

Department of Surgery
Surgery 9100 – Applied Readings in Advanced Surgical
Research Seminar

COURSE INFORMATION

September 2026

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. Jennifer Kang
519-646-6100 ext. 64357
Jennifer.Kang@sjhc.london.on.ca

Course Delivery: Online, Synchronous (Mondays)

Course Time: Fall/Winter

Course Weight: 1.0 credit

Enrollment Restrictions:

Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in the MSc in Surgery program.

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 November 2, 2026 .
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 11, 2027 . 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 winner of the Dr. Abdel-Rahman Lawendy

MSc in Surgery Award for Best Colloquium Presentation. **This student will be invited to present at the Department of Surgery Research Day to be held in June 2027.**

Course Administration:

The course begins on **September 14, 2026**, and is scheduled to end on **April 12, 2027**.

- Meetings with your supervisor in the Fall 2026 term will be held at an agreeable location with your Thesis Supervisor (in-person or virtual meeting is permitted).
- The Winter 2027 Colloquium sessions will be held on Monday afternoons from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM via Zoom from March 22 to April 12, 2027. A schedule of presentations will be released in January.

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

Course Material/Resources:

All course material and assignments will be posted to the course website in OWL Brightspace. The website for OWL Brightspace is: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/home/198294>

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 **November 2, 2026**, and receive a mark of pass.
3. Submit your background review paper by **January 11, 2027**, 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 Assignment Due Dates:

- Submission of Reading List of Journal Articles/Book Chapters being reviewed – **November 2, 2026.**
- 4000 Word Summary Paper on your Thesis Topic – **January 11, 2027.**

Colloquium Presentation Dates 2027:

- **March 22**
- **April 5, 12**

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_offences.pdf

Health/Wellness Services

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to [Mental Health Support at Western](https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html) (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Accessible Education (AE):

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 (AE), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AE 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 may include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction. Please visit the [Accessible Education](https://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html) (https://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html) web page for more information.

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts on the [Wellness and Wellbeing website: https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Guidance for the use of Generative AI in Graduate Studies

Please refer to the Provisional Guidance for the use of Generative AI in Graduate Studies for more information. Further information is available at the [School of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies website: https://grad.uwo.ca/about_us/policies_procedures_regulations/ai.html](https://grad.uwo.ca/about_us/policies_procedures_regulations/ai.html)