Psyc 399 Special Studies in Psychology

Dr. Catherine Haden
chaden@luc.edu
773-508-8226
Lab: 116 Coffey Hall

Course Description
Independent study in Psychology allows students to gain experience in research settings and develop solid scientific skills that are important for conducting research in all fields. Along with experience in one or more stages of a research project (e.g., data collection and/or transcription; coding; data entry and analysis), students read primary research literatures. Students will gain a sense of how developmental psychologist do research. The opportunity to work with graduate students on the research team also provides the chance for students to see what graduate school is like. The time spent in regular contact with Dr. Haden will give you a good picture of what life is like as a professor.

Course Requirements
Students who enroll for 3 credit hours are expected to complete 10 hours per week of lab work, which may involve off-site data collection. Students must provide Dr. Haden with a schedule for their lab hours, and record their hours each time they work in the lab by completing their calendar in the schedule folder in the lab. All students who engage in research with human participants are required to obtain IRB (ethics) certification. Therefore, prior to beginning any lab work, students will need to successfully complete the online CITI training course that meets this requirement. A copy of the certificate of completion of the CITI course must be submitted to Dr. Haden. Tangible products of students’ lab work will include: videos and audio recordings of data collection; transcripts of conversations; and coding of transcripts and/or video records. 80% of the final grade is based on dependable and responsible work habits in the lab, and completion of lab work.

In addition, all students are assigned a reading list (see below) related to the work being done in the lab. Students may complete this reading of the literature outside the lab. Students will write a summary of each assigned reading, and submit the summaries to Dr. Haden (chaden@luc.edu) by mid-term. Additional readings may be assigned during the remainder of the semester, to provide further background to the students’ lab work, although additional summaries will not be required. 20% of the final grade is based on the submitted written summaries of the articles on the reading list.

Expectations
1. Students will devote significant amounts of time in the laboratory. Students cannot complete any of the lab work except the CITI course and reading of the literature, outside of the laboratory. Therefore, students will need to provide a schedule of times they will work in the lab (or at the data collection site) for no less than 10 hours per week for the entire semester.
2. **Students will conduct themselves in a professional manner.** Students should not be spending time on the laboratory computers looking at social networking sites, email, or other websites. Time in the lab must be spent on lab work.

Students who are working at the data collection site must not access the internet for any reason using the computer at the site. Turning cell phones to vibrate (off at the data collection site), and keeping phone calls and texting while in the lab to a minimum, is also consistent with our expectations that students will help us maintain a professional work environment.

Finally, students who are accompanying us to the data collection site must dress in a professional (and comfortable) manner. Think of what a preschool teacher might wear to work, or look at what staff at the museum wear. Here are some ideas of what is appropriate: untorn jeans with a nice shirt, sweater, or Loyola t-shirt/sweatshirt; pants and tops that cover the lower back and midriff and all undergarments; modest cut shorts and skirts of an appropriate length; sneakers, or shoes or boots with a modest heel.

3. **Students will be dependable and demonstrate good work habits.** If a student must miss a scheduled time to work in the lab, or work fewer hours than schedule, she/he must let Mia Marcus (mmarcus@luc.edu) know as soon as possible before the missed time. Students who accompany us to the data collection site need to give 48-hour notice if they cannot meet their scheduled time so that a replacement can be found.

This research experience is intended to help students be better prepared for graduate school or a professional career. Students should feel free to talk with the graduate students and Dr. Haden about graduate school, making contacts with other professionals in the field, and gaining experience in publishing or presenting work. Dr. Haden is very happy to provide a reference or recommendation letter on behalf of students in this course; just ask!

**Reading List**

PDFs of all of these articles are available on Dr. Haden’s website:

http://www.luc.edu/childrensmemory/Publications.shtml


