

Department of Surgery

Surgery 9100 – Applied Readings in Advanced Surgical Research Seminar

COURSE INFORMATION

September 2025

Course Coordinator:

Dr. Brent Lanting
519-685-8500 ext. 33335
Brent.Lanting@lhsc.on.ca

Administrative Contacts for Course:

Ms. Melissa Serrano
519-646-6100 ext. 34776
Melissa.Serrano@sjhc.london.on.ca

Ms. Victoria Almeida
519-646-6100 ext.64357
Victoria.Almeida@sjhc.london.on.ca

Course Time: Fall/Winter

Course Weight: 1.0 credit

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is for students to gain a command of the literature related to their thesis, to develop a greater depth of knowledge in their specific thesis area and to enhance their communication and critical thinking skills.

Course Objectives:

- To allow students to develop skills in scientific oral presentations and critically analyzing journal articles.
- To allow students to develop skills in scientific writing including journal articles and thesis.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Gain deeper knowledge in their subspecialty field.
2. Understand the breadth of literature that supports their research project.
3. Write a literature review in their thesis topic.

4. Communicate their research findings in a clear and concise manner through an in-class seminar presentation.
5. Critically assess and evaluate research in their subspecialty field.

Sessions with Supervisor(s): September to December

Requirements for Sessions:

1. Students are to plan to meet with their supervisor a minimum of 3 times between September and December. At these sessions students will discuss journal articles that are current and relevant to the student's field of research. The goals of these sessions are to ensure that students possess a command of the literature and gain a depth of knowledge in their thesis specific area.
2. Research and document a list of articles that will be reviewed around your thesis topic area. This reading list needs to include a minimum of 10 articles and needs to be uploaded as assignment 1 in OWL by October 27, 2025 .
3. Write a summary paper of the background literature on your thesis topic. This will be evidenced by the submission of a 4000-word summary of the background material on your thesis topic which is due by January 12, 2026 . Once submitted this assignment will be reviewed by your supervisor and a mark of pass/fail will be assigned. This paper can be used to form the basis of your literature review chapter.
4. Students will use the knowledge gained from the individual sessions and independent research work as a basis for their 30-minute oral presentation required in the in-class sessions March to April.

Sessions: March to April (3 - 4 mandatory synchronous zoom sessions)

Each student will be assigned a presentation time for either a date in March or April during which they will make a **30-minute oral presentation** to their peers, their supervisor, and the Course Director. Other supervisors are welcome and encouraged to attend the presentation. This session requires that students master oral presentation skills and provides a basis for slides to be used for the thesis defense.

The Course Director (Coordinator) and student's supervisor(s) will evaluate the presentation based on communication skills, clarity, slide format, etc. Following all student presentations, the Course Director will determine the best MSc student presentation for the Seminar course. **This student will be invited to present at the Department of Surgery Research Day on June 17, 2026.**

Course Administration:

The course begins on **September 15, 2025**, and is scheduled to end on **April 6, 2026**.

- Meetings with your supervisor in the Fall 2025 term will be held at an agreeable location with your Thesis Supervisor (in-person or virtual meeting is permitted).
- The Winter 2026 Colloquium sessions will be held on Monday afternoons from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM via Zoom from March 16 to April 6, 2026. A schedule of presentations will be released in January.

This course is a mandatory requirement of the MSc in Surgery Program, and it is mandatory that you attend all colloquium sessions.

Course Material/Resources:

All course material will be posted to OWL Brightspace: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/login>

Technical Requirements:

You will need a stable internet connection, laptop or computer, working microphone and working webcam.

Course Evaluation:

For this course students will be graded as Pass/Fail. **To pass the course, you must:**

1. Attend at least 80% of the seminar sessions.
2. Submit your journal article reading list by **October 27, 2025**, and receive a mark of pass.
3. Submit your background review paper by **January 12, 2026**, and receive a mark of pass.
4. Successfully pass the in-class presentation.
5. Provide verbal in-class feedback for your fellow classmates' presentations.

Please note that participation at all sessions is expected and advanced notice must be given, supported by valid reason, if you cannot attend a session.

Course Material & Course Notes:

Supervisors and students will select relevant material to be read for each of the topic areas.

Colloquium Sessions Written Assignments Due Dates:

- Submission of Reading List of Journal Articles/Book Chapters being reviewed – **October 27, 2025**.
- 4000 Word Summary Paper on your Thesis Topic – **January 12, 2026**.

Colloquium Presentation Dates 2026:

- **March 16, 23, 30**
- **April 6**

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic Offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

Graduate Course Health and Wellness

As part of a successful graduate student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on-campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your graduate degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students, as part of their registration, receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. Please check out the Faculty of Music web page <https://music.uwo.ca/>, and Western's own McIntosh Gallery <https://mcintoshgallery.ca/>. Information regarding health- and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <https://uwo.ca/health/>

Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. Campus mental health resources may be found at <https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html>

To help you learn more about mental health, Western has developed the Mental Health e-Learning Module on OWL: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal/directtool/91d607ca-3f5d-4b17-9c83-f8ae54b2a529/>. This 15-minute module provides participants with a basic understanding of Mental Health issues and of available campus and community resources.

More self-help resources can be found here: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html>

Accessible Education Western (AEW):

Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program.

Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education Western (AEW), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AEW and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction. More information is on the Academic Support & Engagement website at: https://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html