved, students can proceed with an academic appeal, as per Section I of the University Calendar. Students must follow the official reappraisal/appeal process and may contact the Student Ombuds' Office (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds>) for assistance with this and with any other academic concerns, including academic and non-academic misconduct. Students should be aware that concerns about graded term work may only be initiated **within 10 days** of first being notified of the grade. <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

Resources for Support of Student Learning, Success, Safety and Wellness

Student Success Centre	http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/
Student Wellness Centre	http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/
Distress Centre	http://www.distresscentre.com/
Library Resources	http://library.ucalgary.ca

Wellness and Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and

supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370 MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

Student Ombuds' Office

The Student Ombuds' Office supports and provides a safe, neutral space for students. For more information, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/ or email ombuds@ucalgary.ca

BHSc Student Faculty Liaison Committee (SFLC)

The BHSc SFLC, with elected representatives from all majors, serves to raise issues of interest to BHSc students to the program administration, including items pertaining to curriculum, scheduling and events. A list of current representatives can be found on the BHSc website.

Student Union (SU) Information

The SU Vice-President Academic can be reached at (403) 220-3911 or suvpaca@ucalgary.ca; the SU representatives for the Cumming School of Medicine can be reached at medrep1@su.ucalgary.ca or medrep2@su.ucalgary.ca.

Student Success Centre

The Student Success Centre provides services and programs to ensure students can make the most of their time at the University of Calgary. Our advisors, learning support staff, and writing support staff assist students in enhancing their skills and achieving their academic goals. They provide tailored learning support and advising programs, as well as one-on-one services, free of charge to all undergraduate and graduate students. For more information visit: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success>

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points

As part of the University of Calgary Emergency Evacuation plan, students, faculty, and staff should locate the closest Assembly Point in case of Fire Alarm. Safety signage is posted throughout the campus showing the locations and the possible route to these locations. All students, faculty, and staff are expected to promptly make their way to the nearest Assembly Point if the Fire Alarm is activated. No one is to return into campus facilities until an all clear is given to the warden in charge of the Assembly Area. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/node/55>
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/building-evacuation/assembly-points>

Safewalk

Campus security will escort individuals, day or night, anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences Centre, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). Call 403-220-5333 or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the

yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths. Please ensure your personal safety by taking advantage of this service.

The following is a list of topics for class, associated readings, and assignment / exam due dates. Please note that unforeseen circumstances may cause changes to the schedule with respect to the timing of topics and readings. Students will be notified of all changes in a timely manner by way of email and D2L announcements. **The thesis submission and oral exam dates are firm and will not be altered.**

Date	Topics	Instructor / Guest lecturer	Rooms – CHECK D2L	Assignments & Due Dates
Sept. 6	Introduction & Ethics	Slater/Ting/ Urrego/Pethrick	<i>Theatre 4</i>	
Sept. 13	Research Proposal Overview	Slater/Ting/ Urrego/Pethrick	Clara Christie	
Sept. 20	Writing workshop	Urrego	Theatre 4	
Sept 27	Managing student-supervisor relationships	Pethrick/Urrego	Clara Christie	
Oct. 4	Student Research Time	<i>TA drop in session</i>	2 rooms for drop in	
Oct 11	Student Research Time	Preceptor Welcome & Orientation	Clara Christie	Proposal due
Oct 18	Presentation Tips Research Exchange – DEMO	Groups meet Preceptors	Theatre 4	
Oct 25*	Student Research Exchange I	Preceptor Groups	small rooms for groups	Ethics Due (if required for project)
Nov. 1*	Student Research Exchange II	Preceptor Groups	small rooms for groups	
Nov 8	Student Research Time	<i>TA drop in session</i>	2 rooms for drop in	
Nov. 10-16	<i>Mid Term break</i>	<i>NO CLASS</i>		
Nov. 22	Student Research Time	<i>TA drop in session</i>	2 rooms for drop in	
Nov. 29	Student Research Time	<i>TA drop in session</i>	2 rooms for drop in	
Dec. 6	Thesis Preparation Session	Ting/Pethrick Slater/Urrego	Biomed/BINF - Clara Christie HSOC - G500	
Jan 6 Jan 13	Start term Start of classes			
Jan. 17	Research Presentation examples	Biomed/BINF/HSOC e.g TBD	Theatre 4	Progress Report due
Jan. 24*	One-on-One Progress Meetings	Individual Preceptor Meeting	small rooms for groups	
Jan. 31*	Student Presentation I	Preceptor Groups	small rooms for groups	
Feb. 7*	Student Presentation II	Preceptor Groups	small rooms for groups	
Feb. 14*	Student Presentation III	Preceptor Groups	small rooms for groups	
Feb. 16- 22	<i>Reading Week</i>	<i>NO CLASS</i>		
Feb. 28*	Student Presentation IV	Preceptor Groups	small rooms for groups	

Mar 6*	Student Presentation V	Preceptor Groups	small rooms for groups	Draft thesis
Mar 13	Student Research Time	<i>TA drop in session</i>	2 rooms for drop in	
Mar 20	Student Research Time			Final Thesis due
Mar 27	Tips for Oral Defense	Slater/Ting/ Urrego/Pethrick	Clara Christie	
Apr. 3*	Oral Examinations 1:00-5:00pm		Xx rooms TBD	
Apr. 3	Course Celebration! 5:00pm		TBD	
Apr.10	Good Friday			
Apr. 15	Last day of scheduled classes			

***mandatory student attendance.**