UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology 201 (A02); Fall 2019

Research Methods in Psychology

Lecture Time: MTh 10:00-11:20  
Class Location: CLE A127

Instructor: Dr. Andrea Piccinin  
Office: CORNETT A263,  
Phone: 250-853-3861  
Email: piccinin@uvic.ca

Office Hours: M, Th 1130-1200, or by appointment.

Teaching Assistant: Michaella Trites  
mtrites@uvic.ca

Lab Sections:
- B06 COR A128 T 830-920
- B07 COR B145 T 930-1020
- B08 COR A128 W 830-920
- B09 HSD A264 W 930-1020

Lab Instructor: Peter Sugrue  
petersugrue@uvic.ca

Prerequisites: PSYC 100A and 100B  
Units: 1.5

Course Description: How can we “know” anything about the complex and endlessly fascinating topic of human behaviour? This course provides an important introduction to why and how we conduct research in psychology. Through dedicated study, you will learn important research skills that apply to both your life and your future studies in psychology.

PSYC 201 is a required course for psychology majors and honours students, and a pre-requisite for many upper-level psychology courses. This is because it will introduce you to foundational research concepts, as well as equip you with the tools necessary to interpret and evaluate scientific knowledge. We will do our best to support you as you progress through this course.

Learning Objectives: The purpose of this course is to help you start to develop skills you can apply to evaluate, design, and implement rigorous and ethical research in psychology. Along with PSYC 300A and B, it forms the foundation for understanding and work in other psychology courses, and for critically examining reports and claims encountered in life.

Note: The material in this course is cumulative, so your success requires keeping up. Actively read the assigned text BEFORE each lecture, as lectures will not simply repeat the text. Review your notes after each lecture. Prepare fully for lab sessions. Complete all assignments. Participate fully in Lecture and Lab sessions. Ask questions. Meet with a TA or with me. Lectures, labs, readings, and assignments are designed to help you learn and understand the course concepts, and each provides different information and experience.

1 “Dedicated” because to get the most from this course (and possibly to have some fun) will require not memorization of a bunch of “definitions”, but your active engagement in the material. Please plan to spend time thinking about and applying the concepts covered in this course.
Required Text:

Additional required readings will be assigned during the course.

Assignments and Evaluation: Activities and evaluations have been selected to tap into different modes of learning, and to encourage active involvement in your own learning process. In addition, assignments help you gain feedback about your progress in the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Lab attendance and participation (1% each lab)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Lab assignments (1% each)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Tri-council Ethics Tutorial (“TCPS-2”) completion</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Tests (15% each)</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Self-study installments</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii. Self-study final report (Due: Dec 6)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Bonus: Research participation or journal article analysis</td>
<td>(3%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A) Lab Attendance and Participation (10): The lab is an important part of this course. Its purpose is to provide you with a smaller group learning experience where you will apply concepts learned in the lecture and textbook. You will also learn important skills such as library research, research design, data collection and entry, and communicating research. Given the experiential nature of this lab, attendance is essential. You will receive 0.25% for each lab attended and up to 0.75% for each lab in which you actively participate.

B) Lab Assignments (10): The purpose of these is to encourage you to engage with the course material so that it is more meaningful and memorable (i.e., completing them should help you earn a better grade on your tests and final report). You are expected to complete and turn in all of the assignments. Assignments will be graded on 0-2 scale, where 0 = “did not complete;” 1 = “completed minimal requirements;” 2 = “completed all requirements.” We will aim to provide some feedback to you on each of these, as many will help you prepare for your final paper. Assignments are due, typed, prior to the lab session.

C) Completion of TCPS-2 Ethics Tutorial: The Canadian funding “Tri-Council” has prepared a tutorial that will soon be required for all graduate students conducting research at UVic. Anyone involved in research should complete this tutorial. You can get credit towards this course for completing it. Then you can add it to your resume.

D) Tests (Oct 3, Nov 4, Dec 2): Tests are included to assess your broad content knowledge. They will be based on the course objectives, listed on page 1, and on learning objectives described at the beginning of each lecture. The tests will include approximately 30 multiple-choice questions (worth 1 mark each) and 5 short answer questions (worth 2 marks each).
E) **Self-study Report**  (Preliminary content (weekly) and Final Report (Dec 6)):
In addition to reading and evaluating research conducted by others, you will develop an observational and a self-report measure, and use them in a study of your own behaviour. Each week you will submit draft or preliminary material you will need for your Final Report. Additional details and guidelines will be provided.

F) **Bonus Marks**: Bonus marks are optional, but are related to the learning outcomes for this course. They may add up to a maximum of 3% extra toward your final grade. Bonus marks may be obtained by completing the following activities:

1. **Participation in research studies**: You may earn a bonus of up to 3% toward your final grade by participating in research conducted in the Department of Psychology, and completing the associated class worksheet (available on CourseSpaces). The purposes are (i) to experience a research study from a participant’s point of view, (ii) to apply concepts learned in class to a real research study, and (iii) to learn about studies conducted at UVic.
   - Each 30 minutes of participation will earn 0.5 point. Up to 4 points may be credited toward this course, with 2 points required for a 1% increase in your final grade. Thus, three hours of participation (and completion of one worksheet per study) would earn the full 3% extra credit.
   - For details on participating in research studies, go to the Department of Psychology website (web.uvic.ca/psyc) and click on the Research link near the top of the page, then click on the Participant Pool link at the left of the new page to see instructions for participating in the system.
   - Please note: Credits will be lost if you miss your participation appointment (see the participant pool website for more details).

2. **Journal Article Analysis**: You may alternately earn a bonus of 3% toward your final grade by completing a journal article analysis (on CourseSpaces). This bonus assignment provides practice locating and interpreting published journal articles. To participate, you will need to locate and post the link to one journal article on a topic in psychology that you are interested in, along with your responses to the Journal Article Analysis Worksheet (2%). Then, post a comment on another student’s analysis using the Journal Article Response Worksheet (1%). Please see CourseSpaces for more details.

Your final letter grade in the course will be based on the total percent earned according to the following scale: 90-100% = A+; 85-89 = A; 80-84 = A-; 77-79= B+; 73-76 = B; 70-72 = B-; 65-69 = C+; 60-64 = C; 50-59 = D; 0-49 = F. Scores at the cutoff will be rounded up at values of .5 or greater (e.g., 84.5 rounded to 85.0, but 84.4 not). For further detail, see: https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2019-09/undergrad/info/regulations/grading.html
Course Policies:

Please –

• **attend all classes and labs**, because classroom activities and discussions are designed to facilitate your learning, and because some of the topics presented in class are not in the textbook. In addition, completion and submission of in-lab or in-class activities will contribute toward your grade.

• **complete any required reading or assignments prior to the lecture/lab for which it is assigned**, so you will be able to make best use of the class time and participate in relevant class discussions. It will also help you stay on track over the course of the term.

• **arrive on time**, because announcements may occur at the beginning of class, and late arrivals are disruptive for the other students. The TAs and I cannot be responsible for information missed due to lateness or unexcused absences.

• **hand assignments in on time**, so that all students have the same amount of time to complete assignments, and so that we can return assignments to you promptly. We will aim to return assignments and exams within a week. Late assignments will incur a penalty of -5% per day. Except in cases meeting criteria for an academic concession (see below), there will be zero credit and no make-up for assignments or tests not completed in time. **Travel plans cannot be accepted as an excuse.**

• **be respectful of the classroom atmosphere** by keeping your phone silent and put away.

• **meet with me or with your TA** when you have questions or would like assistance. If the posted office hours do not work for you, please email to schedule another time to meet. We are here to help, and aim to respond to emails within 24 hours.

• Finally, as is required by the Department of Psychology, you are expected to **familiarize yourself with the “Important Course Policy Information” (attached).**

CourseSpaces Web Page

University-level learning is not about passively receiving information, but about actively creating new ways of thinking. The more you engage with and contribute to the course, the more you will get out of it. The CourseSpaces page includes features to support your active participation.

Get a UVic NetLink-ID. You must have a UVic NetLink-ID (i.e., an email address ending “@uvic.ca”) for at least 48 hours before you can access courses on CourseSpaces. If you don’t have a UVic NetLink-ID, see [https://helpdesk.uvic.ca/usource/credentials.html](https://helpdesk.uvic.ca/usource/credentials.html), call (250) 721-7687, email helpdesk@uvic.ca or go to Clearihue A004.

Check Your Computer. To access CourseSpaces on your own computer, make sure it has the appropriate software. Point a web browser to [http://www.Coursespaceshelp.uvic.ca/student/index.php](http://www.Coursespaceshelp.uvic.ca/student/index.php). Click on “Check Computer Requirements” under “Getting Started” on the left. Resolve any issues that may arise. If you need help, contact the Computer Help Desk (see above).

Edit Your Profile. Login to CourseSpaces (e.g., from [www.Coursespaces.uvic.ca](http://www.Coursespaces.uvic.ca)). Click on your name, which should appear in blue in the upper right. Click on “Edit Profile” and add whatever info you would like; if in doubt leave entries as they were. **Consider uploading a picture of yourself!**

Visit the 201 Course Page. When you log in, CourseSpaces should display a list of all courses for which you are registered that use CourseSpaces. Click on the title for our course.

Announcements: We will use this for important course-related announcements; these can also be sent to your UVic email account. **It is important to check your UVic email daily.**
**Academic Concession**
Missed quizzes, tests, labs, lab assignments, and finals will receive a score of zero unless satisfactory written evidence is provided within two weeks of the event that the problem was due to personal illness or accident, family affliction, or official University activity. [Do not submit the Request for Academic Concession form for missed tests or lab assignments; it is required only for missed final exams.]

**Registering/Withdrawing**
You are responsible for ensuring that this course is not considered to duplicate or be mutually exclusive with a course already on your transcript. If you wish to drop the course you are responsible for doing so – if you simply stop attending but stay registered you will receive an N.

**Course Drop Deadlines**
The last day for dropping a course with a 100% fee reduction is 17 September; without penalty of failure, 31 October.

**Course Add Deadline**
The last day to add (register for) this course is 20 September (i.e., to get credit for it!).
The last day to pay first-term fees without penalty is September 30.

**Students with Disabilities**
If a disability makes it difficult for you to write exams or perform other course tasks, please complete the Exam Accommodation Request form (available from the Resource Centre for Students with Disabilities) and submit it to me within the first two weeks of the course. A referral from the RCSD is required in order to receive exam accommodations. See [http://rcsd.uvic.ca/](http://rcsd.uvic.ca/).

**Questions/Problems**
*If you have a concern about the marking of a test*, please first review your notes and the text to try to understand the marking on your own. If that doesn’t work, please check with the course TA via email or during office hours. If after talking with the TA you are still not satisfied, please contact me via email or during office hours.

*If you need help understanding the material presented in the text or lecture*, you can contact the TA or me during our office hours or via email. For general help on study skills, visit [www.coun.uvic.ca/learning/](http://www.coun.uvic.ca/learning/).

*If English is not your first language* and you are having trouble because of that, please contact the English Language Centre ([www.uvcs.uvic.ca/elc/](http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/elc/)) for advice.

*If you have trouble using the research bonus point system*, please contact the Research Participation Coordinator at p100res@uvic.ca.

*For email or NetLink problems*, see [http://www.uvic.ca/systems/services/helpsupport/computerhelpdesk/](http://www.uvic.ca/systems/services/helpsupport/computerhelpdesk/), call (250) 721-7687, email [helpdesk@uvic.ca](mailto:helpdesk@uvic.ca) or go to Clearihue A004.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Lab Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>SCIENCE &amp; MEASUREMENT</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SEP 5</td>
<td>Knowledge and Science</td>
<td>Ch 1 (16pp)</td>
<td>NO LAB this week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Skeptical Inquiry &amp; Asking Research Questions</td>
<td>Ch 2 (20pp)</td>
<td>Literature Treasure Hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>What exactly is a theory and how do I use one?</td>
<td>Ch 4 (18pp); Sussman et al., 2013, pp. 323-327 2012, pp. 596-597</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Ethics</td>
<td>Ch 3 (18pp)</td>
<td>Anatomy of a Research Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>What and How to Measure</td>
<td>Ch 5 (19pp)</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Ch 9 Overview &amp; Constructing (15pp)</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Measurement Quality</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Whom to Measure</td>
<td>Ch 9 “Conducting” (6pp) Sussman et al., 2013, 2012, 2.1-2.2</td>
<td>Sampling Quality</td>
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<td><strong>OCT 3</strong> Test 1</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Validity</td>
<td>Ch 6 Basics &amp; Design (16pp)</td>
<td>Alternative Explanations</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Control</td>
<td>Ch 6 Conducting (7pp)</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>THANKSGIVING</td>
<td>– NO CLASS</td>
<td>Improving Designs</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Experimental Research</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Non-Experimental Research</td>
<td>Ch 7 Overview &amp; Correllational (9pp)</td>
<td>Evaluating Designs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Quasi-Experiments</td>
<td>Ch 7 Quasi &amp; Qualitative (9pp)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>More Complex Designs</td>
<td>Ch 8 (17pp)</td>
<td>Designing Experiments</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Other Designs</td>
<td>Ch 10 (18pp)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>NOV 4</strong> Test 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Summarizing Data</td>
<td>Ch 12</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>REMEMBRANCE DAY</td>
<td>READING BREAK</td>
<td>NO LAB this week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Summarizing Data</td>
<td>Ch 12</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td></td>
<td>Describing data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Drawing Conclusions</td>
<td>Ch 13</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Drawing Conclusions</td>
<td>Ch 13</td>
<td>Drawing conclusions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Summary and Wrap-up</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>DEC 2</strong> Test 3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Final report due Dec 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enjoy your winter break!
Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response at UVic

UVic takes sexualized violence seriously, and has raised the bar for what is considered acceptable behaviour. We encourage students to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting www.uvic.ca/svp. If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs information, advice, and/or support please contact the sexualized violence resource office in Equity and Human Rights (EQHR). Whether or not you have been directly impacted, if you want to take part in the important prevention work taking place on campus, you can also reach out:

Where: Sexualized violence resource office in EQHR, Sedgewick C119

Phone: 250.721.8021

Email: svpcoordinator@uvic.ca

Web: www.uvic.ca/svp
BE WELL

A note to remind you to take care of yourself. Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress. All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone.

Social Life, Friends, & Community at UVic:
Having a social network is an extremely important foundation for positive mental health. There are lots of benefits to joining clubs, course unions, intramurals and teams on campus.
https://www.uvic.ca/mentalhealth/undergraduate/connecting/index.php

Counselling Services:
Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students. www.uvic.ca/services/counselling/

Health Services:
University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives.
www.uvic.ca/services/health/

Centre for Accessible Learning:
The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations www.uvic.ca/services/cal/. The sooner you let us know your needs, the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Elders' Voices:
The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) has the privilege of assembling a group of Elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty and administration in Indigenous ways of knowing and being.
www.uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/

Mental Health Supports and Services:
Mental health supports and services are available to students from all areas of the UVic community: www.uvic.ca/mentalhealth/undergraduate/
Prerequisites

Students who remain in courses for which they do not have the prerequisites do so at their own risk. Students who complete courses without prerequisites ARE NOT exempt from having to complete the prerequisite course(s) if such courses are required for the degree program.

Program Requirements

For more information see pages 311-314 of the UVic Calendar September 2019.

Registration Status

Students are responsible for verifying their registration status. Registration status may be verified using My Page, View Schedule. Course adds and drops will not be processed after the deadlines set out in the current UVic Calendar.

Commitment to Inclusivity and Diversity

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

In the Event of Illness, Accident or Family Affliction (See UVic Calendar, September 2019, p. 49-51)

• What to do if you miss the final exam scheduled during the last day of classes

Apply at Records Services for a “Request for Academic Concession”, normally within 10 working days of the date of the exam. Records Services will forward the form to the instructor. If the concession is granted, the instructor will determine how to deal with the situation (for example, a deferred exam). Where a concession is not applied for or where such application is denied, an N grade will be entered on the student's academic record.
OR, you can download the Request for Academic Concession form here:
http://www.uvic.ca/registrar/assets/docs/record-forms/rac.pdf

• What to do if you miss an exam other than one scheduled during the last day of classes

Do not apply at Records Services for a “Request for Academic Concession”. Instead submit documentation of the illness, accident or family affliction directly to your course instructor (or designated teaching assistant).

• What to do if you require additional time to complete course requirements

Apply at Records Services for a “Request for Academic Concession”, normally within 10 working days of the end of the course. Records Services will forward the form to the instructor. If the concession is granted, the instructor will determine how to deal with the situation (for example, a deferred exam). Where a concession is not applied for or where such application is denied, an N grade will be entered on the student’s academic record.
OR, you can download the Request for Academic Concession form here:
http://www.uvic.ca/registrar/assets/docs/record-forms/rac.pdf
Policy on Academic Integrity including Plagiarism and Cheating

The Department of Psychology fully endorses and intends to enforce rigorously the Senate Policy on Academic integrity https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2019-09/pdfs/undergraduate-201909_Part4.pdf, (p.45-47, UVic Calendar September 2019). It is of utmost importance that students who do their work honestly be protected from those who do not. Because this policy is in place to ensure that students carry out and benefit from the learning activities assigned in each course, it is expected that students will cooperate in its implementation.

The offences defined by the policy can be summarized briefly as follows:

1. **Plagiarism.** You must make sure that the work you submit is your work and not someone else’s. There are proper procedures for citing the works of others. The student is responsible for being aware of and using these procedures.

2. **Unauthorized Use of an Editor.** The use of an editor is prohibited unless the instructor grants explicit written authorization.

3. **Multiple Submission.** Only under exceptional circumstances may a work submitted to fulfill an academic requirement be used to satisfy another similar requirement. The student is responsible for clarifying this with the instructor(s) involved.

4. **Falsifying Materials Subject to Academic Evaluation.** This includes falsification of data, use of commercially prepared essays, using information from the Internet without proper citation, citing sources from which material is not actually obtained, etc.

5. **Cheating on Assignments, Tests, and Examinations.** You may not copy the work of others in or out of class; you may not give your work to others for the purpose of copying; you may not use unauthorized material or equipment during examinations or tests; and you may not impersonate or allow yourself to be impersonated by another at an examination. The Department of Psychology has a policy of not making old examinations available for study purposes. Therefore, use of old exams without the express written permission of the instructor constitutes cheating by the user, and abetting of cheating by the person who provided the exam.

6. **Being an Accessory to Offences.** This means that helping another student to cheat (for instance, by showing or communicating to them answers to an assignment, or by allowing them to view answers on an exam) is an academic offence.

Instructors are expected to make every effort to prevent cheating and plagiarism. This may include the assignment of seating for examinations, asking students to move during examinations, requests to see student identification cards, and other measures as appropriate. Instructors also have available to them a variety of tools and procedures to check for Internet and electronic media-based cheating. In instances of suspected or actual plagiarism or cheating, instructors, following prescribed procedures, are authorized to take steps consistent with the degree of the offence. These measures will range from a zero on the test or assignment or a failing grade for the course, probation within a program to temporary or even permanent suspension from the University.

Rights of Appeal are described in the Policy on Academic Integrity in the University calendar (on p. 46 in September 2019).

**The definitive source** for information on Academic Integrity is the University Calendar (p. 45-47 in September 2019) https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2019-09/pdfs/undergraduate-201909_Part4.pdf

**Other useful resources on Plagiarism and Cheating include:**
1. The Study Solutions Office: https://www.uvic.ca/services/counselling/success/study/index.php
2. The Ombudsperson’s office: https://uvicombudsperson.ca/tips/plagiarism/
3. UVic Library Resources: http://www.uvic.ca/library/research/citation/plagiarism/The Office of the Ombudsperson is an independent and impartial resource to assist with the fair resolution of student issues. A confidential consultation can help you understand your rights and responsibilities. The Ombudsperson can also clarify information, help navigate procedures, assist with problem-solving, facilitate communication, provide feedback on an appeal, investigate and make recommendations. Phone: 250-721-8357; Email: ombuddy@uvic.ca; Web: uvicombudsperson.ca.