Psych 291/491/490/HNRS 290: Research Practicum (Attitudes and Social Cognition)
Course Syllabus – Spring 2015
Class Meetings: TBA in Office and Lab Building Room 015

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Prerequisites:

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>NIH training*</th>
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<tr>
<td>HNRS 290</td>
<td>Fr. Honors</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>PSYCH 291</td>
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<td>2.5</td>
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<td>PSYCH 490/491</td>
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<td>3.0</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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Once you have completed the training, please send a PDF version of the certification you receive at the end of the test and email it to Dr. Blankenship. Failure to complete this training before your 1st data collection session may result in deductions to your grade.

Overview:
Welcome to the course! This practicum provides students with hands-on experience with the research component of psychology. Specifically, this course provides students with an opportunity for supervised research experience in Social Psychology. Students will become familiar with many parts of the research experience from idea generation, material development, data collection, data analysis, and dissemination of results. Students may also have the opportunity to present research at psychological conferences.

The undergraduate curriculum in psychology is organized around five goals, each with subgoals. Successful completion of this course should contribute to the following student learning outcomes:

Goal 1: Develop a detailed knowledge of psychology
1.1 Describe key concepts, principles, and overarching themes in psychology
1.2 Develop a working knowledge of psychology’s content domains
1.3 Understand the role of cognitive & learning, developmental, biological, and sociocultural factors in behavior

Goal 2: Develop an understanding of scientific inquiry and demonstrate critical thinking
2.3 Interpret, design, and conduct basic psychological research

Goal 3: Understand the role of ethics and diversity in human behavior
3.1 Apply ethical standards to evaluate psychological science and practice

Goal 5: Develop skills supporting employment or graduate/professional education
5.1 Understand how psychological content and skills contribute to career goals
5.2 Demonstrate project management skills
5.3 Demonstrate the ability to work in a team
Course requirements:
Students can sign up for up to three credits per semester. One credit is equivalent to three hours spent participating in the lab. The level of involvement in the lab varies from student to student. The minimum level includes weekly data collection during assigned hours, but students can become more involved in more aspects of the research process throughout the semester. With the help of the supervisor, students create their schedule for data collection. Similar to every other course, it is expected that you will spend 3 hours per week for every credit earned completing task for the position. Tasks may include (but are not limited to) data collection, entering and coding of data, searching databases for and retrieving published paper, to name a few.

Grades will be based on punctuality and competence in performing lab duties and professional conduct with participants. As with any other course, dependability and responsibility are important components of success in this practicum. Showing up on time to a scheduled data collection session is important! Being late to or missing a session results in lost time and a general inconvenience to the supervisor and participants. Remember, participating in studies is a requirement for participants. When data collection sessions are cancelled, participants miss an opportunity to earn points for an assignment. Missing a session without notifying the supervisor 24 hours ahead of time may result in a penalty of a letter grade. If you are running late or believe that you may be late, please contact the supervisor or graduate assistant as soon as you can. Data is the lifeblood of a lab – they are the fruits of research questions and experiments.

Expected absence: Please notify Dr. Blankenship and the graduate student with whom you work most closely for any expected absences. At least one week’s notice is ideal. Let us know as early as possible so that we can plan accordingly.

Late Arrival for Data Collection: If you are running late, and you will miss or partially miss an experiment that you are scheduled to cover, please contact Dr. Blankenship and the graduate student ASAP. Note that unexpectedly missing all or part of an experiment (without prior approval) will lower a student’s grade.

In addition to data collection sessions, there will be meetings about twice a month throughout the semester (meeting times will be announced later). Attendance is not mandatory. Meetings will be used to discuss the various lab projects, readings relevant to the lab, and miscellaneous topics (data collection updates, graduate school, etc.).

Data Entry:
Basic knowledge of and experience with Excel is adequate for this task. You will be provided a hard copy of the data and an Excel file with which to enter the data. Make sure you are accurate and press the correct number on the number pad. A graduate student will double-check random copies of the data to make sure data entry is accurate.

Data Coding:
In some cases, you may be asked to help code open-ended responses for an experiment. Similar to data entry, you would be given responses ad a coding scheme with which to code the data.
Search and retrieval of published papers:
Experience with the Iowa State electronic Article Indexes and Databases and Journals search engines is required. Both search engines are located on the Iowa State e-library webpage. You may be asked to search a database (e.g., Psychinfo) with a series of search terms or search a journal (e.g., Journal of Personality and Social Psychology) for a copy of an article. For articles on in electronic form, you may be asked to check out journals so that the article can be copied.

Lab Attire: As a research assistant, will be interacting with research participants and you should act and dress professionally. We ask that you avoid wearing anything with logos or statements of beliefs or group memberships. Logos and affiliative attire may (non)consciously activate concepts and goals that may affect how participants think and behave in the research setting.

Special Accommodations: Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Disability Resources Office at 515-294-7220 or TTY 515-294-6635 in Room 1076 of the Student Services Building to obtain documentation. You should present the documentation to one of the instructors to privately discuss your specific needs and coordinate necessary and reasonable accommodations.

Academic Dishonesty Policy: Students are expected to abide by the academic conduct policies, documented online at: http://www.dso.iastate.edu/ja/academic/misconduct.html Any violation of the academic conduct policy will result in an automatic failing grade for this course. Hold yourself and your peers to high standards of integrity!

Readings (located on Blackboard)

General readings for all lab members (required for HNRS 290)


Additional readings for Psych 291 & 491.


**Additional HNRS 290 Readings**


