

# Independent Study / Supervised Research -- Opportunities for Undergraduates

Department of Psychology, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL 61920 - <http://psych.eiu.edu>

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**Dr. Addison**, PHYS 3155, 581-6417, [weaddison@eiu.edu](mailto:weaddison@eiu.edu)

*Research Interests:* Factors Influencing Student Evaluations of Teaching, Academic Maturity in College Students

Dr. Addison encourages his students to develop their own projects, which can either be related to his research interests, or based on their own areas of interest. Ideally, students should have completed Statistics (PSY 2610) and at least be enrolled in Research Methods (PSY 3805) when they begin their Independent Study. Dr. Addison prefers a two-semester commitment from students, but he will make exceptions in special cases.

**Dr. Allan**, PHYS 1065, 581-6611, [wallyan@eiu.edu](mailto:wallyan@eiu.edu)

*Research Interests:* Child Social Anxiety; Adult Speaking Anxiety

Students working with Dr. Allan assist in ongoing studies of child social anxiety or adult public speaking anxiety. If you wish to do independent study with Dr. Allan you should have completed or at least be enrolled in Research Methods. Dr. Allan prefers a two-semester commitment from students in their sophomore year or above, with students taking at least 2 credits during the first semester.

**Dr. Bernas**, PHYS 3043, 581-6416, [rsbernas@eiu.edu](mailto:rsbernas@eiu.edu)

*Research Interests:* (1) Wisdom (cognitive processes involved in wisdom such as dialectical thinking); (2) Mindful awareness/mindfulness; (3) Happiness/subjective well-being; (4) Religious/spiritual thought and cognitions; (5) Quiet ego (transcending the ego) (6) Insightful understanding, meaning construction, and reflective judgments; (7) Epistemic cognition (personal beliefs about cognition and learning); (8) Contributions of Buddhist philosophy to Western psychology and neuroscience; (9) Phenomenological (first-person) approaches to studying the mind; (10) Cultural differences in thinking.

Students working with Dr. Bernas may develop their own research projects according to individual interests or work on one of Dr. Bernas' ongoing research projects. Students must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and must register for 3 credit hours. To do supervised research with Dr. Bernas, students must have completed Research Methods (PSY 3805). The latter is not required for independent study. Students may assist in data collection, literature review, and data coding and analyses.

**Dr. Best**, PHYS 1440, 581-6412, [jbbest@eiu.edu](mailto:jbbest@eiu.edu)

*Research Interests:* Problem Solving Strategies; Conditional Reasoning

Students working with Dr. Best may develop their own research projects in any area of psychology, or may work with him on ongoing projects in cognitive psychology. He has no specific requirements regarding completion of Statistics (PSY 2610) or Research Methods (PSY 3805), or Cognitive Psychology; however, students who wish to design their projects in an area of cognitive psychology should probably have completed at least two semesters of those three courses. In general, for a student-designed independent study to be a worthwhile project, two semesters of independent study are required, but students may participate in an ongoing project for only a single semester.

**Dr. Brausch**, PHYS 1460, 581-2128, [abrausch@eiu.edu](mailto:abrausch@eiu.edu)

*Research Interests:* Risk and Protective Factors for Suicide, Self-Injury, Depression, Issues Relevant to Adolescents and Young Adults, Body Image, Disordered Eating

Students working with Dr. Brausch may develop their own research projects or may work with her on ongoing projects related to clinical psychology. Students need to have completed Statistics (PSY 2610) and at least be enrolled in Research Methods (PSY 3805) when they begin their Independent Study work. A minimum 3.0 GPA is required. A two-semester commitment is required for students wishing to design their own project, but students may be enrolled for one semester if they participate in an on-going project. Juniors and seniors are preferred, but applications from sophomores may be

considered.

**Dr. Brito**, PHYS 3139, 581-2219, [cfbrito@eiu.edu](mailto:cfbrito@eiu.edu)

*Research Interests:* Diversity & Multi-Cultural Issues; Student Expectations; Metacognition; Perceptual & Cognitive Interactions; Visual Perimetry

Students working with Dr. Brito may develop their own research projects in any area of psychology, participate in ongoing research, or assist in general Lab projects. Students need to have completed Statistics (PSY 2610) and at least be enrolled in Research Methods (PSY 3805) when they begin their Independent Study work. Students developing their own research projects register for Supervised Research. Generally, students take 2 or 3 semester credit hours and spend 3 hours in the Lab each week for every credit hour taken. Dr. Brito prefers a two-semester commitment from students, but will make exceptions for students in their last semester at EIU.

**Dr. Canivez**, PHYS 1001, 581-6413, [gicanivez@eiu.edu](mailto:gicanivez@eiu.edu)

*Research Interests:* Psychometric Evaluation of Intelligence; Achievement, Personality & Psychopathology Tests; Sport Psychology; Computer Applications in Psychology

Students working with Dr. Canivez may develop their own research projects related to individual interests related to psychological measurement or sport psychology. Students may also elect to assist Dr. Canivez on a funded grant project. Students need to have completed statistics and must have taken or be enrolled in research methods. In addition students must have a minimum GPA of 3.0. Although Dr. Canivez prefers juniors and seniors, exceptions may be made for those who have completed the educational prerequisites.

**Dr. Gruber**, PHYS 1420, 581-6614, [regruber@eiu.edu](mailto:regruber@eiu.edu)

*Research Interests:* Social Fields; Lucid Dreaming; Intuition; Mind-Body Health

Students working with Dr. Gruber will join a team of research assistants exploring psychic phenomena – a form of mental telepathy or extra-sensory perception, involving groups of people or “social fields.” Dr. Gruber prefers to work with juniors and seniors, and will work with students for one or two semesters.

**Dr. HaileMariam**, PHYS 1450, 581-6615, [ahailemariam@eiu.edu](mailto:ahailemariam@eiu.edu)

*Research Interests:* ADHD in Children/Adults; Depression in Children; Educational Achievement of Bilingual Children; Early Intervention of Learning Difficulties.

Students working with Dr. HaileMariam may sometimes develop their own research projects. Students will be working on projects involving Children's Mental Health and Learning Difficulties. Students need to have completed Statistics (PSY 2610) and Research Methods (PSY 3805) with grades of C or better before they begin their Independent Study work. Dr. Hailemariam requires a 3.0 minimum GPA and at least a two-semester commitment from students.

**Ms. Hanft-Martone**, PHYS 4049, 581-6418, [mhanft@eiu.edu](mailto:mhanft@eiu.edu)

*Research Interests:* Abnormal behavior: individuals with an autism spectrum disorder, schizophrenia, and obsessive compulsive disorder

Students working with Ms. Hanft-Martone may develop their own research projects according to individual interests. Students need to have completed Statistics (PSY 2610) and at least be enrolled in Research Methods (PSY 3805) when they begin their Independent Study work. Students may work for only 1 semester with Ms. Hanft-Martone.

**Dr. Havey**, PHYS 1437, 581-3523, [jmhavey@eiu.edu](mailto:jmhavey@eiu.edu)

*Research Interests:* Neuropsychology; Phonological Processing, and Reading; Cultural issues in school psychology

Students working with Dr. Havey may also develop their own research projects according to individual interests. Dr. Havey may also require assistance with data collection and entry. Dr. Havey does not require specific course work to be completed, and will work with individuals of all classes including those in their last semester.

**Dr. Heller**, PHYS 3041, 581-2323, [maheller@eiu.edu](mailto:maheller@eiu.edu)

*Research Interests:* Blindness; Tactile Pictures; Illusions; Spatial Imagery; Spatial Cognition & Memory; Sex/Gender and Cognition

Students working with Dr. Heller may develop their own research projects according to individual interests. Dr. Heller requires a 2.5 minimum GPA (3.0 preferred) and will work with students in their last semester.

**Dr. Johnson-Gros**, PHYS 1431, 581-8511, [kjohnsongros@eiu.edu](mailto:kjohnsongros@eiu.edu)

*Research Interests:* Academic and Behavioral Interventions, ADHD, Curriculum Based Measurement, and Response to Intervention.

Students working with Dr. Johnson-Gros may develop their own research projects or may work with her on ongoing projects in school psychology. There are no prerequisites for students who wish to participate in an ongoing project, however, students who wish to design their own projects should be enrolled in or have completed Statistics (PSY 2610), Research Methods (PSY 3805) and Behavior Modification (PSY 3765) are also recommended. In general, a two-semester commitment is required for students who wish to design their own projects, but students may participate in an ongoing project for a single semester.

**Dr. Leal**, PHYS 4055, 581-2158, [lleal@eiu.edu](mailto:lleal@eiu.edu)

*Research Interests:* Cognitive Development; Mental Retardation; Memory Development; Developmental Disabilities

Students working with Dr. Leal may develop their own research projects according to individual interests. Students need to have completed Statistics (PSY 2610) and at least be enrolled in Research Methods (PSY 3805) when they begin their Independent Study work.

**Dr. Mace**, PHYS 1153, 581-2127, [jhmace@eiu.edu](mailto:jhmace@eiu.edu)

*Research Interests:* Involuntary Memory; Voluntary Memory; Processes Underlying Remembering; Autobiographical Memory

Students working with Dr. Mace may work on projects developed by him or develop their own projects within his area or in any other area within the study of memory. Students must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and should be juniors or seniors. Although two-semester commitments are preferred, one-semester commitments are possible.

**Dr. Scher**, PHYS 3143, 581-7269, [sjscher@eiu.edu](mailto:sjscher@eiu.edu)

*Research Interests:* Disgust; Cannibalism & Incest Taboos; ADHD; Achievement Motivation & Procrastination; Evolutionary Psychology

Students may develop their own project within Dr. Scher's general research areas, or they may work on an ongoing project. Dr. Scher encourages motivated students to begin Independent Study research as early as possible in their academic career, but students generally must commit to work on a project for at least two semesters.

**Ms. Schoonover**, PHYS 1051, 581-6612  
[cgschoonover@eiu.edu](mailto:cdschoonover@eiu.edu)

*Research Interests:* Student Development in College (Academic Maturity), Development of Wisdom in Middle/Old Age, Positive Psychology (subjective well-being, optimism/pessimism, coping), and Obesity & Dieting behavior.

Students working with Ms. Schoonover may develop their own projects according to their individual interests. Students need to have completed Statistics (PSY 2610) and at least be enrolled in Research Methods (PSY 3805) when they begin their Independent

Study. Ms. Schoonover prefers a two-semester commitment from students, but will make exceptions as needed.

**Dr. Sharma**, PHYS 1430, 581-6089, [asharma@eiu.edu](mailto:asharma@eiu.edu)

*Research Interests:* Attitudes Toward Professional Help-Seeking in Minority Populations; Child Psychology and Law; Family Factors in Psychological Health

Students working with Dr. Sharma may develop their own research projects according to individual interests. Although Dr. Sharma does not require specific course work to be completed, she does require that students have a minimum GPA of 3.0. Dr. Sharma will work with individuals of all class standings including those in their last semester.

**Dr. Stowell**, PHYS 1055, 581-2279, [jrstowell@eiu.edu](mailto:jrstowell@eiu.edu)

*Research Interests:* Stress and Health; Use of Technology to Facilitate Student Learning

Students working with Dr. Stowell may develop their own research projects or work on projects developed by Dr. Stowell. If you wish to do independent study with Dr. Stowell you should have completed or at least be enrolled in Research Methods. Dr. Stowell will work with individuals of all classes including those in their last semester.

**Dr. Williams**, PHYS 4065, 581-2422, [jgwilliams@eiu.edu](mailto:jgwilliams@eiu.edu)

*Research Interests:* Psychopharmacology; Biological Basis of Behavior; Drugs Effects on Reward and Pain Mechanisms; Relationship Between Neurochemical Events and Ongoing Behavior

Students working with Dr. Williams assist in the continuation of ongoing physiological experiments in the rodent lab to receive the only hands-on animal research experience offered by the Department. There are no prerequisites for this work and individuals wishing to do more than one semester activity are most welcome. Students are required to perform all related tasks such as feeding/handling of rats, as well as maintenance of the rodent facility. Interested sophomore or later students are welcome to inquire about opportunities and projects ranging from 1 - 3 credit hours participation.

**Dr. Wilson**, PHYS 1439, 581-6411, [kmwilson@eiu.edu](mailto:kmwilson@eiu.edu)

*Research Interests:* Clinical Psychology; Psychology of Religion

Students working with Dr. Wilson may develop their own clinically themed research projects according to individual interests or assist with ongoing research projects. Students must have a psychology GPA of 3.5. Students need to have completed Statistics (PSY 2610) and at least be enrolled in Research Methods (PSY 3805) when they begin their Independent Study work. Dr. Wilson requires at least a two-semester commitment from students.