

FIU – Department of Psychology  
PSY4914-U32 – Honors Thesis in the HANDS Lab

LAB DIRECTOR

---

Dr. Eliza Nelson  
Office Hours: By appointment (DM 201A)  
Email: [elnelson@fiu.edu](mailto:elnelson@fiu.edu)

LAB MANAGER

---

Sandy Gonzalez  
Email: [sgonz219@fiu.edu](mailto:sgonz219@fiu.edu)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

---

Students enrolled in this course will complete an honors thesis in psychology in the HANDS Lab directed by Dr. Eliza Nelson. Students should register for honors credit in the semester that they plan to complete and defend their thesis project. This course is only open to existing HANDS LAB Undergraduate Research Assistants and requires permission from Dr. Nelson.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

---

- At least one semester experience as a RA in the HANDS Lab.
- Students should not work in another lab without permission from Dr. Nelson.
- Students working with human participants must be able to fulfill their hours between 9:00-5:00 pm Monday-Friday.
- Students working with animal subjects must have their own transportation to Monkey Jungle. Students may be asked to work weekends as needed.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

---

- Students participate in lab meeting and complete lab tasks as scheduled.
- Students write and defend a thesis paper to their committee. The committee will consist of Dr. Nelson and 1-2 additional faculty members as relevant to their project. The committee is selected in consultation with Dr. Nelson at the start of the thesis project.
- Professionalism when working with families on the phone or in the lab, or at Monkey Jungle is expected at all times. There is no formal dress code for the lab on campus. Students working at Monkey Jungle are required to wear a uniform during research.

ATTENDANCE

---

Students must be on time for their scheduled hours. Please let Dr. Nelson or a graduate student supervisor know as soon as possible (call or email) if you must miss due to illness or emergency. Absences will be handled on a case-by-case basis. For many projects, hours cannot be made up due to the availability of participating families/monkeys. It is very important that you make every effort to work your assigned hours; some projects we may not be able to complete without a minimum number of lab staff. For the safety of our human participants and animal subjects, *please do not come to the lab/Monkey Jungle when you are sick.*

## GRADING

---

This course is graded Pass/Fail based on fulfillment of scheduled lab hours, attendance at lab meetings, completion of assigned tasks, and successful defense of the written thesis.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

---

HANDS Lab – MMC DM 269A

Phone: 305-348-4032

Monkey Jungle – 14805 SW 216th St, Miami, FL 33170

Phone: 305-235-1611

All students are required to participate in a lab phone tree, and students on the monkey team must provide the name and number of an emergency contact in case of injury. In addition to Dr. Nelson, the emergency contact list is provided to graduate students and Monkey Jungle staff.

**Note: Anything on this syllabus is subject to change at the Instructor's discretion.**