Land Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge the Syilx Okanagan Nation and their peoples, in whose traditional, ancestral, unceded territory UBC Okanagan is situated. I invite us to learn more about the lands, and the original caretakers of the lands, where we live and have lived, and to reflect on the impact of colonization and the role that we can each play in reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

HES 492: Honours Program

Instructor: Dr. Kathleen A. Martin Ginis

Duration: Winter Term 1 (2026) and Winter Term 2 (2027)

Course Location: SCI 236

Class Hours: Class is scheduled Fridays 8:00 AM-11:00 AM. See course schedule (page 4) for specific dates and times.

Course Format

This course takes place over two semesters. Supervisor and student must agree on the topic of the research. Typically, students should expect to spend a minimum of 10-12 hours per week on their project, with potentially more time allocated during the data collection stage. However, the student and supervisor should discuss the time commitment, and expectations must be clarified before starting the project.

Ideally, the data collection phase of the project should be completed by the end of February. The months of March and April can then be devoted to analysis and writing. Importantly, the final grade does not necessarily depend upon confirming or refuting the hypothesis, or the experiment 'working' as predicted. Rather, the final grade reflects the student's intellectual involvement and commitment to performing the project, within the context of completing the course evaluation components.

This seminar class meets every other week. On the Fridays when we do not meet, asynchronous course activities and materials will be posted on Canvas between 8:00 and 11:00 AM. These activities and materials may include short pre-recorded lectures, self-assessments, videos, and readings. These activities will take less than an hour to complete. Students will be expected to complete the asynchronous activities in preparation for the following week's class meeting.

Course Overview, Content and Objectives

The objective of the Honours Program is to provide students with a supervised experience of conducting a research project. HES 492 has both a research project component and an in-class seminar component. Together, the course components are designed to teach students the skills necessary to carry out independent research. Over the course of two terms, students will conduct research and acquire scientific skills under the supervision of an HES Faculty member. With the permission of the course instructor, projects may be supervised by a faculty member in a department other than HES. During the seminar portion of the course, students will learn fundamentals of the research planning, implementation, and dissemination processes.

HES 492:Honours Program
2026-2027

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to…

1.	formulate a scientific hypothesis and/or research question
2.	design and conduct a project to test the hypothesis/answer the research question
3.	write all sections of a thesis document
4.	present a research proposal and defend project findings in a verbal presentation format

Assessments of Learning

The final mark is out of 100%, and is based on the following components:	
a.	Performance in the research setting (e.g., lab work, field work): 20%
b.	A final thesis paper: 55% (due mid-late April as determined by the supervisor)
c.	Oral presentation of the thesis project: 15%
d.	Participation in seminars: 10%
a.	**Performance in the Research Setting (20%; Assesses Learning Outcomes 1 and 2)**
•	The project supervisor will grade the quality of the performance
b.	**Final Thesis Paper (55%; Assesses Learning Outcomes 1, 2, and 3)**
•	A final paper of 25-30 pages (double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, page margins of at least 2.5 cm) inclusive of references, tables, and figures. Appendices may be included and do not count toward the 25-30 pages.
•	A paper written in the format of a typical journal article with an Abstract, Introduction, Method, Results, Discussion, References, Tables, etc.
•	The project supervisor will grade the thesis paper
c.	**Oral Presentation (15%; Assesses Learning Outcome 4)**
•	A conference-style presentation of the thesis project
•	10-12 minutes duration followed by time for supervisor and audience questions
•	Presentations will be open to students, faculty, public, etc. at an event designed to showcase students' work (e.g., Undergraduate Thesis Day)
•	The supervisor and the course coordinator will grade the presentation (with each evaluator contributing equally to the final presentation mark)

d. Participation in Seminars (10%; Assesses Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4)
• Attendance and active participation in seminars are required
• The seminar leader/professor will grade seminar participation
• Students will have 8 opportunities to earn participation marks. If you complete 4 out of 8 participation activities you will earn 5%. If you complete less than 4 activities, you will receive 0%. Once you have completed 4 activities, all remaining activities are worth 2.5% each (to a maximum of 10%). Thus, completion of 6/8 activities will earn you the full 10%. There are no make-ups for missed seminar participation activities.

Late policy

Late participation-mark activities will not be accepted (see description of how participation marks are allocated, above). Please speak to your thesis supervisor or the seminar leader (Dr. Kathleen Martin Ginis) if you are concerned about meeting a course milestone/deadline.

Missed exam policy

This course does not have any exams.

Missed Activity Policy:

Late participation-mark activities will not be accepted (see description of how participation marks are allocated, above).

Passing criteria

50% is a passing mark.

Learning Materials

Required readings and videos will be uploaded into Canvas as asynchronous activities. Students will work with their supervisors to identify readings relevant to the research project.

Course Schedule

DATE	#	TOPIC
	TERM 1	
Sept 11 0900-1100	1	Welcome to HES 492 What to Expect When You're Doing a Thesis
September 18 0900-1100	2	Writing the Research Question and Conducting Searches of the Scientific Literature
September 25 0900-1100	3	Research Ethics: Why and How
October 16 0900-1100	4	Crafting the Introduction Section of Your Thesis
October 30 0900-1100	5	Preparing and Delivering an Effective Scientific Presentation
November 6 0900-1100	6	Writing the Methods Section of Your Thesis
Nov 9-13		Mid-term break
November 27 *0800-1100*	7	Student Research Proposal Presentations
	TERM 2	
January 8 0900-1100	8	Researcher Positionality
January 22 0900-1100	9	When Good Research Goes Bad: Avoiding and Managing Common Research Challenges
February 5 0900-1100	10	Analyzing your Data and Writing the Results
Feb 15-20		Mid-term break
February 26 0900-1100	11	Writing the Discussion Section of Your Thesis
March 5 0900-1100	12	Workshop: Preparing an Abstract
March TBC 0900-1100	13	Thesis Wrap-Up
April 2 *0800-1200*	14	Thesis Presentations

Other Course Policies

UBC Values
UBC creates an exceptional learning environment that fosters global citizenship, advances a civil and sustainable society, and supports outstanding research to serve the people of British Columbia, Canada, and the world. UBC's core values are excellence, integrity, respect, academic freedom, and accountability.

Policies and Regulations
Visit UBC Okanagan's Academic Calendar for a list of campus-wide regulations and policies, as well as term dates and deadlines.

Resources to Support Student Success
Visit the Student Support and Resources page to find one-on-one help or explore resources to support your experience at UBC Okanagan, as well as many other campus services available to all students.

Academic Integrity

The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work. Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) lead to the breakdown of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise and harsh sanctions are imposed. For example, incidences of plagiarism or cheating usually result in a failing grade or mark of zero on the assignment or in the course. Careful records are kept to monitor and prevent recidivism.

A more detailed description of academic integrity, including the University's policies and procedures, may be found in the Academic Calendar.

A statement on academic misconduct

The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. Violations of academic integrity (i.e., academic misconduct) lead to the breakdown of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise and harsh sanctions are imposed. For example, incidences of plagiarism or cheating may result in a mark of zero on the assignment or exam and more serious consequences may apply if the matter is referred for consideration for academic discipline. Careful records are kept to monitor and prevent recurrences. Any instance of cheating or taking credit for someone else's work, whether intentionally or unintentionally, can and often will result in at minimum a grade of zero for the assignment, and these cases will be reported to the Head of the Department and Associate Dean Academic of the Faculty.

Use of generative artificial intelligence (AI):
Please speak to your supervisor about their policy regarding the use of GenAI for completing your thesis. With regard to completing the participation activities for this course, **Do not use generative artificial intelligence (AI)**: The use of generative AI tools, including ChatGPT and other similar tools, to complete

or support the completion of any form of assignment or assessment in this course is not allowed and would be considered academic misconduct. Learn more through the Generative AI website.

Resources to Support Student Success:

UBC Okanagan Disability Resource Centre
The DRC facilitates disability-related accommodations and programming initiatives to remove barriers for students with disabilities and ongoing medical conditions. If you require academic accommodations to achieve the objectives of a course please contact the DRC at:
Email: drc.questions@ubc.ca
Web: www.students.ok.ubc.ca/drc

UBC Okanagan Equity and Inclusion Office
Through leadership, vision, and collaborative action, the Equity & Inclusion Office (EIO) develops action strategies in support of efforts to embed equity and inclusion in the daily operations across the campus. The EIO provides education and training from cultivating respectful, inclusive spaces and communities to understanding unconscious/implicit bias and its operation within in campus environments. UBC Policy 3 prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of BC's Human Rights Code. If you require assistance related to an issue of equity, educational programs, discrimination or harassment please contact the EIO.
Email: equity.ubco@ubc.ca
Web: www.equity.ok.ubc.ca

Student Wellness
At UBC Okanagan health services to students are provided by Student Wellness. Nurses, physicians and counsellors provide health care and counselling related to physical health, emotional/mental health and sexual/reproductive health concerns. As well, health promotion, education and research activities are provided to the campus community. If you require assistance with your health, please contact Student Wellness for more information or to book an appointment.
Email: healthwellness.okanagan@ubc.ca
Web: www.students.ok.ubc.ca/health-wellness

Office of the Ombudperson
The Office of the Ombudsperson for Students is an independent, confidential and impartial resource to ensure students are treated fairly. The Ombuds Office helps students navigate campus-related fairness concerns. They work with UBC community members individually and at the systemic level to ensure students are treated fairly and can learn, work and live in a fair, equitable and respectful environment. Ombuds helps students gain clarity on UBC policies and procedures, explore options, identify next steps, recommend resources, plan strategies and receive objective feedback to promote constructive problem solving. If you require assistance, please feel free to reach out for more information or to arrange an appointment.
Email: ombuds.office.ok@ubc.ca
Web: www.ombudsoffice.ubc.ca

Student Learning Hub
The Student Learning Hub is your go-to resource for free math, science, writing, and language learning support. The Hub welcomes undergraduate students from all disciplines and year levels to access a

range of supports that include **tutoring in math, sciences, languages, and writing, as well as help with study skills and learning strategies**. Students are encouraged to visit often and early to build the skills, strategies and behaviors that are essential to being a confident and independent learner. For more information, please visit the Hub's website.
Email: learning.hub@ubc.ca
Web: www.students.ok.ubc.ca/slh

The Global Engagement Office
The Global Engagement Office provides advising and resources to assist International students in navigating immigration, health insurance, and settlement matters, as well as opportunities for intercultural learning, and resources for Go Global experiences available to all UBC Okanagan students, and more.
Email: ubco.global@ubc.ca
Web: www.students.ok.ubc.ca/global-engagement-office/

Safewalk
Don't want to walk alone? Not too sure how to get somewhere on campus? Call Safewalk at **250-807-8076**. Web: www.security.ok.ubc.ca

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