

PSU Psychology 401: Research By Arrangement

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You must have instructor permission to enroll in PSY 401.

Interdisciplinary neuroscience explores the relationship between our brains and behavior from multiple perspectives, including psychology, biology, speech and hearing sciences, social science, systems science, direct community engagement and the arts. Memory, attention, perception, language, feeling, and decision making in social contexts all depend on brain structure and function. People in this field examine how the underlying physiology of the nervous system relates to individuals' psychological and behavioral processes.

You must have a current research lab placement to enroll in PSY 401.

The research must be in neuroscience, biology, psychology or a closely related field.

It is the student's responsibility to identify a specific field of research and potential faculty mentors, and request a position in their research program. Students may use any research experience and work with any mentor who can provide them with neuroscience related research experience. In addition, research mentors can be outside the PSU community as long as the student can identify a PSU faculty co-sponsor. For more information:

<https://www.pdx.edu/psychology/neuroscience-minor>



COURSE OBJECTIVES

To gain research experience in neuroscience, or a closely related field. To learn how research is conducted, and to gain familiarity with research topics and techniques. To engage in lab activities, and acquire skill in the language and culture of the discipline. To write about your experiences in public blog posts aimed at explaining research, or aspects of your personal experience to a broader audience.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Students enrolled in PSY 401 must meet the following requirements:

1. Spend 16 hours/week in research-related activities (lab work, writing, training)
2. Check in at least once/month with the PSY 401 instructor. Students must reach out to schedule monthly meetings, and should be prepared to discuss lab progress, explain their research activities, and discuss their ideas for public posts.
3. Write at least one well-researched, illustrated (with images, graphics, and other visual aids), accessible post for public viewing on nwnoggin.org about the research experience. This post (or posts) can focus on the research itself, what your research work taught you, how scientific research is conducted - or any other aspect of the experience that struck or intrigued you. To see past examples, check here:

<https://nwnoggin.org/what-is-research-like/>

So what is it like to work in a lab?

Many undergraduates are excited about pursuing research, but might not know what it involves. Research experience is essential for gaining a better understanding of how science is conducted, the promise and limits of techniques, how results are interpreted – and it helps them decide if it's something they really want to do.



GRADING

Students are graded based on their research efforts, regular monthly meetings, and posts.