

PSYC 401: DIRECTED RESEARCH in PSYCHOLOGY

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Macalester College

Fall 2024

MWF 10:50-11:50 am

Olin-Rice 352

In this course...

...well, it's not so much a *course* as a semester-long project. You will identify your own research question, propose a way to investigate that question, and then *actually carry it out*. All in one semester!

....there will be many meetings.

The structure of this course is essentially a series of group meetings (with our 4-person class) and individual meetings, with the occasional large group meetings with everyone in DR this semester.

...you will be asked to complete a:

- Proposal
- Library meeting
- Introduction section draft
- Method section draft
- PRB application
- Results section draft
- Discussion section draft
- Poster
- Full manuscript

Your poster will be presented here at Macalester on the last day of class, and again at the Minnesota Undergraduate Psychology Conference (MUPC) at the end of the academic year!

Letter Grades	
A	≥ 93%
A-	≥ 90%
B+	≥ 87%
B	≥ 83%
B-	≥ 80%
C+	≥ 77%
C	≥ 73%
C-	≥ 70%
D+	≥ 67%
D	≥ 63%
D-	≥ 60%
F	< 60%

Grade Composition		
Attendance: 2.5%		
IRB process: 2.5%		
Drafts: 30%	Refs	5%
	Outline	5%
	Method	5%
	Results	5%
	Discussion	5%
	Poster	5%
Final poster: 15%		
Final paper: 50%		

<h2>How do assignment grades work?</h2>	<p>Everything except for the final paper will be graded for timely completion only. “Timely completion” means submitting on or before the deadline, including all required elements (according to instructions), and using correct formatting. You will receive feedback, but no letter grade for quality.</p>
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Attendance

Attendance is very important in this course. Our group meetings are a chance for us to discuss issues, get on the same page, and provide moral support.

In such a small class, your absence will be deeply felt!

Absences & late work

Missed group and individual meetings can negatively impact your attendance grade. **Missed individual meetings will need to be made up.** Absences due to special circumstances may be excused. **Talk to me as soon as you know you might miss class.**

Late work will be accepted at a penalty of 10% per day up to 50%. Talk to me as soon as you are feeling concerned about completing something on time. **ASK FOR EXTENSIONS, THE SOONER THE BETTER.** As the semester goes on, particularly at IRB time and beyond, you each might need personalized deadlines depending on the nature of your projects. We can negotiate during one-on-one meetings :)

Accessibility & Well-being

Doing a capstone is A LOT. This semester, given the **toxic political climate surrounding the U.S. elections**, you might find yourself especially stressed and distracted (I sure am!). I encourage you to **make your well-being a priority** throughout this semester and beyond.

Remember that beyond being a student, **you are a human being** carrying your own experiences, thoughts, emotions, and identities with you. It is important to acknowledge any stressors you may be facing, which can be mental, emotional, physical, cultural, financial, etc., and how they can have an impact on your academic experience.

I encourage you to remember to **attend to and advocate for your needs**. If you are having difficulties maintaining your well-being, please don't hesitate to **contact me** and/or find support from other resources listed on Moodle under "**Resources**".

Your grade in this class is about your completion and quality of your capstone, not about whether you are good. It is okay if other things take priority over this class, but this may affect your grade. If you are concerned about this, **contact me ASAP** so that we can discuss your options.

If you think you might need **accommodations** for a disability (e.g. depression, anxiety, chronic pain, etc.), please contact the **Disability Services Office** (disabilityservices@macalester.edu) at your earliest convenience.

Week	1-on-1 Schedule	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
Sept. 4-6	Everyone has one during-class meeting time and one bonus meeting time that is not shown on this page. If we're meeting twice in a week, you'll use both times. If we're meeting once, I've assigned you to one or the other. There are two weeks with a "special" meeting schedule and three weeks with no meetings scheduled. Every week , you are allowed to meet with me more by coming to drop-in times or by appointment.			Introductions
Sept. 9-13	2 x 15 mins	Group In class: Presentations	15-minute 1-on-1s	15-minute 1-on-1s (schedule library session with Talia or Shannon)
Sept. 16-20	Special: 1 x 15 mins	15-minute 1-on-1s	No class (Ariel's out of town)	15-minute 1-on-1s Due: Proposal & Refs
Sept. 23-27	1 x 30 mins	Group	30-minute 1-on-1s	30-minute 1-on-1s Due? @ 5pm: Library sesh
Sept. 30-Oct.4	2 x 15 mins	Group Due: Outline + Proposal	15-minute 1-on-1s	15-minute 1-on-1s
Oct. 7-11	1 x 30 mins	Group Method draft draft	30-minute 1-on-1s	30-minute 1-on-1s
Oct. 14-18 Break: 17-18	Special: Drop-in & by appt.	Everyone! Qualtrics session Due: Method draft	Drop-in	NO CLASS
Oct. 21-25	1 x 30 mins	Group: reviewing? Due: IRB draft Brooke's IRB review tips	30-minute 1-on-1s	30-minute 1-on-1s Due: revised IRB
Oct. 28-Nov. 1	2 x 15 mins	Group: reviewing?	15-minute 1-on-1s	15-minute 1-on-1s
Nov. 4-8 Withdraw deadline: 8	1 x 30 mins	Group: reviewing?	30-minute 1-on-1s	30-minute 1-on-1s
Nov. 11-15	1 x 30 mins	Group: reviewing?	15-minute 1-on-1s	15-minute 1-on-1s
Nov. 18-22	Special: 1 x 15 mins	15-minute 1-on-1s	15-minute 1-on-1s Due: Results draft	No class (Ariel's out of town)
Nov. 25-29 Break: 27-29	Special: By appt.	Group Poster drafts	NO CLASS	
Dec. 2-6	2 x 15 mins	Drop-in	15-minute 1-on-1s Due: Final poster	15-minute 1-on-1s Send poster to printer by 4pm!