University of Nevada, Reno (UNR)
Psychology 375 – ADVANCED UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH
Section XXX – Class Call # XXXXX

Instructor
Class Location
Time
Phone & Email
Office Hours & Location

Course Catalog Description
(1.0 to 3.0 Credits): Independent or collaborative empirical research.
Prerequisite: PSY 101

Course Overview & Objectives
This course satisfies Silver Core Objective 14 (Application): “Students will be able to demonstrate their knowledge and skills developed in previous Core and major classes by completing a project or structured experience of practical significance.”

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to research methods in psychology. An emphasis will be placed on reviewing relevant scientific literature and the processes of collecting and analyzing data. You should expect to participate in any three of more of the following activities and therefore, upon completion of this course be able to:

- Complete the steps involved in the scientific research process in psychology.
- Review the relevant literature by retrieving, reading, summarizing, and discussing particular information of interest to the research study.
- Generate appropriate research questions as a result of understanding prior related research.
- Develop suitable methods of investigation appropriate to the confines of the research question, setting, variables, and participants.
- Prepare proposals for review by the University Human Subject Review Board.
- Collect and analyze data.
- Prepare reports for presentation and/or publication as outlined by the APA 6th Edition Publication Manual.

For every credit hour enrolled in this course, students are required to spend 3 hours working on related research activities per week.

Semester schedule: Students will attend weekly research lab meetings.
Course meetings 1-3: Students will review ethics of psychological research
Students who do not have current IRB approval will complete appropriate training on UNR website and renew approval to participate in research.

Students will read and discussion foundational theoretical and empirical papers related to the research being conducted in the lab.
Students will be trained in the specific research methodology being used in the lab and will be allowed to participate in actual data collection when the advisor evaluates the student to be at or above proficiency in required methodology.

Course meeting 4 to 15

Students will continue weekly lab meetings and discuss new developments in the research and address any issues related to interacting with research participants, entering data, or data analysis. Students collecting data will enter that data into the appropriate data analysis software (such as SPSS) and the advisor will assess accuracy of data entry. Differences between research labs and areas of investigation will result in a broad range of potential activities but all activities will be directly related to the application of directly engaging in “real world” science using psychological methods.

Final Course Meeting
Discussion of Summary Papers and Research Experience

Evaluation of Student Performance

Attendance: Course grades are largely dependent on attendance and punctuality. Research assistants are expected to cover scheduled sessions, attend scheduled meetings, and complete all assignments by agreed upon deadlines. When running subjects of attending lab meetings, it is expected that the research assistant will arrive at the scheduled starting time.

Professionalism: If running subjects for experiments, research assistants must behave in a professional manner. Interactions with other personnel in the research lab should be conducted as outlined by the experimenter.

Comprehension: Research assistants will be given materials to aide in understanding the current experiment. Research assistants may be called upon to seek out additional materials to promote their comprehension. It is expected that appropriate questions will be asked of the mentor if something is unclear. Weekly tasks will be completed in a way to provide an ongoing contribution to the research process.

Final Summary Paper: All students will submit a 5 to 10 page summary of their research experience. These papers will be written in APA style and will present a brief theoretical overview of the area of research inquiry. Students will describe the methods used in the lab and will specifically report on the actual activities that they engaged in as a part of the research experience. The student will report any summary data if that is available or if the project is ongoing the student will discuss future directions for the work. Final papers will involve reflection regarding involvement in psychological research and will address educational and career goals related to research.

Grades will be assigned as follows:
A = 93-100%    A- = 90-92.9%    B+ = 87-89.9%    B = 83-86.9%
B- = 80-82.9%    C+ = 77-79.9%    C = 73-76.9%    C- = 70-72.9%
D+ = 67-69.9%    D = 63-66.9 %    D- = 60-62.9%    F = 59.9% or below

**Academic Dishonesty**
Cheating, plagiarism or otherwise obtaining grades under false pretenses” constitute academic dishonesty according to the code of this university. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and penalties can include canceling a student's enrollment without a grade, giving an F for the course or for the assignment. For more details, see the University of Nevada, Reno General Catalog.

**Disability Services**
Any student with a disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me or the Disability Resource Center (Thompson Building, Suite 101) as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

**Academic Success Services**
Your student fees cover usage of the Math Center (784-443 or www.unr.edu/mathcenter), Tutoring Center (784-6801 or www.unr.edu/tutoring), and University Writing Center (784-6030 or http://www.unr.edu/writing_center). These centers support your classroom learning; it is your responsibility to take advantage of their services. Keep in mind that seeking help outside of class is the sign of a responsible and successful student.

**Statement on Audio and Video Recording**
Surreptitious or covert video-taping of class or unauthorized audio recording of class is prohibited by law and by Board of Regents policy. This class may be videotaped or audio recorded only with the written permission of the instructor. In order to accommodate students with disabilities, some students may have been given permission to record class lectures and discussions. Therefore, students should understand that their comments during class may be recorded.