

**University of North Carolina Wilmington**  
**PSY491: DIRECTED INDEPENDENT STUDY**  
**DR. NORA NOEL**  
**SYLLABUS Fall 2018**

**Class time** M 5 – 6 + 8hrs lab, Rm TL 3008  
Dr. Noel's Office: TL3044

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Office Hours: by appointment (email for appointment)

### **Overview**

The BEACHLAB (Behavioral Evaluation of Alcohol, Caffeine and Health Laboratory) in UNCW's Department of Psychology aims to expose students to all aspects of the scientific research process; from hypothesis generation to publication specifically related to alcohol and caffeine use and associated health issues. Students will gain direct experience in a number of research relevant skills including (but not limited to) understanding research ethics, conducting literature reviews, data collection, data inputting, data management, and research presentation. All of these skills are valuable for future use in advanced (graduate) education and/or work place performance in a large number of areas. In addition, the lab will offer exceptional undergraduate students opportunities to complete Honors Thesis Research that is expected to result in conference presentations and eventual publication. Finally, undergraduates in the BEACHLAB will have ample opportunity to work closely with graduate students completing Masters Theses and to receive in-depth preparation that will aid in their own graduate school or future job application process.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, students will have:

1. Developed and communicated their understanding of research questions and scope of duties on one or more projects
2. Used the knowledge, skills and abilities learned in other courses to accomplish project duties and contribute to the functioning of the lab including activities such as participant recruitment, data collection, data input, and data analysis.
3. Presented a research project (either their own, or one from the scientific literature) to the rest of the BEACHLAB personnel.
4. Communicated an integrated reflection of their experiences through a final written research summary report to Dr. Noel.

### **IMPORTANT:**

Ethics Certificates must be **completed as soon as possible**. The site is

<http://www.uncw.edu/ors/documents/HowToRegisterforCITtraining.pdf>

You must complete the **Basic Human Subjects Protection** course for Social-Behavioral Researchers and send the completed copy to Dr. Noel. You cannot begin work in the lab until this course is completed.

### **Catalog description:**

PSY 491. Directed Individual Study (1-3) Prerequisite: Overall GPA of at least 2.00, junior or senior standing, and consent of instructor, department chair and dean. Involves investigation under faculty supervision beyond what is offered in existing courses. For further information, consult the Directed Individual Studies section in UNCW Undergraduate catalogue. Satisfies University Studies V: Explorations Beyond the Classroom

### **Class Requirements:**

1. Attendance:

- a. Everybody in the lab is required to attend the weekly lab meeting from 5 – 6 on Mondays. We will take attendance to make sure you do not miss any important information.
- b. Everyone will be assigned to lab hours each week (usually the same times each week). You must attend for those hours. If something serious happens that you **MUST** miss your hours, please inform your lab

supervisor at least 24 hours in advance and try to find someone else who can fill in those hours for you. This is especially important if you are scheduled to run participants in a study.

NOTE Each week you will need to email a brief note accounting for your lab hours that week.

2. Ethical Behavior:

a. Each researcher must complete the ethics training before beginning to work with participants (please see above).

b. It is everyone's duty to maintain ethical behavior towards participants and fellow lab members. If you witness or are worried about behavior that might not meet high ethical standards, please inform and discuss this with Dr. Noel as soon as possible.

3. Professional Behavior:

We expect everyone to behave professionally towards participants and towards each other. Please dress appropriately for the lab, make sure you arrive on time (or even ahead of time) to prepare to run participants and take the time and the care to do your work well.

4. Safety and Security: This will be discussed in the lab meeting, but note that this is an important concern for our participants, our researchers and our laboratory.

5. Learning:

a. You will have to make one power point presentation to the lab each semester. The times and the assignments will be made by Dr. Noel or one of the grad students who is assisting her. Also, of course, you have to be here to hear the presentations by your fellow students. Come in ready to discuss the research that we will hear about.

b. You are also expected to turn in a statement at the end of the semester stating the projects you worked on and your overall experience in the BEACHlab.

b. If you have questions, ask—this is a learning lab, so we want you to know all that you can learn.

**Important Notes about the course:**

-All members of UNCW's community are expected to follow the academic Honor Code. Please read the UNCW Honor Code carefully (as covered in the UNCW Student Handbook). Academic dishonesty in **any** form will not be tolerated in this class. You could be given an F for the course. Please be especially familiar with UNC-W's position on plagiarism as outlined in the UNCW Student Handbook. **Plagiarism** is a form of academic dishonesty in which you take someone else's ideas and represent them as your own. We will discuss plagiarism in class so you understand examples.

-In addition, please note that UNCW practices a zero tolerance policy for any kind of violent or harassing behavior. If you feel you are being harassed in class, please consult with the teacher. If you are experiencing an emergency of this type contact the police at 911 or UNCW CARE at 962-2273. Resources for individuals concerned with a violent or harassing situation can be located at <http://www.uncw.edu/wsrc/crisis.html>.

-Finally, please be courteous to your teachers, classmates and participants in the studies: turn off your cell phones, pagers or other distractions during meetings and lab time. You can check messages at break times. Laptop use is permitted as long as you are not distracting others (e.g. no noise, no attention-getting photos).