PSY 4391 Syllabus
Independent Research

Supervising Faculty Member:

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Course Title: Independent Research: Social Psychology

Credit Hours: 3

Requirements: Students are expected to work nine hours per week.

Research Experience:

You will gain experience with the hands-on activities involved in research. Theory and ideas will be discussed, and experiments will be planned and executed. In the process, you will learn about many aspects of conducting research, such as human subject issues. At a broader level, your experience should allow you to see how social psychological questions related to stereotyping and prejudice can be answered through the conduct of research.

Grading: Grades will be assigned based on overall quality of lab work (see “Specific Duties”), participation in research meetings, and regular attendance.

Specific Duties:

Your duties include participating in the planning of the research and the development of research materials. You will also spend considerable time actually executing the research. In other words, you will be responsible for data collection. All participants will be recruited from the ASU participant pool via Sona-systems and will be tested in the lab located on the second floor of the psychology building. Research assistants are responsible for learning study scripts, completing paperwork accurately (e.g., signing consent forms, verifying participants’ credits), serving as experimenter, and debriefing the participants. Your grade for this class is heavily dependent on your attendance.

Meetings:

We will have a weekly research group meeting to be held in accordance with existing class schedules.
Some Reminders
About the Protection of Research Participants

1. Keep all information from and about participants confidential: Do not discuss anything about any participant (especially any responses/reactions) with anyone outside of the research team. When administering questionnaires to a participant or to a group, demonstrate the importance of confidentiality by not reading through completed questionnaires during a session or while any participants are still present.

2. Make sure participants’ consent is fully informed: Make sure you provide every participant with time to ask questions, especially during the consent process.

3. Remember that participants may omit responses: Participants have the right not to do anything and not to answer any question(s) that they find objectionable, without penalty.

4. Remember that participants may withdraw from an experiment. Participants have the right to leave at any time without penalty.

5. Remember that participation in an experiment is always voluntary. Do not coerce participants to respond during the experiment or to continue with the study. Do not do anything that could be perceived as coercion. (For example, don’t say, “There’s only 2 minutes left, please stay.”)

6. Keep in mind that ALL substantive changes in research procedures or materials must be approved by the IRB. Non-substantive changes are those that are consistent in spirit and risk to those already approved by the IRB, and which would not reasonably be expected to increase the risks to participants, their willingness to consent to the experiment, or the anonymity or confidentiality of their responses.

7. Be courteous to participants. Show respect for participants by treating them as you would want to be treated. Don’t give orders; make requests (e.g., “We would like you to . . . ” or “Please, could you . . . ”) Don’t talk about irrelevant matters and, especially, don’t ask for a date. Also don’t visit with fellow experimenters while participants are participating in the study. It’s rude and distracting.

8. When using the ASU Participation Pool, you have joint obligations as both a researcher and educator. Occasionally you may have a participant whose data are not usable because of language difficulties, physical impairment, or other problems. In such instances you should attempt to maintain the educational value of the research for the participant, and then discreetly discard his or her data without looking at it.

9. You are responsible for the safety and well-being of participants while they are in the laboratory. If there is an emergency or disruption in the lab, or events outside of the lab that disrupt the experiment, you should recognize that the data have been compromised and you should focus on your responsibilities to your participants. If you are unable to handle a situation that arises, seek assistance from staff, faculty or graduate students.

Complete the CITI online ethics training course and provide a copy of certification