Class Time: Tuesdays 1:00-1:50, and Wednesdays & Fridays 2:00-2:50 in the Behavioral Processes Lab in RMSC-224. Additional time for research will be scheduled throughout each week of the semester.

Professor: Alliston K. Reid, Ph.D.
Office: RMSC-231C
Office hours: I have an open-door policy. Drop by when you want or by appointment
Office phone: (864) 597-4642
Email: Alliston.Reid@wofford.edu

Texts: No textbooks are required. Instead, all students will read original research articles.

Course Rationale: The Senior Research Thesis is an intensive research capstone course that requires an independent research literature review and a group research experiment culminating in a scientific paper and an oral presentation at the Wofford College Science Symposium.

Course Description: A research-oriented seminar focusing on the mechanisms of behavior and cognition. The senior thesis requires you to perform the duties of a research scientist in psychology. You will conduct a major experiment with human or animal subjects and present your findings as an APA-style written report. A comprehensive written review of the professional literature in your area of research is also required of each student. You will frequently make presentations of your reading to the rest of the team, and your team will present your final project to the Wofford community.

Course Goals: The main goals for this course are to instruct you on how to conduct, analyze, and critique scientific research in psychology. There are a number of specific goals for this course:

- Develop the ability to acquire, evaluate, organize, and present previously conducted scientific research in the form of a comprehensive literature review of a given sub field. In order to reach this goal, you will be asked to learn how to develop a research plan and conduct library research.
- Develop the ability to plan and execute a novel scientific project. In order to achieve this goal you will work as a team to carry out a complete research project. You will be required to conduct the project, acquire and analyze the resulting data, and submit a written report on the project.
- Develop the ability to synthesize and present information in a clear and concise manner. In order to achieve this goal, you will frequently be asked to review and present an area of research to the other members of the team.
Class Participation, Conduct, and Attendance

In accordance with the policy of the College, attendance in all class meetings is mandatory. Neglect of research duties jeopardizes the integrity of the entire experiment for everyone in the class. Neglect of research duties is a serious offense and will be dealt with strict discipline including the possibility of failing the course. Class periods will be devoted to discussion of the literature review and research projects. You will be responsible for active participation each time. You will be called upon to present your research to your peers for review and comment. This is all part of being a scientist. You will be expected to attend every class period without exception. Unexcused absences will result in a report to the Dean’s office and possible withdrawal from the course.

Course Requirements

Each student will have three sets of responsibilities for the course:

- Work as a team member on a research project. This includes the development and implementation of the project as well as data entry, data analysis, and completion of the final report.
- Read, analyze, and discuss published articles for each class period. Team members must be active (not passive) discussants each class. You will be evaluated on your in-class contributions.
- Develop, research, and write a literature review on an approved topic of experimental psychology. The literature review will be done individually.

In order to expedite the three responsibilities, a set of deadlines must be met in order to have the projects progress efficiently and not become a burden to you later in the semester.

Each 24-hour period that any assignment is late will result in a 10-point deduction from the assignment grade. Organize your semester to meet these deadlines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 14, 2012, 2:00 pm</td>
<td>Identify well-developed topic and theme for the literature review. Prior approval by Dr. Reid is required.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 21, 2012, 2:00 pm</td>
<td>Rough outline of literature review due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 1, 2012, 2:00 pm</td>
<td>Detailed outline of Literature Review DUE.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 31, 2012 2:00 pm</td>
<td>Complete draft of Literature Review DUE. Begin preparing Research Report.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 19, 2:00 pm</td>
<td>Final Literature Review DUE.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 1, 2012, 2:00 pm</td>
<td>Complete Draft of Research Report DUE.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 3, 2012, 2:00 pm</td>
<td>PowerPoint Presentation DUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 6-7, 2012</td>
<td>Student Research Presentation at the Wofford Science Symposium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 12, 2012 Noon</td>
<td>Final Revision of Research Report DUE.</td>
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Grading

Although this is a seminar, every attempt will be made to measure your work objectively. Because you will be carrying out research on a daily basis for the semester under close supervision, it will be easy to determine your level of participation in the research. You will be expected to keep notes on class discussions, research topics, journal articles, and discussions with your peers and me. Throughout the semester, you are expected to read many articles relevant to your research and take notes and write commentaries in your journal. I may evaluate your journal and this factor may contribute to your grade. You are expected to seek opportunities to discuss this research with professors (especially me!), rather than assume that we will call you about your work. In terms of your final grade, greater weight will be given to the individual literature review (40%) than the group’s final lab report (30%). You will also be evaluated on your in-class presentations, your academic and professional conduct while collecting and analyzing data (20%), and the quality and professionalism of your presentation to the Wofford community (10%). Failure to receive passing grades in any of these components will result in a failing grade for the course.

Each 24-hour period that any assignment is late will result in a 10-point deduction from the assignment grade. Organize your semester to meet these deadlines.

Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) will result in a referral to the Honor Council. All acts of academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to the Student Honor Code.

http://www.wofford.edu/StudentLife/honorCode.pdf

This syllabus is subject to change.