

FIU – Department of Psychology
PSY4900-U32 – Independent Readings in the HANDS Lab

LAB DIRECTOR

Dr. Eliza Nelson
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LAB MANAGER

Sandy Gonzalez
Office Hours: By appointment (DM 269A)
Email: sgonz219@fiu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students enrolled in this course will obtain general credits towards graduation by completing assigned readings, weekly logs, and a final paper in the HANDS Lab directed by Dr. Eliza Nelson.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- 3.0 GPA, submission of the HANDS Lab application, and permission from Dr. Nelson.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Students should plan to work 3 hours per week per credit.
- Students are not required to come to the lab.
- Students read journal articles and submit a weekly reading log as assigned.
- Students submit a final paper at the end of the semester.

GRADING

This course is graded Pass/Fail based on completion of the weekly reading log and the end of semester paper. Students may write a paper on any topic related to the HANDS Lab. The topic should be agreed upon with Dr. Nelson by the end of the first week of the semester. Students are responsible for finding appropriate articles to read weekly for their log.

Weekly Reading Log: Students read 2 articles a week per enrolled credit. Each article should be summarized in a reading log. The log can be completed in either Excel (highly recommended) or Word. Each entry in the log will be a summary of an article that you read for your final paper. The summary should contain 3 parts: (1) why the study was conducted (2 sentences), (2) how the study was conducted (1 sentence), and (3) what the authors found (2 sentences). **The log is due every week by Sunday at midnight**, and should be emailed as an attachment to Sandy, the HANDS Lab manager: sgonz219@fiu.edu. The weekly reading log is checked for completeness, and to ensure students are on the right track with their chosen topic.

The first weekly reading log is due at the end of the second week of the semester.

Final Paper: The final paper should use at least 20 citations, and should be at least 3000 words. The paper should be written in 12-point Arial font with 1-inch margins. A reference list is required, and does not count towards the word limit. Students may choose to do a review of a particular topic or a research proposal (introduction, method, possible interpretations). Students are encouraged to consult graduate students in the lab for help and/or Dr. Nelson as they are writing. The final paper is due on **the last day of the semester**. The paper should be sent as an attachment (.doc, .docx, or .pdf only) to Dr. Nelson: elnelson@fiu.edu

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