

Psyc 397 Independent Research

Dr. Catherine Haden

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Lab: 116 Coffey Hall

Course Description

Independent Research in Psychology allows Seniors to work actively on a research project that provides the opportunity for them to gain experience in research settings and develop solid scientific skills that are important for conducting research in all fields. The course meets the capstone experience requirement in Psychology. PSYC 306 must be completed prior to enrolling in PSYC 397. Students also typically complete one required laboratory course in psychology prior to enrolling in PSYC 397. Students who take the two semester sequence of PSYC 399 and then PSYC 397 will receive a certificate from the Psychology Department indicating a Concentration in Research, but they cannot count 399 toward the major (it can count as an elective for the CAS).

Students work all semester long will focus on a defined research question (determined through discussion between the student and Dr. Haden), and all their data collection and analysis activities, and their reading of primary research literatures will be related to answering this question.

Course Requirements

Students are enrolled for 3 credit hours and expected to complete 10 hours per week (minimum) of lab work, which may involve off-site data collection. Prior to beginning any lab work, students will need to successfully complete the online CITI training course that meets this requirement. 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. All of these will "products" will contribute to the students defined research question and project. **50% of the final grade is based on dependable and responsible work habits in the lab, and completion of lab work.**

By the end of the semester, students will have written an APA style manuscript (approximately 10-12 pages, with 5 to 10 referenced sources) about their research project. Details about the paper are provided below. **50% of the final grade is based on the final APA-formatted research report.**

Students meet regularly with Dr. Haden and her graduate assistants as they progress on their project. Students should submit a draft of the *Introduction* to their research report by the mid-term. Additional drafts may be submitted throughout the remainder of the semester.

Expectations

1. *Students will devote significant amounts of time in the laboratory.* 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 should use the printer in the lab only for printing materials that pertain to their research project.

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.

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 scheduled, they must let Dr. Haden know as soon as possible before the missed the 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

See Dr. Haden's Google Scholar site for some ideas.

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=9HCQkIIAAAAJ&hl=en>