

FIU – Department of Psychology  
PSY5908-U32 – Directed Independent Study in the HANDS Lab

LAB DIRECTOR

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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Students enrolled in this course will obtain credit hours towards the Ph.D. in Psychology and will serve as Graduate Research Assistants in the HANDS Lab directed by Dr. Eliza Nelson. Students should enroll in Directed Independent Study after completing required coursework.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

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- Graduate standing and permission of instructor.
- Students should contact Dr. Nelson for a course code to enroll.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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- Students work in the HANDS Lab on a specified project.
- Students participate in lab meeting as scheduled.
- Students read articles and complete lab tasks as assigned.
- Students mentor undergraduate Research Assistants as assigned.
- 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.

**Mandatory training:**

Students working on projects with human participants must complete the CITI online training for the IRB and will be trained on lab equipment and procedures as needed.

Students working on projects with animal subjects must complete the CITI online training for the IACUC and the course on working with non-human primates. Students must also complete a risk assessment form with Dr. Nelson; submit proof of a negative TB test dated within the past year (**cost up to \$30**); sign a waiver for Monkey Jungle; and complete an on-site safety training session at Monkey Jungle.

GRADING

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This course is graded Pass/Fail based on completion of assigned tasks. Students should expect to work full-time in the HANDS lab over the semester, and actively collect and write-up data.

**Note: Anything on this syllabus is subject to change at the Instructor's discretion.  
All data collected in the HANDS LAB are the property of Dr. Nelson.**