

Application for 50:830:494 or 50:830:495 (Sean Duffy's section of Independent Study)

Psychology 494 or 495

Independent study is a course Rutgers offers where you can obtain course credit by getting experience running studies in a laboratory. I run experiments largely on memory and decision making, although I also conduct research on a variety of other subjects depending on the semester. You can expect to work about 3 hours per week per credit you sign up for. Most students sign up for 3 credits, so the expectation is that you will be working in the lab, reading relevant material, and otherwise conducting lab-oriented work for about 9 hours per week. Understand that some weeks might be more sparse than others - I might in some weeks need people to work say 12 hours, but then you might the following week need only work for 6, and I do not keep strict track of your time, but you should keep a lab journal in which you write what you did that week so you can keep track of what you are doing and what progress you are accomplishing. At the end of the semester, I expect you to submit a short paper outlining your experience and discussing some of the work that you were involved in.

One thing I want to make abundantly clear: Independent study IS NOT a substitute for Experimental Psychology. The psychology department offers an alternative to Experimental called Independent Study Capstone (498) but I do not work with students or advise them for 498. My position is that Experimental is a crucial course that is central to your education as a psychology major, which is why I do not think any student should be able to skip Experimental simply by getting research experience in a laboratory. So I just want to make sure you understand that taking independent study with me will not lead to the capstone exception to Experimental psychology.

Please initial the following statements, so that I know you understand the terms and conditions of independent study:

\_\_\_\_\_ My major GPA is above 3.0.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I will be reading, running subjects, and otherwise doing lab related work for 3 hours per week per credit I have signed up for.

\_\_\_\_\_ My participation in Independent Study does not qualify me to be exempt from Experimental Psychology. I understand that my participation in 494 or 495 does not qualify me to receive credit for 498. I understand these are completely separate courses and I will not at a later point come back to me, the department, or the university and claim "I thought 494 exempted me from having to take Experimental Psychology."

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_