

# 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.

## PSY 401 Research By Arrangement Posting Requirements

A key requirement for the PSY 401: Research by arrangement is publishing a publicly accessible online post during the term. This post must be in your own words (not those of others, or AI), and include a significant number of creative, self-made images aimed at informing and engaging a broader public about your research topic. *This in-depth, well-researched, published post is required for a passing grade in PSY 401.*

### WHAT AM I WRITING ABOUT?

That's up to you! What are you discovering about your research experience? What strikes you about it, interests you, motivates you, engages you, surprises you, shocks you? What do you wish you knew more about before starting your lab experience?

What do you think people should know about the research itself - what exactly are you studying? Why is the lab studying it? How are they studying it? What is your own role in the research? Why are these research questions important, relevant, or interesting?

Successful posts by past PSY 401 participants are found here:

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

### WHEN IS MY POST DUE?

WEEK ONE: REACH OUT to schedule a Zoom session to go over by arrangement expectations for the term. You will spend the first four weeks in your research lab participating, observing, learning and considering potential topics for your post.

WEEK FIVE: REACH OUT again to schedule a Zoom session. By Week Five you should have a clearly articulated idea of your topic, and thoughts on how you will organize your public post. We'll discuss this topic at the session.

WEEK SEVEN: SUBMIT your substantially completed draft post by email. You are welcome to submit your post as a Word doc, or a Google doc (please do not send a pdf). This post should include a title, short bio (name, major, minor, research lab and position details), text, section headings, illustrations (most of them your own), and research links in this format: LEARN MORE: [Hyperlinked NIH article](#).

WEEKS SEVEN – TEN: EDITING. I'll read through your post, and offer suggestions, and share these, and you will make changes and updates until we both agree that your post is ready for publication. *Again, publication is required to pass PSY 401.*