

**PSYC 4351 Directed Research  
Generic Syllabus**



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**Course Description**

Individual instruction course for advanced and qualified undergraduates to obtain supervised research experience in psychology. Student will assist with a research project by working under the individual guidance of a psychology faculty member. Requirements may entail library research, data collection, data entry, statistical analysis and or assistance in planning and conducting parts of a research project. A final paper on the research experience is required. Consent of instructor required. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 semester credit hours. Prerequisites or corequisite: PSYC 2301 and PSYC 3488.

**Course goals:**

- 1. Using Research Skills:** Locate relevant research, theory, and information necessary to plan, conduct, and interpret results of research studies.
- 2. Formulating Hypotheses:** Formulate a testable hypothesis inspired by theory and/or data.
- 3. Designing Experimental Studies:** Design basic studies to address behavioral or psychological questions using different research methodologies.
- 4. Managing Data:** Under appropriate supervision, collect, analyze, and report data designed to answer a behavioral or psychological question.
- 5. Applying APA Guidelines:** Apply APA ethical guidelines in the design, data collection, analysis, interpretation, and reporting of behavioral or psychological research.
- 6. Understanding Different Research Methodologies:** Demonstrate knowledge of different research methodologies employed by psychologists, including an understanding of the appropriate use of various research designs for addressing different types of questions and hypotheses.

**Course structure:** This is not a typical course. This is a research lab and you will be helping to design, run, analyze data, and/or disseminate results from experiments. You are expected to attend lab meetings once a week, meet with your research team (if applicable), run participants, enter data, and any other activities that serve the lab's mission. You are expected to commit 3 weekly hours for every one credit of research experience over a 15 week period (or 15 hours/credit overall, regardless of number of weeks in term).

**Internet support:** You are expected to check your email frequently and stay in contact with other lab members. Email will be the primary method of contact among members of the lab (including Dr. Erickson), but texting may also be used in a limited fashion. Note that texting should not be used as a primary contact medium except for cases of urgency or emergency or while trying to coordinate an off-site event. WebEx, Zoom, Skype, and phone calls may also be incorporated into instruction and communication.

**Grading policy:** A substantial portion of the class revolves around running experiments and keeping up with the most recent published research. As a result, all grades are related to such. All students will start with As; however, failure to participate will result in a lowering of grades. Failure to participate is defined as such:

- Missing more than one experiment session (unexcused): -1 letter grade per session
- Missing more than three lab meetings (unexcused): -1 letter grade per meeting
- Failure to turn in lab work on time: -1 letter grade

**Individual goals and timelines:** As a student in this course, your lab work and session times will be determined by a timeline crafted by the professor and student in the beginning of the term, revisited and possibly refined in the middle of the term, and completed by the end of the term. Each student is expected to develop specific objectives, deliverables, and

experiences that align with the overall goal of their project and professional development (e.g., graduate school preparation). This timeline will serve as an addendum to this document extending the contract in those specific ways.

### Meeting Schedule

Lab meetings will be held once per week at a time when all members are available at a location on campus to be determined. Although we will do our best to abide by this schedule, some topics and/or readings may carry over and others may end earlier than expected. Any topic changes will be announced by any one or a combination of e-mail and/or Blackboard. You are responsible to keep up with any possible changes to the course schedule.

Week	Topic	Notes/Readings
18 Jan	Introductions, Welcome!	(this is the week we divvy up articles to present, go over assignments)
25 Jan	What is Reading Group?	
1 Feb	Lab Policies, Ethics, and the IRB (CITI Training)	
8 Feb	Policies for running participants	
15 Feb	Research questions and hypothesis formation – Introduce Research Question Assignment	
22 Feb	Dissecting APA Style (changes in 7 <sup>th</sup> Ed.)	<a href="https://www.scribbr.com/apa-style/apa-seventh-edition-changes/">https://www.scribbr.com/apa-style/apa-seventh-edition-changes/</a> (No Article Presentation This Week)
1 Mar	Creating Conference Presentations	
8 Mar	Graduate Schools and professional work	
15 Mar	Topic tba	
22 Mar	<b>Possible Prep Week for SWPA</b>	
29 Mar	<b>Possible Bye Week for SWPA</b>	
5 Apr	Discussion of reflection paper	
12 Apr	FIESTA?	
19 Apr	FIESTA?	
26 Apr	Semester Retrospective	
3 May+	<b>**Lab end of semester party maybe?*</b>	Note: turn in your final paper during our meeting

### Important dates:

Conferences	Description	Website	Season
<b>International</b>			
Annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society (“Psychonomics”)	The largest international association of cognitive scientists from psychology, neuroscience, linguistics, and computer science, etc.	<a href="https://www.psychonomic.org/">https://www.psychonomic.org/</a>	Late Fall
Annual meeting of the Society for Applied Research in Memory & Cognition (“SARMAC”)	A meeting of cognitive psychologists and related disciplines who study ways to apply cognitive research and principles	<a href="http://www.sarmac.org/">http://www.sarmac.org/</a>	Early Summer
<b>National</b>			
Annual meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society (“AP-LS”)	Largest national (and alternating international) meeting of psychologists who research all intersections of psychology and law: eyewitness memory, interviewing, confessions, criminal behavior, victimization, repeat offending, etc.	<a href="https://ap-ls.org/">https://ap-ls.org/</a>	Early Spring
<b>Regional</b>			
Annual meeting of the Southwestern Psychological Association (SWPA, “Swah-pa”)	A regional APA general meeting of psychological researchers in the Southern/Southwestern US.	<a href="http://www.swpsych.org/">http://www.swpsych.org/</a>	Late Spring
Association for Research in Memory, Attention, Decision-Making, Intelligence, Language, Learning, and Organization (“ARMADILLO”; aka The Southwest Cognition and Cognitive Neuroscience Society)	A regional independent meeting of cognitive scientists in the Southwest US; Dr. Weatherford and I have been organizers in 2019 and 2020	n/a	Early Fall

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**American Psychological Association**

Journal of Experimental Psychology: General  
JEP: Learning, Memory, & Cognition  
JEP: Applied  
Law and Human Behavior  
Psychology, Public Policy, and Law  
Psychology and Aging

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**Psychonomic Society**

Psychonomic Bulletin & Review  
Memory & Cognition  
Behavior Research Methods  
Cognitive Research: Principles & Implications

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**British Psychological Society**

Legal and Criminological Psychology

**Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition**

Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition

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**European Association of Psychology and Law**

Psychology, Crime, & Law

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**Australian and New Zealand Association of Psychiatry, Psychology and Law (ANZAPPL)**

Psychiatry, Psychology and Law

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**Forensic Science Society**

Science & Justice

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**Experimental Psychology Society**

Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology

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**Public Library of Science**

PLOS ONE

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**(Unaffiliated)**

Memory  
Applied Cognitive Psychology

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Up-to-date list of Law and Psychology Journals with rankings: <https://lawpsych.asu.edu/journal-rankings>