



Psychology Department Undergraduate Research Opportunities 2016-17



All psychology faculty are willing to supervise students enrolled in Undergraduate Research (PSY 4100—An opportunity to engage in empirical research in psychology under the guidance of a psychology faculty member). If you are not yet “ready” to engage in research, you might consider doing Independent Study (PSY 3900—The study of topics in psychology through directed readings and individual instruction); you should decide whether 3900 or 4100 is the best fit for you in consultation with a faculty supervisor or your academic advisor.

Keep in mind that, sometimes, faculty have limited “spaces” available in their schedules; so, don’t wait until the last minute to approach them about these opportunities. Note also that although most faculty will want you to commit to two semesters in order to maximize learning, some will consider a one-semester supervision; if so, it has been noted.



Dr. William Addison, PHYS 3155, 581-6417, weaddison@eiu.edu

Research Interests: Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, 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. Wesley Allan, PHYS 1065, 581-6611, wallan@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. Ronan Bernas, PHYS 3043, 581-6416, rsbernas@eiu.edu

Research Interests: (1) Self-construal (how the self is perceived/constructed and its relationship with well-being); (2) Mindful awareness/ mindfulness; (3) Happiness/subjective well-being; (4) Empirical testing of Buddhist philosophical/psychological concepts (e.g., the ‘empty self’ and its role in fostering well-being); (5) Religious/spiritual thought and cognitions; (6) Wisdom (cognitive processes involved in wisdom such as dialectical thinking and reflective judgments); (7) Cultural differences in thinking.

Students working with Dr. Bernas may develop their own research projects within Dr. Bernas’ research interests or work on one of Dr. Bernas’ ongoing research projects. Students must have a minimum GPA of 3.0. A two-semester commitment (for three credit hours each) and completion of Research Methods (PSY 3805) are preferred, but exceptions can be made.



Dr. Caridad Brito, PHYS 3139, 581-2219, cfbrito@eiu.edu

Research Interests: Attitudes toward Aging and various other Gerontology topics; Diversity & Multi-Cultural Issues; Perceptual & Cognitive Interactions

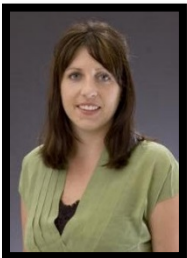
During the first semester of supervision, students working with Dr. Brito go through a set training to help develop some basic research knowledge and skills (e.g., literature searches, reference managers, experimental techniques and programming, questionnaire creation, data management, SPSS, graphing and table creation). For this reason, Dr. Brito prefers a two semester commitment from students, but will make exceptions for students in their last semester at EIU. Subsequent semesters are spent developing individual research projects or assisting in on-going studies. Students need to have successfully completed Statistics (PSY 2610) when they begin Undergraduate Research with Dr. Brito. Generally, students take three semester credit hours per semester, and spend about nine hours in the Lab each week.



Dr. Gary Canivez, PHYS 1001, 581-6413, gcanivez@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. Meg Floress, PHYS 1450, 581-3523, mfloress@eiu.edu

<http://margaretfloress.wixsite.com/psychology>

Research Interests: Classroom Management Strategies, Teacher Praise, Teacher Training, Preschool Intervention, Parent Training, and Pediatric Sleep.

Students working with Dr. Floress may develop their own research projects or may work with her on ongoing projects related to school psychology or behavioral pediatrics. There are no prerequisites for students who wish to participate in an ongoing project, however, students who wish to design their own project should be enrolled in or have completed Statistics (PSY 2610) and Research Methods (PSY 3805). Behavior Modification (PSY 3765) is recommended. A minimum 3.0 GPA is required. A two-semester commitment is strongly encouraged and required for students who design their own projects. Students who are interested in working with Dr. Floress should email her to set up a face-to-face meeting. To see previous undergraduate and graduate student projects go to <http://margaretfloress.wixsite.com/psychology>.



Dr. Russell Gruber, PHYS 1420, 581-6614, 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. Assegedetch Haile Mariam, PHYS 1437, 581-6615, ahailemariam@eiu.edu

Research Interests:

ADHD in Children/Adults; Mental Health Issues in Children; Educational Achievement of English Language Learners; Cultural Influences on Child Development; and Early Intervention of Learning Difficulties.

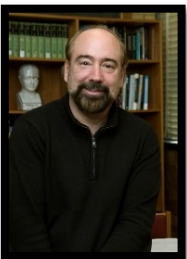
Students will be working on projects related to Dr. HaileMariam's research interests, although they may sometimes develop their own research projects. To do so, they need to have successfully completed Statistics (PSY 2610) and Research Methods (PSY 3805), have a 3.0 minimum GPA, and commit for two semesters.



Dr. Lyndsay Jenkins, PHYS 1440, 581-8511, lnjenkins@eiu.edu

Research Interests: Research Interests: Bullying and Victimization, Bystander Intervention in Bullying, Social Support, Academic Enablers (e.g., motivation, study skills, social skills, and engagement).

Students may sometimes design research projects aligned with Dr. Jenkins' research areas or work on an ongoing project. Students must have completed Statistics (PSY 2610) and Research Methods (PSY 3805) and have an overall GPA of at least 3.0. Two-semester commitments are preferred, but for spring 2017 there are openings for a one-semester commitment.



Dr. John Mace, PHYS 1153, 581-2127, 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. Daniele Nardi, PHYS 4055, 581-2411, dnardi@eiu.edu

Research interests: Memory and learning in the domain of space; Perception, spatial abilities, and spatial behavior; Neurological substrates of spatial abilities and representations; Diversity, individual and sex differences.

Students working with Dr. Nardi may be involved – to different degrees – in an ongoing research project or may develop their own research project in any area related to Dr. Nardi's major research interests. Students must have successfully completed Statistics (PSY 2610) and at least be enrolled in Research Methods (PSY 3805). Two-semester commitments are strongly encouraged and preferred; however, one-semester commitments are possible. **It is crucial that the students have a strong interest aligned with his research area** (broadly memory, perception, navigation, and neurological bases).



Dr. Steven Scher, PHYS 3143, 581-7269, sjscher@eiu.edu

Research Interests: Cannibalism & Incest Taboos; Evolutionary Psychology; Psychology of Religion/Prayer; Social Support; Psychology of Judaism

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.



Dr. Jeffrey Stowell, PHYS 1055, 581-2279, 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 undergraduate research 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. Joseph Williams, PHYS 4065, 581-2422, jgwilliams@eiu.edu

Research Interests: PsychoPharmacology; The Biological Basis of Behavior; The Effects of Drugs of Abuse on Brain Reward Mechanisms; The Measurement of Neurotransmitters; The Relationship Between Neurochemical Events and Ongoing Behavior; Behavioral Physionics of Stress-Related Responding; Human Factors Performance; The Relationship Between Psychology and Religion.

Students working with Dr. Williams for the first time will work on projects developed by him, or in a second semester develop their own projects within his area, or related to the study of stress responding. If you wish to do research with Dr. Williams you should have completed, or at least be enrolled in, Research Methods. Although two-semester commitments are preferred, one-semester commitments are possible.
