

FIU – Department of Psychology
PSY4916-U32 – Independent Research in the HANDS Lab

LAB DIRECTOR

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

LAB MANAGER

Sandy Gonzalez
Email: sgonz219@fiu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students enrolled in this course will obtain independent research credits in psychology as Research Assistants in the HANDS Lab directed by Dr. Eliza Nelson. Students may use up to 6 independent course credits in place of elective credits towards their BA in Psychology at FIU.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- 3.0 overall GPA and submission of the HANDS Lab application.
- 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 work 3 hours in the lab per week per independent research credit.
- Students participate in lab meeting as scheduled. Lab meetings count towards hours.
- Students read articles and complete lab tasks as assigned.
- Students give a final presentation at the end of the semester.
- 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. Touching monkeys is prohibited, and grounds for termination.

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 the end of semester presentation.

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.