

How the course works:

- Students give PowerPoint presentations of their thesis work (2nd year students in winter, 1st year students in spring).
- An ideal presentation does the following (in 25- 30 minutes):
 - 1) *Introduces the big picture* context into which your research fits
 - 2) *States the hypothesis* or hypotheses you are testing
 - 3) *Describes your methods* (or proposed methods), including sample size & statistical design. Raises any questions or concerns about methodology.
 - 4) *Summarizes your results* both graphically and statistically (or if you don't have any results, describes the possible kinds of patterns that you might see, and how you'd interpret them). Raises any questions or concerns about results.
 - 5) *Interprets any results* in relation to your original hypotheses. Raises any questions or concerns about interpretation.
 - 6) First year students should have a description of their *contingency plans*.
 - 7) Lists your questions for discussion at the end of the talk.
- How much time for each section?
 - If you've already taken the data:**
 - Introduction: 5 minutes, max
 - Methods: 5-7 minutes
 - Results: 10 minutes
 - Interpretation: 5-7 minutes
 - If you are in the planning stages:**
 - Introduction: 5 minutes, max
 - Methods: 10-12 minutes
 - Anticipated results: 5-10 minutes
 - Contingency plans: 3-5 minutes
- *Practice* your presentation beforehand to be sure that you're going to take approximately 25-30 minutes. If it's too long, you'll rob yourself of the opportunity to get helpful feedback.
- Others are there to listen carefully and think critically about the ideas being presented.
- After the presentation is finished, we'll have a discussion, during which all of us should offer helpful advice regarding the questions or concerns raised by the presenter and raise any of our own questions or concerns.
- This is also a venue in which to hone your presentation skills and get feedback on your presentation style (though the primary focus of the discussion should be on the science).
- Once we have set the schedule of presentations, *each presenter should invite their thesis advisor and thesis committee members* to their presentation.