

## EDPE 704/706: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR

Fall 2021 (3 credits) | Thursdays 2:35-5:35 PM

431 Education Bldg | <https://mcgill.zoom.us/j/3943062757>

---

**Instructor:** Dr. Nathan C. Hall  
**Email:** nathan.c.hall@mcgill.ca

**Office Hours:** By appointment

---

### **Course Objectives**

This professional development seminar provides an overview of the doctoral program experience and outlines effective strategies for conducting literature reviews, selecting a dissertation topic, and applying for doctoral funding. This course also offers insights into recent research developments in identifying questionable research practices, enhancing replicability of findings, and adopting open science protocols. Finally, this seminar outlines useful strategies for public engagement via social media, and explores the transferability of doctoral competencies to non-academic careers in the public and private sectors.

The overall goal of this seminar is to assist first- and second-year PhD students in applying the knowledge gained in various content and methods courses to their dissertation research. This seminar is additionally intended to facilitate the timely completion of the comprehensive examination paper in the second term of the second PhD year and subsequent submission of an initial draft of the dissertation research proposal. This course is further designed to introduce PhD students to current overarching research issues and challenges with respect to online engagement and research ethics, as well as finding research-intensive employment.

Specific learning outcomes include:

- An analytic capacity to conduct critical reviews of literature and the ability to present the synthesis of literature in a lucid and logical manner;
- The ability to articulate a coherent and global question for the comprehensive examination;
- The ability to prepare a concise proposal for a traditional or manuscript-based dissertation (i.e., problem statement, identification of gaps in reviewed literature, research questions, proposed methodology);
- Requisite capacities for professional development and engagement in a contemporary research milieu as a doctoral student and in employment contexts.

In addition to brief lectures, guest online lectures by leading experts, and literature review tasks, the seminar affords multiple opportunities to conduct in-class presentations as preparation for research talks. Students are strongly encouraged to contribute to discussions and to invite their dissertation supervisors/committee to view course presentations related to their research. All required course readings are indicated in the schedule below and available for download in myCourses. McGill network access (VPN) may be required to access article links.

### **Course Requirements**

Weekly class sessions will consist of student-led activities, group discussions, chats with guest speakers, and research presentations, with the topics addressed consisting of the assigned readings addressing for that week. Pre-recorded guest lectures may also be available in myCourses and may be viewed prior to class. Each presentation assignment can be completed (a) in-person or (b) via Zoom during the regularly scheduled class session, or (c) submitted as a pre-recorded video upload (or voice-annotated PPT) to myCourses prior to the deadline for viewing by your classmates. Please indicate your presentation preference to the instructor via email one week before the presentation date.

Final course grades are comprised of presentations and submitted assignments intended to facilitate professional competencies. In accordance with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

### 1. Participation (10%)

You are expected to attend weekly class sessions either in-person or remotely via Zoom, having prepared questions/comments after viewing the corresponding class videos and reviewing required readings for that week. Grading criteria will assess active contributions to class discussions based on having previously read the assigned readings as well as the types of questions and feedback posed to classmates or guest speakers (higher-order vs. factual questions).

### 2. Funding Presentation (Sept. 9; 10%)

All students are required to prepare a 5-10 minute presentation outlining useful information and advice concerning the preparation of graduate fellowship applications (e.g., SSHRC, FRQSC), or other local, national, and international scholarships available to graduate students. Students may also outline advice/informational documentation pertaining to internship/exchange activities for graduate students (e.g., MITACS, DAAD), as well as opportunities available internally to support research or training experiences (e.g., GREAT, mobility awards). It is expected that funding presentations will not simply list readily available online information but provide concrete strategies for preparing competitive applications. If you are registered in EDPE 706, please select a funding opportunity on which you did not present in EDPE 704 (e.g., Faculty of Education awards). On-time submissions are encouraged to allow for potential use by classmates prior to the FRQSC submission deadline.

### 3. Proposal Presentation (Oct. 21; 20%)

Provide a 15-20 minute presentation outlining a *potential dissertation topic* by specifying a relevant (a) target population (e.g., teachers, undergraduates), (b) general theoretical perspective (e.g., self-regulation, expectancy-value theory), (c) research objective (e.g., exploratory research question), (d) methodological approach (e.g., case study, action research, quantitative, longitudinal, descriptive, experimental), (e) study measures (e.g., possible questionnaires, interview questions, outcomes), and (f) method of analysis (e.g., grounded theory, mediation in regression). This presentation is to be completed independently by students by Week 7 following our Week 6 class discussion on dissertation topic selection. Proposals addressing general research topics (e.g., science self-efficacy in K-12 girls) or specific hypotheses based on identified gaps in existing literature are permitted. *As this activity is completed prior to the literature review assignment in which research questions (i.e., section "c") should be more specifically delineated, it is intended mainly for students to work through a potential research topic from theory to analysis to gain a deeper appreciation of the logistical (e.g., time commitment) and analytical implications (e.g., required stats training) for different types of research questions.*

### 4. Article Presentations (30%)

**Article 1 (Sept. 23, 30; 10%):** Each student must select one required reading from Weeks 4 or 5 on *Literature Search* topics and provide a 5-10 minute in-class summary of the article (e.g., PowerPoint). In the presentation, be sure (a) outline three key points raised by the article concerning literature search strategies, rationales, or challenges, and (b) highlight specific practical implications for how the article could inform your own literature search approach.

**Article 2 (Oct. 28, Nov. 4; 10%):** Select one assigned article from Week 8 (*Questionable Research Practices*) or Week 9 (*Replicability*), and provide a 5-10 minute in-class summary of the article (e.g., PowerPoint, etc.). In the presentation, be sure to demonstrate in-depth knowledge of the article content by (a) defining key terms (e.g., "HARKING", Week 8), (b) highlighting critical arguments and themes (e.g., arguments for/against the "replication crisis", Week 9), and (c)

explaining key figures/tables that best exemplify the article's assertions or findings. If you are registered in EDPE 706, please be sure to select an article you did not present previously in EDPE 704.

**Article 3 (Nov. 11, 18; 10%):** Select one assigned article from Week 10 (*Open Science Practices*) or Week 11 (*Social Media*), and provide a 5-10 minute in-class summary of the article (see instructions for Article 2).

## **5. Literature Review Presentation (Dec. 2) & Spreadsheet (Dec. 9; 30%)**

All students will conduct a preliminary literature search and compile a detailed spreadsheet outlining at least 30 articles relevant to up to three topics of research interest. For new doctoral students (EDPE 704), this exercise serves as an exploratory analysis of the scope and nature of available literature concerning potential comprehensive exam topics. For EDPE 706 students, the literature search should result in a more focused repository of articles to be utilized during the comprehensive exam that is typically scheduled for the following term (e.g., serving as an initial reference list for the comprehensive exam proposal). Spreadsheets must include multiple descriptive columns (e.g., reference, population, theory, measures, findings) and explicit notation outlining specific search terms/criteria and be uploaded to myCourses by Week 14 (Dec. 9; no class).

Individual 5-10 minute video presentations (e.g., PowerPoint, Excel) that provide an overview of the article themes and explain the relevance of articles selected to potential comprehensive exam questions are due one week earlier (Week 13; Dec. 2). Students who complete their spreadsheet sooner (e.g., EDPE 706 students) are encouraged to complete their presentation earlier in the term to assist their classmates in spreadsheet preparation.

### **Grading**

Final course grades are assigned on a pass/fail basis with an overall grade of 85% across all course requirements (an "A" grade) required for a passing grade. Students are strongly encouraged to discuss any grading concerns directly with the instructor. In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the course content and grading rubrics are subject to change.

### **Class Policies**

- **Class Participation & Conduct**

Attending class sessions prepared to contribute meaningfully to group discussion is an absolute prerequisite. Students are expected to read the assigned material and view posted videos (lectures, guest lectures) before each class, contribute to discussions during class sessions concerning the readings, and attend each class except in the case of illness, official closures, or extenuating circumstances. Students are responsible for obtaining missed class content from other students or the instructor. All electronic devices should be silenced prior to class, with online attendees muting their microphone while not speaking to minimize noise disruptions.

If online class sessions are to be recorded (e.g., for students who cannot attend live), you will be notified via the Zoom application. By remaining in sessions that are recorded, you agree to the recording, understand that the recording will be made available in myCourses to students registered in the course, and understand that your image, voice, and name will be disclosed to your classmates. If you do not wish to be recorded, please clearly inform the instructor ASAP in order to cancel recording or provide alternate a participation alternative.

Although it is encouraged that you enable your webcam if attending the class online to help foster community and participation, video participation is not required. However, live audio communication (e.g., via microphone, telephone) is required during online class attendance to facilitate participation and provide feedback to your classmates. If you are unable to participate in in-person or online class sessions due to extenuating circumstances, please indicate this to the instructor to allow for alternate participation options to be

coordinated. For more information on effective online participation in McGill courses, please review the TLS Learning Resources website (<https://www.mcgill.ca/tls/students/learning-resources/learning-zoom>).

- **Late Submissions**

Late project submissions will be penalized 10% per day. Ensure your files are backed-up and ready for submission before they are due, and allow yourself sufficient time prior to the deadline to confirm your files are uploaded/functional. All reported assignment submission issues concerning university technology (e.g., email, myCourses) must be directly confirmed by McGill ICS personnel to the instructor.

- **Deadline Extensions & Changes**

Deadline extensions and changes may be considered if the request is made in writing (e.g., via email) and a prior notice of absence and/or appropriate formal documentation regarding excusable absences is provided. Possible excusable absences include illness (e.g., physician note, hospital record), funerals (e.g., travel receipts, obituary), religious observances, participation in university activities, and extenuating circumstances. Revised deadlines *must be within one week* of the original deadline. Class activity dates/content may be exchanged between students in case of scheduling difficulties.

- **Academic Integrity**

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism, and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see [www.mcgill.ca/integrity](http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity) for more information). In this course, plagiarism is defined as 5 or more words in a row from source other than your own original writing for this class (e.g., textbook, website, article, another paper, etc.) that is not included within quotation marks and followed by a parenthetical source notations. Papers suspected of plagiarism will be reviewed using online plagiarism scanning software including Ouriginal/Urkund, a text-matching program integrated within myCourses. As per the zero-tolerance plagiarism policy for this course, submissions in which plagiarism is observed will be forwarded to Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies for disciplinary action.

Instructor-generated course materials (e.g., handouts, notes, summaries, exam questions, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow-up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures. Additional policies governing academic issues that affect students are found in the McGill Charter of Students' Rights (Handbook Chapter 1). Additional policies governing academic issues that affect students are found in the Handbook on Student Rights and Responsibilities, Academic Integrity and Code of Conduct (online at <https://www.mcgill.ca/deanofstudents/students/student-rights-responsibilities>). With respect to sharing of video content for this course, it is your responsibility to ensure that video links (e.g., unlisted YouTube videos) and class discussion videos are not reproduced or shared in the public domain. You may use this content for your educational (and research) purposes, but you cannot allow others to use it by sharing or selling to others online.

- **Students with Disabilities**

If you are a student with a physical or learning disability, please first contact the Office for Students with Disabilities (514-398-6009; <http://www.mcgill.ca/osd>), and then myself as soon as possible thereafter to make necessary arrangements. Students **MUST** have registered with the OSD and informed the instructor at least two weeks prior to a course deadline in the case of disability-related deadline changes. Explanations for assignment or grade difficulties involving learning disabilities not previously documented by OSD will not be accepted.

- **Religious Observances**

It is the policy of McGill University that students not be penalized for religious observances. Students will be allowed, whenever possible, deadline extensions and presentation date changes due to such absences. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor at least two weeks before the absence, at which time arrangements will be made for deadline changes.

- **Course Evaluation**

Students are strongly encouraged to fill out the Mercury online evaluation for this course at the end of term. Online course evaluations serve primarily as a tool towards teaching improvement, informing students about courses, and as one of the elements for evaluating the teaching performance of staff for reappointment, tenure, and promotion. For more information consult the [TLS Mercury Course Evaluations website](#).

- **Course Communication**

Emails will be sent to the class in the event of class cancellations or announcements and are the best way to contact the instructor (nathan.c.hall@mcgill.ca). Ensure all direct email communication with the instructor is from a McGill email addresses (to verify identity), and allow at least 2 business days for an email reply from the instructor. The course syllabus, videos, readings, and grades are also accessible through the myCourses system. To avoid problems with myCourses functionality, ensure the java software on your computer is up to date and click "Support / System Check" on your myCourses home page to ensure your browser is properly configured.

- **Acknowledgements**

Weeks 4-6 of this syllabus were based on the Fall 2016 EDPE 704/706 syllabus by Dr. Alenoush Saroyan (McGill).

## Course Schedule

| Week | Date     | Topics  | Deadlines                          | Readings  |
|------|----------|---|------------------------------------|---|
| 1    | Sept. 2  | <b>Introduction &amp; Doctoral Studies Overview</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Guest: Anna Sverdlik (video)</i></li> </ul>  |                                    | Sverdlik et al. (2018), Sverdlik & Hall (2019), Lord (2004)   |
| 2    | Sept. 9  | <b>Doctoral Funding Application Strategies</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Guest: Ralph Chery – MITACS (live)</i></li> </ul> | <b>Funding Presentation</b>        |   |
| 3    | Sept. 16 | <b>Literature Reviews: Search Strategies</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Guest: Emily Kingsland (live)</i></li> </ul>        |                                    |   |
| 4    | Sept. 23 | <b>Literature Reviews: Foundational Overview</b>  | <b>Article 1 Presentation</b>      | Kennedy (2007), Boote & Beile (2005, 2006), Maxwell (2006)  |
| 5    | Sept. 30 | <b>Literature Reviews: Errors &amp; Biases</b>  | <b>Article 1 Presentation</b>      | Suri & Clarke (2009), Dunkin (1996), Pigott et al. (2013)   |
| 6    | Oct. 7   | <b>Dissertation Topic Selection</b>   |                                    | Alon (2009), McGuire (1997)   |
|      | Oct. 14  | [No Class – Monday Make-Up Schedule]  |                                    |   |
| 7    | Oct. 21  | <b>Student Presentations</b>  | <b>Proposal Presentation</b>       |   |
| 8    | Oct. 28  | <b>Questionable Research Practices</b>  | <b>Article 2 Presentation</b>      | John et al. (2012), Fiedler & Schwartz (2016), Janke et al. (2018), Flake et al. (2017)                         |
| 9    | Nov. 4   | <b>Replicability in Psychological Research</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Guest James Heathers (video)</i></li> </ul>       | <b>Article 2 Presentation</b>      | Lewandowsky & Oberauer (2020), Zwaan et al. (2018), De Boeck & Jeon (2018), Open Science Collaboration (2015)   |
| 10   | Nov. 11  | <b>Open Science Practices</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Guest: Melissa Kline (video)</i></li> </ul>                        | <b>Article 3 Presentation</b>      | McKiernan et al. (2016), Nosek & Bar-Anan (2012), Kidwell et al. (2016), Nosek et al. (2018)                    |
| 11   | Nov. 18  | <b>Academic Social Media</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Guest: Stefanie Haustein (video)</i></li> </ul>                     | <b>Article 3 Presentation</b>      | Bik & Goldstein (2013), Van Noorden (2014), Casler et al. (2013), Haustein (2018), Veletsianos & Stewart (2016) |
| 12   | Nov. 25  | <b>Non-Academic Careers</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Guests: Wood/Maymon/Hubbard (video)</i></li> </ul>                   |                                    | Pennycook & Thompson (2018), Sinche et al. (2017), Lachapelle & Burnett (2018), Maymon et al. (2019)            |
| 13   | Dec. 2   | <b>Student Presentations</b>  | <b>Review Presentation</b>         |   |
| 14   | Dec. 9   | [No Class]  | <b>Review Spreadsheet (upload)</b> |   |

## **Reading List**

### **Doctoral Studies Overview**

- Sverdluk, A., & Hall, N. C. (2019). Not just a phase: Exploring the role of doctoral program stage on motivation and well-being. *Journal of Adult and Continuing Education*. doi:10.1177/1477971419842887
- Sverdluk, A., Hall, N. C., Hubbard, K. A., & McAlpine, L. (2018). The PhD experience: A review of the factors influencing doctoral students' completion, achievement, and well-being. *International Journal of Doctoral Studies*, 13, 361-388. doi:10.28945/4113
- Lord, C. G. (2004). *A guide to PhD graduate school: How they keep score in the big leagues*. In J. M. Darley, M. P. Zanna, & H. L. Roediger III (Eds.), *The compleat academic: A career guide* (p. 3–15). American Psychological Association.

### **Synthesizing Literature**

- Kennedy, M. (2007). Defining a literature. *Educational Researcher*, 36, 139-147.
- Boote, D., & Beile, P. (2005). Scholars before researchers: On the centrality of the dissertation review in research preparation. *Educational Researcher*, 34, 6, 3-15.
- Boote, D., & Beile, P. (2006). On "Literature reviews of, and for, Educational Research": A response to the critiques of Joseph Maxwell. *Educational Researcher*, 35, 9, 32-35.
- Maxwell, J. (2006). Literature reviews of, and for, educational research: A commentary on Boote and Beile's "Scholars before researchers". *Educational Researcher*, 35, 28, 3-15.
- Suri, H., & Clarke, D. (2009). Advancements in research synthesis methods: From a methodologically inclusive perspective. *Review of Educational Research*, 79, 395-430.
- Dunkin, M. (1996). Types of errors in synthesizing research in education. *Review of Educational Research*, 66(2), 87-97.
- Pigott, T., Valentine, J., Polanin, J., Williams, T., & Canada, D. (2013). Outcome-reporting bias in education research. *Educational Researcher*, 42, 8, 424-432.

### **Dissertation Topic Selection**

- Alon, U. (2009). How to choose a good scientific problem. *Molecular Cell Forum*, 35(6), 726-728. doi: 10.1016/j.molcel.2009.09.013.
- McGuire, W. J. (1997). Creative hypothesis generating in psychology: Some useful heuristics. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 48, 1-30.

### **Questionable Research Practices**

- John, L. K., Loewenstein, G., & Prelec, D. (2012). Measuring the prevalence of questionable research practices with incentives for truth telling. *Psychological Science*, 23(5), 524-532. doi:10.1177/0956797611430953
- Fiedler, K., & Schwarz, N. (2015). Questionable research practices revisited. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 7, 45–52. doi:10.1177/1948550615612150
- Flake, J. K., Pek, J., & Hehman, E. (2017). Construct validation in social and personality research: Current practice and recommendations. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 8(4), 370–378. doi:10.1177/1948550617693063
- Janke, S., Daumiller, M., & Rudert, S. C. (2018). Dark pathways to achievement in science: Researchers' achievement goals predict engagement in Questionable Research Practices. *Social Psychology and Personality Science*, 1-9. doi:10.1177/1948550618790227

### **Replicability in Psychological Research**

- Lewandowsky, S., & Oberauer, K. (2020). Low replicability can support robust and efficient science. *Nature Communications*, 11, 358. doi:10.1038/s41467-019-14203-0
- Zwaan, R. A., Etz, A., Lucas, R. E., & Donnellan, M. B. (2018). Making replication mainstream. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, e120. doi:10.1017/S0140525X17001972
- De Boeck, P., & Jeon, M. (2018). Perceived crisis and reforms: Issues, explanations, and remedies. *Psychological Bulletin*, 144(7), 757-777. doi:10.1037/bul0000154
- Open Science Collaboration (2015). Estimating the Reproducibility of Psychological Science. *Science*, 349(6251), aac4716. doi:10.1126/science.aac4716

### **Open Science Practices**

- McKiernan, E. C., Bourne, P.E., Brown, C. T., Buck, S., Kenall, A., Lin, J., . . . Yarkoni, T. (2016). How open science helps researchers succeed. *Elife*, 5, e16800. doi:10.7554/eLife.16800
- Nosek, B. A., & Bar-Anan, Y. (2012). Scientific utopia: I. Opening scientific communication. *Psychological Inquiry*, 23, 217-243. doi:10.1080/1047840X.2012.692215
- Kidwell, M. C., Lazarević, L. B., Baranski, E., Hardwicke, T. E., Piechowski, S., Falkenberg, L.-S., . . . Nosek, B. A. (2016). Badges to acknowledge open practices: A simple, low-cost, effective method for increasing transparency. *PLoS Biology*, 14(5), e1002456. doi:10.1371/journal.pbio.1002456
- Nosek, B. A., Ebersole, C. R., DeHaven, A. C., & Mellor, D. T. (2018). The preregistration revolution. *PNAS*, 115(11), 2600-2606. doi:10.1073/pnas.1708274114

### **Academic Social Media**

- Bik H. M., & Goldstein, M. C. (2013). An introduction to social media for scientists. *PLoS Biology*, *11*(4), e1001535. doi:10.1371/journal.pbio.1001535
- Van Noorden, R. (2014). Scientists and the social network. *Nature*, *512*, 126-129. <http://www.nature.com/news/online-collaboration-scientists-and-the-social-network-1.15711>
- Casler, K., Bickel, L., & Hackett, E. (2013). Separate but equal? A comparison of participants and data gathered via Amazon's MTurk, social media, and face-to-face behavioral testing. *Computers in Human Behavior*, *29*, 2156-2160. doi:10.1016/j.chb.2013.05.009
- Haustein, S. (2018). Scholarly Twitter metrics. In W. Glänzel, H. F. Moed, U. Schmoch, & Thelwall, M. (Eds.), *Handbook of quantitative science and technology research*. Springer. <https://arxiv.org/abs/1806.02201>
- Veletsianos, G., & Stewart, B. (2016). Discreet openness: Scholars' selective and intentional self-disclosures online. *Social Media + Society*, 1-11. doi:10.1177/2056305116664222

### **Non-Academic Careers**

- Pennycook, G., & Thompson, V. A. (2018). An analysis of the Canadian cognitive psychology job market (2006-2016). *Canadian Journal of Experimental Psychology*, *72*(2), 71-80. doi:10.1037/cep0000149
- Sinche, M., Layton, R. L., Brandt, P. D., O'Connell, A. B., Hall, J. D., Freeman, A. M., . . . Brennwal, P. J. (2017). An evidence-based evaluation of transferrable skills and job satisfaction for science PhDs. *PLoS ONE*, *12*(9), e0185023. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0185023
- Lachapelle, F., & Burnett, P. J. (2018). Replacing the Canadianization generation: An examination of faculty composition from 1977 through 2017. *Canadian Review of Sociology*, *55*, 40-66. doi:10.1111/cars.12178
- Maymon, R., Chevrier, M., Amokrane, A., Lafon, M. (October, 2019). *PhDetectives: Revealing PhD competencies and employment trends in Canada*. Adoc Talent Management, in partnership with the Canadian Association of Postdoctoral Studies (CAPS), Finance Montreal, and Mitacs. Available: <https://en.adoc-tm.ca/etudes>