RESEARCH ASSISTANT REQUIREMENTS

The Self & Relationships Lab

Dr. Ginni Blackhart

Time Commitment

The independent study is flexible and the hours that you are scheduled to be in the lab will be scheduled according to your hours of availability. The number of credits you sign up for determines how many hours a week you will dedicate to the independent study. You should know that all research assistants in the S&R lab are required to sign up for at least 2 credit hours.

# Registered for: Hours in Independent Study

3 credit hours 9-12 hours/week

2 credit hours 6-8 hours/week

You are expected to be available for study signups for AT LEAST the minimum hours each week. You should know that sometimes we schedule time slots for lab studies but that people may not sign up or may not show up for the study session. As a result, there may be some downtime with the studies. If this happens, you will may be asked to complete other tasks, such as data entry or data coding, during that time.

**What will I be doing?**

You will be working with Dr. Blackhart or a graduate student in the lab who will be your supervisor and who will guide you in a study they have designed. There are a number of activities you may be involved in as a research assistant. These may include: Conducting studies (you may have full responsibility for a study), preparing and maintaining all materials for experiments, data entry and coding, proofreading manuscripts and questionnaires, running errands, and library work. You will not be responsible for writing a research paper for the independent study.

**What is expected of me?**

First and foremost, you are expected to be in the lab when scheduled to be and to conduct the tasks that are assigned to you. Therefore, you must be responsible, reliable and dependable. If asked to be primarily responsible for a study, you must also be able to work independently. You are also expected to attend the weekly lab meeting, which takes place every Friday at 2:00 p.m. You cannot join the lab if you are unable to attend the weekly lab meetings.

**How is my grade determined?**

Your grade for the independent study is based on your performance and includes such things as meeting goals and expectations for conducting the actual research, being responsible, conscientious, enthusiastic, involved, effortful, etc., and most importantly, that **you are in the lab when scheduled to be!** If you meet expectations, you will receive an “A” at the end of the semester. If you do not meet expectations, your grade will be adjusted accordingly. Each instance of an expectation not being met (e.g., failure to run participants through a study protocol correctly, failure to attend a lab meeting without prior permission to miss the meeting, failure to turn in your summary/critique if you must miss a lab meeting, failure to read an empirical article prior to the lab meeting, failure to participate in discussion during a lab meeting) may result in a 1/3 letter grade deduction (e.g., A to A-) for the semester. **Failure to be in the lab to run a participant when scheduled to be in the lab without finding someone else to replace you and cover your shift will result in an automatic failing grade (i.e., F). You will also be asked to leave the lab at that time.**

**What will I get out of the Independent Study?**

There are a few potential benefits to doing an independent study, such as:

* You will learn a lot about experimental research.
* It looks really good on graduate school applications (and is often necessary for admittance into many graduate programs).
* Possibility to present research at undergraduate conferences (which also looks good on graduate school applications).
* Fulfilling psychology department requirements while doing hands-on work (PSYC 4900 counts as a PSYC elective toward the Psychology major and minor).
* Learning the ropes in order to prepare yourself for an honors project or thesis (if you choose to do one).
* Provides you with potential references when applying to graduate school.

**RESEARCH ASSISTANT APPLICATION**

## Self & Relationships Lab

Dr. Blackhart

Name:

E #:

Email:

Phone #:

Major:

Minor:

Overall GPA:

Year in School:

What psychology courses have you already taken?

What are your career goals?

Do you plan to go to graduate/professional school? If yes, what kind of graduate program or professional school do you intend to apply to and what degree do you intend to seek?

Why do you want to do an Independent Study in Psychology?

Why do you want to do an Independent Study in the Self & Relationships lab?

What do you most want to get out of an Independent Study?

Have you done an Independent Study before? If YES, with/for whom and for how long?

Are you willing to make a 2-semester commitment?

Are you typically available in the summer?

What courses are you enrolled in next semester?

Do you currently have a job? If yes, where do you work/what do you do and what is your typical work schedule?

What other time commitments do you or might you have?

What is/are your greatest strength(s)?

What is/are your greatest weakness(es)?

How might your weakness(es) affect your ability to work in the lab? How do you plan to overcome your weakness(es) in the context of the lab environment?

Do you have any other special skills, interests, or resources that I should know about?

Are you in any of the honors programs at ETSU (e.g., University Honors, Midway Honors, Honors-in-the-Discipline)? If yes, do you have any interest in completing your undergraduate honors thesis in the S&R lab?

You may be asked to do the following types of work for your independent study. Some are more interesting than others, but it all has to be done. Please rate the following tasks from 1 (most favorite) to 11 (least favorite). This does not mean that you will not be asked to conduct your least favorite activity, but it will give me an idea of what you want to do the most.

\_\_\_\_\_ Conduct/run laboratory studies

\_\_\_\_\_ Conduct/run questionnaire studies

\_\_\_\_\_ Data entry

\_\_\_\_\_ Assist with coding data (looking for patterns)

\_\_\_\_\_ Assist with data analysis (statistical analysis)

\_\_\_\_\_ Library work (e.g., looking up references, copying journal articles, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Proofread questionnaires or manuscripts

\_\_\_\_\_ Run errands / maintain supplies in the lab

\_\_\_\_\_ Schedule participants and researchers in Sona

\_\_\_\_\_ Assign credits to participants in Sona

\_\_\_\_\_ Present research at a conference in a poster presentation