

SPECIAL TOPICS: RESEARCH IN EXPERIMENTAL SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY (PSY4980)

Co-Instructors:

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Office Hours:

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Be trained and certified in ethical psychological research practices
- Be able to conduct a literature search on social psychological topics
- Be able to develop social psychological research hypotheses
- Be able to develop experimental protocols that test research hypotheses
- Be able to evaluate social psychological research study designs
- Be able to conduct experimental research sessions
- Be able to use software for psychological research, such as SONA Systems, MediaLab,

correct experimental protocols. If data is not collected correctly, the research project dies there. It is important to remember that the success or failure of our social psychological research projects will have a significant impact on the professional lives for all people in the lab (faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students). As such, we rely heavily on students in the data collection stage of the research process and we always appreciate their efforts. Data collection can involve:

Being an experimenter (in charge of a research session)

Playing the role of a confederate (someone who pretends to be a participant)

As an experimenter (or confederate), it is imperative that the study be ready to go when participants arrive. To ensure that everything is set up *before* the study start time, please arrive early so that you have time to set up and prepare the necessary materials. Also, when running studies, keep an eye out for problems and be proactive in finding solutions. Finally, experimenters are expected to dress professionally when running participants.

- Help design/implement studies. Every study starts with an idea, but it must eventually be polished into a workable study. Students will contribute to this process by doing pilot testing, developing stimuli, creating IRB protocols, designing surveys, creating Medialab programs, and so on (note that the specific task will depend upon the nature of the project and a student's role in the project)

degree of participation/engagement as determined by the instructor (130 points total). **Second**, students should submit a 1-page reaction paper on 6 occasions during the semester. These should be submitted to the instructor by the Wednesday following the class meeting. Students can choose which of the weeks they want to submit reaction papers. Students can earn up to 10 points for each reaction paper (60 points total). **Third**, students should complete their experiential learning tasks each week. In total, each student will complete approximately 130

*Please note that the schedule and procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of