

# Psyc 399 Special Studies in Psychology

Dr. Catherine Haden

[chaden@luc.edu](mailto:chaden@luc.edu)

773-508-8226

Lab: 116 Coffey Hall

## Course Description

Special Studies in Psychology provides the opportunity for students to gain experience in research settings and develop solid scientific skills that are important for conducting research in all fields. Students become involved in one or more stages of a research project (e.g., data collection and/or transcription; coding; data entry and analysis), and read primary research literatures. Students gain a sense of how developmental psychologists 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.

## Course Requirements

Students who enroll for (1 or 3) credit hours are expected to complete 10 hours per week 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 (Group 1 Lakeside Investigator).

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 will read several journal articles related to the work they are doing in the lab, and write summaries of each reading. The readings will be determined in collaboration with Dr. Haden and her team, and the summaries will be submitted to Dr. Haden ([chaden@luc.edu](mailto:chaden@luc.edu)) at 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, not 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.

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, it is important that you let the Project Coordinator 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**

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

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