

**University of Mississippi, Department of Psychology**  
**Psy 405 (Minor Research Problems) and Psy 420 (Special Topics)**

Students interested in gaining research experience beyond their laboratory class can register Psy 405 or Psy 420. These courses are not listed in the class schedule each semester. Psy 405 is taken for a Z grade, and Psy 420 is taken for a letter grade. Scheduling time for these courses is on an individual basis; it depends on the faculty members' research schedules (see below) and on the nature of the project.

**Steps Taken To Enroll In Psy 405 Or Psy 420**

1. Identify a research area or faculty member you would like to work with (see descriptions below).
2. Determine whether or not you have met the prerequisites (see above and individual faculty descriptions).
3. Contact the specific faculty member to learn more about research experience, and obtain permission to register. If you don't know their office hours, inquire in room 207.
4. Forms for the faculty member to sign are located in the lobby of Peabody.
5. Return signed form to the Undergraduate Office (Peabody 207).

**Course and research descriptions for individual faculty members**

**Dr. Laura J. Dixon** – Clinical Psychology ([ljdixon@olemiss.edu](mailto:ljdixon@olemiss.edu), Peabody 302D)

The primary focus of the HART (Health and Anxiety Research and Treatment) lab is on the etiology, maintenance, and treatment of anxiety disorders across the lifespan. The lab takes a transdiagnostic approach to examining behavioral, cognitive, emotional, and physiological processes that underlie a variety of anxiety disorders. The secondary emphasis of the lab pertains to the intersection of anxiety and health, and in particular, how anxiety pathology may contribute to engagement in maladaptive health behaviors (e.g., substance use) and exacerbate medical conditions (e.g., dermatological disorders). Students are expected to attend weekly lab meetings and to work at 6-9 hours each week in the lab, which includes activities such as collecting data, running participants through experimental protocols, entering data, double-checking data and recordings, conducting literature searches, reading/discussing articles, and developing independent projects/poster presentations.

For more information and the lab application:

<https://olemissanxietylab.wordpress.com/>

**Dr. Alan M. Gross** - Clinical Psychology ([pygross@olemiss.edu](mailto:pygross@olemiss.edu), Peabody Room 311A)

Students may inquire about the availability of opportunities to work with Dr. Gross or a graduate student who is conducting research. Current projects involve:

1. Alcohol expectancies and sexual coercion
2. Emotional regulation and aggressive behavior
3. Contextual variables and date rape

**Dr. Laura Johnson** - Clinical Psychology ([ljohnson@olemiss.edu](mailto:ljohnson@olemiss.edu), Peabody Room 301B)

*Research Areas: Cultural competence in clinical training and mental health programming, psychosocial and cultural adjustment of refugees, immigrants and international student, program evaluation and outcome research (particularly of community based preventative interventions for youth), and multicultural/cross-cultural research lab.*

Current projects are youth development in China, Jane Goodall's "Roots and Shoots" multinational survey, cultivating youth environmental leadership and civic engagement, acculturative stress in international students, barriers to American students' friendship with international students and racial identity, and acculturation and spirituality in African-American help-seeking.

**Dr. Elicia C. Lair** – Social Psychology ([eclair@olemiss.edu](mailto:eclair@olemiss.edu), Peabody 302C)

Dr. Lair's research is focused on how feelings and thinking styles interact. Current work examines how feelings and thinking styles influence social impressions, voting preferences, moral judgments, and visual perceptions, among other topics. Research assistants working in the lab attend a weekly lab meeting (about 1 hour) and contribute approximately 8 hours per week to conduct ongoing research. Prerequisites include an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher, a filled-out application form found on the lab website, and consent of the instructor.

Learn more about the Social Cognition Lab and for lab application information see: <http://eclair.strikingly.com>.

**Dr. Danielle J. Maack** – Clinical Psychology ([djmaack@olemiss.edu](mailto:djmaack@olemiss.edu), Peabody 310E)

Dr. Maack is the director of the ADEPT lab. The research in the ADEPT lab broadly fits into the following domains: Anxiety, Depression, Emotion, Personality, and Temperament. More specifically, current research interests are in the domains of emetophobia (fear of vomiting), and disgust sensitivity (with a particular focus on moral disgust).

Students working in the ADEPT lab are strongly encouraged to attend lab meetings and are expected to commit at least 4 hours per week for at least a semester (a two semester commitment is preferred). Students taking a 405 or a 420 course work closely with all members of the ADEPT Lab (including faculty, graduate students, and other research assistants). Duties vary but can include assisting with subject recruitment; helping with laboratory studies; conducting semi-structured clinical interviews; coding, entering, and analyzing data; and disseminating results at professional meetings and in scientific publications. Interested prospective student with GPAs of at least 3.5 may contact Dr. Maack for and/or check out the lab website [www.theadepmlab.com](http://www.theadepmlab.com) for further information and a lab application.

**Dr. Stephanie Miller** – Developmental Psychology ([semille5@olemiss.edu](mailto:semille5@olemiss.edu), Peabody Room 310C)

The Cognition Underlying Behavior (CUB) Lab is a developmental research lab in the Department of Psychology at The University of Mississippi.

We study social and cognitive development across the lifespan, with an emphasis on infancy and early childhood. We are interested in how children come to control their thought and behavior and what supports this development. In addition, we study how this control relates to other social and cognitive processes, like social understanding and memory.

Learn more about the CUB lab and find the application at [www.cublab.olemiss.edu](http://www.cublab.olemiss.edu).

**Dr. Marilyn Mendolia** - Social Psychology ([pymm@olemiss.edu](mailto:pymm@olemiss.edu), Peabody Room 302A)

Dr. Mendolia accepts 5–7 students each fall and spring semester to work on special research projects. Each student works approximately 9 hours per week in the laboratory. Dr. Mendolia's research is in the area of emotion, specifically facial and verbal expression of emotion and the influence of personality and situational factors on self-regulation of emotion. Students attend weekly laboratory meetings and contribute to a specific research project. Laboratory responsibilities may include coding participants' videotaped facial activity for the presence of emotional facial expressions, conducting group and/or individual experimental sessions, developing and/or editing facial expressions for stimulus presentation, data entry, minor statistical analyses, and discussion of various research articles.

**Dr. Nick Prins** - Cognitive Psychology ([nprins@olemiss.edu](mailto:nprins@olemiss.edu), Peabody Room 301A)

Dr. Prins studies visual perception. Most of your time in Psy 405 will be spent acting as a participant in research on low-level visual processes. Testing is self-paced and typically not very demanding. Scheduling hours (about 4 hours per week) is very flexible as you will learn how to get the experiment up and running yourself after which you can test without supervision. During meetings, the background, purpose, and results of the research will be discussed. Requirements are that you are reliable (i.e. show up for the times you have signed up for) and take the testing seriously.

**Dr. Matt Reysen** - Cognitive Psychology ([reysen@olemiss.edu](mailto:reysen@olemiss.edu), Peabody Room 301C)

Students interested in working on research projects involving false memory, social influences on memory performance, and other basic memory phenomena are invited to inquire about the availability of opportunities to work on these and other related projects.

**Dr. Karen Sabol** - Behavioral Neuroscience ([ksabol@olemiss.edu](mailto:ksabol@olemiss.edu), Peabody Room 301B)

Student participation in Psy 405 and Psy 420 involves coming to the laboratory 6 - 8 hours per week to test rats in one of the ongoing experiments. Scheduling each semester depends on the needs of the experiment and the students' individual schedules. Students learn how to handle rats, conduct the experimental procedure, read scientific articles relevant to the experiment, and analyze and interpret data. Students are asked to attend weekly lab meetings at

which the status of different research projects is discussed. Students are asked to present a scientific article to the research group at one of the lab meetings. A term paper is required for Psy 420.

Research in Dr. Sabol's laboratory focuses on the effects of the abused drug methamphetamine in the rat. She is interested in knowing whether rats treated with methamphetamine as young adults will have difficulty with attention, learning, and memory when they reach middle or old age. A second area of focus is the development of tolerance to methamphetamine's effects on learned tasks (reaction time) and body temperature.

Prerequisites: Permission of the instructor, and A or a B in Psy 322 (Drugs and Behavior) or Psy 390 (Behavioral Neuroscience Lab) or Psy 319 (Brain Science and Behavior).

**Dr. Stefan E. Schulenberg** - Clinical Psychology; University of Mississippi Clinical-Disaster Research Center (UM-CDRC) ([sschulen@olemiss.edu](mailto:sschulen@olemiss.edu), Kinard 203)

#### Research Program

Dr. Schulenberg's research interests include clinical-disaster psychology, meaning and purpose in life, positive psychology, psychological assessment, serious mental illness, and adolescent psychopathology in the legal context. Dr. Schulenberg serves as the Director of the University of Mississippi's Clinical-Disaster Research Center (UM-CDRC), an integrated research, teaching, training, and service Center with a primary emphasis in disaster mental health and a related emphasis in positive psychology. He was a mental health consultant on a National Science Foundation research grant issued in response to Hurricane Katrina, and conducted evaluation research funded by the Mississippi Department of Mental Health relating to the effects of the Gulf oil spill (Deepwater Horizon oil spill). He conducts workshops and provides training on disaster preparedness, psychological first aid, disaster response, meaning and purpose in life, resilience, and posttraumatic growth. Dr. Schulenberg has worked with various volunteer organizations, such as Mississippi's Disaster Response Network, the American Red Cross, United Way, and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

#### Expectations

Students are expected to attend weekly lab meetings and to work additional hours each week in the laboratory (e.g., collecting data, entering/double-checking data, conducting literature searches, reading/discussing articles, developing papers or posters, assisting with our team's community volunteer efforts). Dr. Schulenberg's research team is involved with a variety of research, teaching, training, and service projects, which present varied opportunities for student participation in the community.

#### Prerequisites

*Required:* An overall GPA of 3.0 or higher, along with consent of the instructor.

*Recommended:* PSY 417 (Disasters and Mental Health) or PSY 430 (Positive Psychology).

**Dr. Carrie Smith** – Social Psychology ([csmith@olemiss.edu](mailto:csmith@olemiss.edu), Peabody Room 201B)  
Research areas: Interpersonal Relationships, Social Interaction/Diary Research, Self-determination Theory

**Dr. Rebekah Smith** – Cognitive Psychology ([rebekah@olemiss.edu](mailto:rebekah@olemiss.edu))

**& Dr. Reed Hunt** – Cognitive Psychology ([reed@olemiss.edu](mailto:reed@olemiss.edu))

Our research focuses on human memory in young and older adults. Specific topics include prospective memory (remembering to perform an action in the future), false memory (remembering that something happened when it did not), memory correction and improvement, implicit or unconscious influences on memory. Applicants for this lab should have taken multiple psychology courses and maintain a strong GPA. Research assistants will attend lab meetings, read background literature, and will be involved in data collection and discussion of data analysis and outcome. This experience will give you a closer look at what research involves and provides valuable experience and contact with faculty members that is especially helpful if you plan to attend graduate school, but can benefit all students, regardless of their future plans. All activities take place on Oxford campus and require 8 to 9 hours a week.

**Dr. Todd Smitherman** – Clinical Health Psychology ([tasmithe@olemiss.edu](mailto:tasmithe@olemiss.edu), Peabody Room 310D)

Dr. Smitherman's lab focuses on the relationship between psychological factors and physical health/illness. We study the roles of stress, psychiatric symptoms (depression, anxiety), and behavioral interventions in chronic medical problems. Particular chronic health problems include migraine and other headache disorders, chronic pain, obesity, and insomnia. Applicants for this lab should have taken multiple psychology courses, maintain a strong GPA, and have sincere interests in graduate or medical school. Research assistants are expected to attend a weekly lab meeting and contribute several additional hours each week running various studies.

**Dr. Ken Sufka** – Behavioral Neuroscience ([pysufka@olemiss.edu](mailto:pysufka@olemiss.edu), Peabody Room 311B)

Dr. Sufka's research program in behavioral neuroscience is in the development and validation of animal models and procedures for use in behavioral pharmacology research. His recent research has focused on modeling the anxiety-depression continuum in chicks. He has also developed a procedure to quantify pain related functional disability/recovery and another procedure to quantify the affective and motivational properties of analgesic drugs. His research group also collaborates with a number of research faculty interested in developing novel analgesic, anti-inflammatory, anxiolytic, and antidepressant compounds derived from natural products.

Students will learn all aspects of psychopharmacology research including animal care, handling and testing, drug preparation and injections, experimental design, statistical analyses, data presentation, etc. The work expectation is approximately 6-9 hours per week including weekends. Second year RAs typically earn more responsibilities in the lab.

Prerequisites: A final grade of an A or B in Psychology 319, Brain and Behavior or Psychology 322, Drugs and Behavior; Students must also meet compliance with university requirements for working with research animals

**Dr. Kelly Wilson** – Clinical Psychology ([kwilson@olemiss.edu](mailto:kwilson@olemiss.edu), Peabody Room 311C)  
& **Dr. Kate Kellum** – Behavior Analysis ([kkellum@olemiss.edu](mailto:kkellum@olemiss.edu), Falkner 306)

Research areas: Complex human behavior: choice, self-knowledge, and rule governance, behavior acquisition, behavior analysis, social issues, teaching and evaluation at the university level

Expectations: Students in the lab will either work 5-7 lab hours or assist in lecture classes and work 2 lab hours. Attendance in 1 and a half hour weekly lab meetings is required. Lab work includes entering/checking data, running studies, assisting with studies, individual research, conference prep and presentations, and lab assistance.

[www.southerncontext.org](http://www.southerncontext.org)

**Dr. John Young** – Clinical Psychology ([jnyoung1@olemiss.edu](mailto:jnyoung1@olemiss.edu), Peabody Room 310B)

Research areas: Evidence-based services for children and adolescents, dissemination, mental health care systems, and clinical supervision