

2024-25 Anatomy and Cell Biology 9566 & 9555

A Graduate Seminar in Professionalism

Meeting in the Fall Term

Meeting in separate cohorts for Winter Term

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1. Overall Course Objectives:

- A) Create an inclusive and communicative environment to foster good comportment of young professionals. In this environment many discussions of experiences, expansion on research and professional topics, and sharing of current research topics, skills, and writing practices will be actively undertaken.
- B) Provide an opportunity for individuals to practice new or refine existing communication skills (writing, presenting, debating, and discussing) while expanding and integrating their command of the literature.
- C) Enumerate achievement, reflect on experiences, and build a tangible dossier of professional skills, experiences, and milestones in preparation for the next step in education, employment, ad life.
- D) Investigate and employ the institutional research, professional development, and support structure as a class at the Taylor Library, the Student Success Centre and as individuals at various continuing professional development opportunities at Schulich or in the greater UWO or London community.

2. Two Terms – Two Sets of Objectives

2. a) Fall Term – please see [OWL](#) for weekly Topics.

We are combined cohort of Clinical Anatomy and ACB 9555 BioScience Seminar for the fall term:

Components of becoming young professionals will be introduced and practiced through these general objectives:

- recognize research fidelity, dos and don'ts
- discuss the art of grant writing
- discover, enumerate and examine your personality traits
- explore career options within and outside of academia
- reflecting on how to reflect deeply
- develop literature search, archive, and citation skills
- appraise and critical review of literature

- practice writing with purpose and influence
- explore careers options.
- develop professional profile.
- establish a comprehension of your personal strengths and challenges.

2b) Winter Term –Journal Club

Students will stream into journal clubs of topical research. For example, ACB 9555 with their course coordinator while ACB 9566 - Clinical Anatomy students will conduct our Journal Club in MSB 447.

Topics of interest will be identified through the scholarly literature by participants in the course and will include:

- discuss anatomical educational trends, practices, and techniques.
- evaluate, discuss, and debate scholarly research by leading and participating in weekly discussions.
- organize and lead 2 journal club discussions with your cohort online
- practice evaluating your peers critically
- provide and receive constructive feedback.

The Journal Club is conducted weekly with normally 2 manuscripts presented.

For the first iteration, a wiki environment within OWL where students will both select a manuscript from a pre-determined selection of relevant manuscripts and determine their presentation date. For the second iteration, students choose their date/time and select a manuscript individually.

The format of manuscript presentation and discussion facilitation is up to the presenter. Activities, discussions, and presentations must be under 50mins.

3. Criteria for evaluation ACB 9566

3a) Fall Term 40%

5% - Preparation and **Participation** Fall Term (pre-work and contributions to class discussion)

5% - completed [Canadian Common CV](#)

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Extracurricular Experience

Assignment: (30% of grade)

- 1) Amass some unique experiences outside the laboratory, classroom, peer group or friends.
- 2) Think about what these experiences mean to you.
- 3) Write 3 reflections on any the experiences within the categories described above.
- 4) Develop a table of contents for your Career Portfolio.

Breakdown of Grade:

- 5% - Proposed Table of Contents (TOC) for your **Career Portfolio** ([see below](#))
- 5% - Complete the online course of the [The Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans \(TCPS 2\)](#)
 - It's required at Western in order undertake research involving humans.
 - Certificate Granted
- 20% - Four Reflections on Extracurricular personal growth activities.
 - i) 5% - Complete your personal Power Skills Assessment
 - (required for class so it's already done)
 - Reflect on the results with a 2-page (maximum) personal reflection on the results

AND
 - ii) 5% - Attend and participate in at least one [Own Your Future Workshop](#)
 - Less than 2-page personal reflection on this document

AND
 - iii) 5% - Participate in some type of character-building event, workshop, retreat, webinar etc. Unsure if you think it's appropriate, just ask me.
 - Less than 2-page personal reflection on this document

AND
 - iv) 5% - Undertake an Informational Interview with a person of your choice.
 - Less than 2-page personal reflection on this document

3b) Winter Term 60%

- i) **5%** - 5% - Attend and participate in at least one [Own Your Future Workshop](#)
 - Less than 2-page personal reflection on this document
- ii) **15%** - Weekly Journal Club - Leading Discussions utilizing skills, techniques, and experimenting with your presentation style (TATP for example) and/or leading discussions
- iii) **40%** - *Career Portfolio* - **Due Monday, March 10, 2025**

4. Over Riding Themes Throughout the Course related to Rubric

4a) Magnitude and Responsibilities of Research

Understanding Research Ethics

Register and complete the online modules that guides the principles of the university's Office of Research Ethics through the Tri-Council Policy Statement. The Tri-Council consists of three agencies that grant research monies to institutions like Western. The agencies are the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). This exercise will take

approximately 3 hours and you will receive a certificate at the successful completion. This certificate will accompany your Career Portfolio.

- [link to TTCP2 Core Ethics](#)
- you will get a certificate.
- you need to write a **reflection** on the experience and include in your career portfolio.

4b) Do you Know what's out there?

Owning Your Future

You have a wonderful resource at your fingertips, and it is absolutely free, you've essentially already paid for it with your tuition! The program was initially developed for doctoral students, but our class is encouraged to attend any workshop we wish!

There is pre-work to undertake however, it is called a Power Skills Assessment. This in-depth survey will take 30-45 minutes. It should be commenced early in the term at <https://www.uwo.ca/ownyourfuture/>. Your answers are compiled electronically, the confidential results are sent back to your uwo login email address.

Things to consider while you take the survey and receive results:

- Take your time to complete the questionnaire.
 - Think about how your answers refer to you currently, not where you'd like to be.
- Upon receiving the results (usually less than 5 mins) study them and decide how they best represent your professional skill set, don't worry, we will have a class on this so you are set up well. These skills are labile and of course change with experience so you can take the survey repeatedly over the course of your graduate experience to monitor how you've changed.
- Using your Power Skills Assessment results as a guide, you now can explore the calendar to choose workshops that might address some deficiencies or unknowns. The schedule is flexible:
- <https://connect.uwo.ca/events/ownyourfuture.htm> they start as early as Sept 18th so consider it before we cover the class on October 31st.
- Based on your skills assessment, choose **at least 2 workshops** to attend over the year together (there is flexibility in the evaluation rubric for when you attend)

4c) Prepare for Happenstance

Career Portfolio

There is no single form of a good career portfolio. Please look online for a plethora of sources online and/or the guide on our OWL site. We will have an entire session on this important aspect of your course as it entails both an online portion (LinkedIn) and a more private portion where your creativity and reflections will reside.

- This is the major assignment for the course and it is due in March.
- **DO NOT WAIT** too late to start as it cannot be completed quickly
- Some components require work in the fall term or perhaps digging around at your home to find pertinent materials and artifacts, *this is not a last-minute exercise*

Final Thoughts

Please don't think of this as a stand-alone course. Your professors have integrated people and their experiences to create a rich course like non other. Consider it a practice point for you to integrate emerging skills, tools, and ideas as you experiment with a wide girth of your academic and professional life. In order to be successful here you'll need cooperation; effort; forward planning; yes, for sure some perspiration; open mindedness; some passion would be nice; and maybe a pen.

Graduate school is a place to reinvent aspects of your being. Retain and strengthen what you want while altering or discarding what distracts you from your goals. In all cases, you are the master of the failures and successes and experiences along the way represent important learning opportunities.