

Special Course Permission

Student's Name: _____ **Sponsor's Name:** Jessi L. Smith

Semester: _____ **Course Number:** PSYX 490R **Credit Hours:** _____ 3 _____

Descriptive Title: Social Psychology Undergraduate Research Experience: Motivation and Diversity Laboratory

Course Objectives: See Attached Syllabus

Brief Summary of Activities: See Attached Syllabus

Basis for Evaluation: See Attached Syllabus

Date: _____

Student ID#: _____

Student Signature: _____

Sponsor Signature: _____

Department Head signature: _____

Turn in this form to Dr. Smith for processing. Staple this page on top of the syllabus below.

DR. SMITH'S
MOTIVATION AND DIVERSITY
(M.A.D.) LAB



Undergraduate Research Opportunities

PSYX 490R Syllabus

Professor: Jessi L. Smith, PhD

Office: Traphagen 428

Office Phone: 994-5228

E-mail: jsismith@montana.edu

Office Hours: By Appointment and Posted on Trap 428

MAD Lab email: psychoogy421@gmail.com

Lab Website: <http://www.montana.edu/madlab/index.html>

What is MAD LAB?

Psychology is the study of how other people (real or imagined) influence how an individual thinks, acts, and feels. To study this “person by situation” interaction, social psychologists use experimental designs, surveys, and observations. ***In MAD lab, we research three primary areas: intrinsic motivation, goals, and stereotype processes, particularly as they relate to gender and achievement outcomes. Opportunities are available for students interested in assisting with in-progress research on these topics as well as designing independent projects for a senior thesis, the WGSS minor, McNair, or for USP.***

Psyx 490 Objectives:

- Actively develop your discovery of psychology’s experimental and survey method procedures
- Enhance critical thinking of research design and analyses
- Facilitate understanding of ethical considerations involving human participation in research
- Improve your ability to synthesize, recognize, and critically apply the scientific method
- Build your communication skills in the form of public speaking, open discussions, giving formal presentations, and providing critical feedback to peers
- Enrich your independent decision making and self-regulatory skills

What is Undergraduate Study?

Selected psychology students have the opportunity to participate in research experiences under my supervision. Research experience strengthens an undergraduate degree and is strongly recommended for students interested in pursuing graduate studies in any field. Participation in ongoing research opportunities enables students to test their interest in research and interact more closely with myself and other faculty and students who share those interests.

To obtain course credit (Psychology 490R) for research experiences with me, students typically have completed Psychology 100 and 223, be of at least junior status, and obtain my permission. Although it is a not a prerequisite Psychology 225 (research methods and statistical analyses II) is also recommended.

Students may sign up for varying amounts of course credit. For every credit hour taken, students are expected to work three hours per week on the research project. In general, I expect students to enroll in 3 credit hours total for one semester (9 hours a week). Amount of credit and scheduled times are negotiated with me. You and I will work out your schedule for the semester (keeping in mind your classes and other commitments) although some flexibility can be maintained.

Although not required, I often ask superior students to commit to at least 2 semesters working in the lab. Indeed, Psychology 490R may be repeated for up to 4 semesters, if you enroll in 3 credits each semester (so, 12 credit hours total earned).

What kinds of things will I do?

First and foremost, you will serve as an experimenter. An experimenter helps collect data per procedures dictated by a script. For example, you might pass out surveys or you might set up a video tape for participants. You will receive training in how to run each study. Each study session usually takes about one hour, so you should plan to have 1 hour blocks in your schedule. You might also serve as a confederate (i.e., actor) to help simulate a study experience; for example, you might pretend to drop some items so we can examine who helps you pick them up. You will also aid in data coding and data entry using SPSS (which I will show you how to use). You might also be asked to help locate literature in the library, type up research stimuli, contact participants, train other research assistants, and other related research tasks.

Students are required to attend the bi-weekly lab meetings. These are set and agreed upon before students can enroll, and change each semester. During these meetings, we will talk about ongoing projects, listen to and give informal presentations, examine data, and/or read and discuss an assigned research article related to social psychology.

How am I evaluated?

Your grade in PSYX 490R for our M.A.D. Lab is determined primarily by three factors: reliability, professionalism, and active participation. In my experience, most students earn an A!

- **Reliability:** Specifically, you are expected to show up on time for every study session that you sign-up for (per your schedule). You can NOT miss a scheduled study session, and the onus is on you to find someone to cover for you in the event that you cannot make it. Failure to show will result in ½ letter grade reduction per session missed (e.g., A- for one session missed, B+ for two sessions missed). In the case of a documented emergency (e.g., doctor's note) you will be responsible for contacting your participants to reschedule. You are also expected to attend every lab meeting. You can miss ONE lab meeting for any reason (good or bad!) but for each additional lab meeting you miss your grade will be reduced by ½ letter grade. If you are consistently late to lab meetings this will count as an absence. Although this sounds a bit harsh,

we cannot do research without you, so if you are missing the research will suffer! Finally, you need to complete your assignments on time (e.g., data coding and data entry). Failure to do will result in a lower grade or an incomplete.

- Professionalism: You are expected to wear a lab coat during each study session and to act in a professional manner around participants. Treat participants and each other with respect and be ethical at all times.
- Active Participation: You should plan to play an active role in our M.A.D. Lab meetings, including the jointly-held meetings with the Persuasion and Affect Lab; and sometimes the Research, Education, and Culture in Health Lab (collectively called the Social Area Meeting or SAM). Your input, ideas, questions and comments are what make the research experience rich and meaningful and I ask that you make an effort to be engaged at each meeting. You should also plan to do one (informal) presentation on a topic that we agree upon. For example, you might select a research article to have everyone read and then discuss or you might present ideas for your senior thesis to the group for help with your methodology.

Interested?

As an independent study student in psychology you will gain access to my psychology lab (Trap 421) which grants you several privileges, including use of the computers, printer, phone, software, and your own mailbox.

The lab space is limited and I only accept 3-4 new students each semester. Students who have worked with me in the past or taken a class from me have priority. All interested students should complete an application and partake in an interview. If accepted (and the student is still interested!) a course add form will be submitted.

Upon acceptance, all 490R students must promptly receive appropriate training in human subjects protection. The University has selected the on-line instruction program CITI as a source of education concerning human research. You will need to complete the main section as well as the Social and Behavioral Science Section. To access the course, visit the site at: *Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI)* <https://www.citiprogram.org/> **You must print out a copy of your “completion reports”** and turn into me before you can begin undergraduate study.

Reasonable Accommodation

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the Montana State University’s Disabled Student Services, (994-2824 TDD: 994-6701), I wish to offer any qualified student with a disability the opportunity to meet with me privately to discuss receiving reasonable accommodation. Such accommodation will be afforded based on the specific disability and as agreed in writing. This statement in no way asks that students identify themselves as having a disability; however a request for reasonable accommodation can be granted if a student makes his or her disability known.

Psyx 490 adheres to all MSU Policies and Conduct Codes regarding withdraws, incomplete grades, confidentiality, conduct, etc. Know that as your instructor I am obligated to report any suspected case of academic misconduct to the MSU Student Conduct Board, including the Dean of Students. Please note, that the content of this syllabus is tentative and may be revised or altered as I see fit...

Psyx 490 Motivation and Diversity Lab Meeting Template
We meet for 1.5 hours every other week. Meetings are mandatory.

Schedule and Topic May Vary

Date	Activity
Week 1	Introductions, Overview of Scientific Method and Lab Protocols (see handout) <i>Assignment: Bring one reading for consideration as an “alternative” task</i>
Week 2	Assignments made RA training and practice runs SPSS data entry training
Week 3/4	Subject Pool Opens: Begin running participants, see weekly schedule
Week 5/6	Study overviews; Data collection updates; Ethics in research <i>Assignment: Read - Middlemist, Knowles & Matter (1976)</i> SAM Undergraduate Student Presentations
Week 7/8	Data collection updates; Qualitative method overview and example SAM Post Doc Presentation
Week 9/10	<i>Assignment: “How to read a research article” complete worksheet and read Allen, Gervais & Smith (2013)</i> SAM First Year Students Project Presentations
Week 11/12	Interpreting Data Output from SPSS SAM First Year Student and Undergraduate Student Project Presentations
Week 13/14	New Study Overviews; data collection updates; Training on new protocols SAM First Year Students Project Presentations
Week 15	Data collection updates: Discussion of broad impacts and result dissemination SAM Social Psychology in Pop Culture presentation
Finals Week	How to get into Grad School Discussion Wrap up and Celebration! (be on the lookout for a link to evaluation survey)