

Psychology Department Undergraduate Research Opportunities 2016-17



The following faculty have specifically indicated that they are willing to supervise students (PSY 4100: Undergraduate Research) next academic year (i.e., **fall 2016** & **spring 2017** semesters). Note that although most faculty will want you to commit to two semesters in order to maximize learning, some will consider a one-semester supervision; if so, it has been noted.



Dr. Jenkins, PHYS 1440, 581-8511, lnjenkins@eiu.edu

Research Interests: Bullying and Victimization, Social Support, Academic Enablers (e.g., motivation, study skills, social skills, and engagement), Teacher's use of praise in classrooms.

Students may design research projects aligned with Dr. Jenkins' research areas or work on an ongoing project. Students must have completed Statistics (PSY 2610) and Research Methods (PSY 3805) and have an overall GPA of at least 3.0. Two-semester commitments are strongly preferred, but a fall and spring commitment is required for research related to teacher praise.

For 2016/17: Dr. Jenkins will have openings for **2** students. Preferably for the full year, but would consider fall only.



Dr. Nardi, PHYS 4055, 581-2411, dnardi@eiu.edu

Research interests: Memory and learning in the domain of space; Perception, spatial abilities, and spatial behavior; Neurological substrates of spatial abilities and representations; Diversity, individual and sex differences.

Students working with Dr. Nardi may be involved – to different degrees – in an ongoing research project or may develop their own research project in any area related to Dr. Nardi's major research interests. Students must have successfully completed Statistics (PSY 2610) and at least be enrolled in Research Methods (PSY 3805). Two-semester commitments are strongly encouraged and preferred; however, one-semester commitments are possible. **It is crucial that the students have a strong interest aligned with his research area** (broadly memory, perception, navigation, and neurological bases).

For 2016/17: Dr. Nardi will have openings for **2** students.



Dr. Stowell, PHYS 1055, 581-2279, jrstowell@eiu.edu

Research Interests: Stress and Health; Use of Technology to Facilitate Student Learning

Students working with Dr. Stowell may develop their own research projects or work on projects developed by Dr. Stowell. If you wish to do undergraduate research with Dr. Stowell you should have completed or at least be enrolled in Research Methods. Dr. Stowell will work with individuals of all classes including those in their last semester.

For 2016/17: Dr. Stowell will have openings for **2** students, doing their own projects.



Dr. Williams, PHYS 4065, 581-2422, jgwilliams@eiu.edu

Research Interests: PsychoPharmacology; The Biological Basis of Behavior; The Effects of Drugs of Abuse on Brain Reward Mechanisms; The Measurement of Neurotransmitters; The Relationship Between Neurochemical Events and Ongoing Behavior; Behavioral Physionics of Stress-Related Responding; Human Factors Performance; The Relationship Between Psychology and Religion.

Students working with Dr. Williams for the first time will work on projects developed by him, or in a second semester develop their own projects within his area, or related to the study of stress responding. If you wish to do research with Dr. Williams you should have completed, or at least be enrolled in, Research Methods. Although two-semester commitments are preferred, one-semester commitments are possible.

For 2016/17: Dr. Williams will have openings for 2-3 students.



Dr. Ahmed, PHYS 3041, 581-2611, fahmed@eiu.edu

Research Interests: Adult and Geriatric Neuropsychology, Neurodegenerative Disorders, Cerebrovascular Risk Factors for Cognitive Decline.

Students working with Dr. Ahmed may work with her on ongoing research projects or develop their own research project within Dr. Ahmed's research areas. Students are required to have successfully completed Statistics (PSY 2610) and have completed or be currently enrolled in Research Methods (PSY 3805). Students must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and commit to at least 2 semesters in Dr. Ahmed's lab.

For 2016/17: Dr. Ahmed will have openings for 2 students.



Dr. Gruber, PHYS 1420, 581-6614, regruber@eiu.edu

Research Interests: Social Fields; Lucid Dreaming; Intuition; Mind-Body Health

Students working with Dr. Gruber will join a team of research assistants exploring psychic phenomena – a form of mental telepathy or extra-sensory perception, involving groups of people or “social fields.” Dr. Gruber prefers to work with juniors and seniors, and will work with students for one or two semesters.

For 2016/17: Dr. Gruber will have openings for 3-4 students.



Dr. Bernas, PHYS 3043, 581-6416, rsbernas@eiu.edu

Research Interests: (1) Wisdom (cognitive processes involved in wisdom such as dialectical thinking); (2) Mindful awareness/ mindfulness; (3) Happiness/subjective wellbeing; (4) Religious/spiritual thought and cognitions; (5) Quiet ego (transcending the ego) (6) Insightful understanding, meaning construction, and reflective judgments; (7) Epistemic cognition (personal beliefs about cognition and learning); (8) Contributions of Buddhist philosophy to Western psychology and neuroscience; (9) Phenomenological (firstperson) approaches to studying the mind; (10) Cultural differences in thinking.

Students working with Dr. Bernas may develop their own research projects according to individual interests or work on one of Dr. Bernas' ongoing research projects. Students must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and must register for 3 credit hours. To do supervised research with Dr. Bernas, students must have completed Research Methods (PSY 3805). The latter is not required for independent study. Students may assist in data collection, literature review, and data coding and analyses.

For 2016/17: Dr. Bernas will have openings for 1-2 students; however, students **MUST** commit to two semesters.

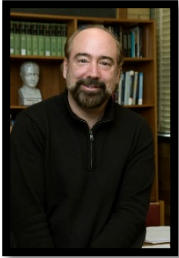


Dr. Scher, PHYS 3143, 581-7269, sjscher@eiu.edu

Research Interests: Cannibalism & Incest Taboos; Evolutionary Psychology; Psychology of Religion/Prayer

Students may develop their own project within Dr. Scher's general research areas, or they may work on an ongoing project. Dr. Scher encourages motivated students to begin Independent Study research as early as possible in their academic career, but students generally must commit to work on a project for at least two semesters.

For fall 2016 ONLY: Dr. Scher will have openings for 1-2 students to work as assistants on ongoing projects. [He will be on sabbatical in spring 2017.]



Dr. Mace, PHYS 1153, 581-2127, jhmace@eiu.edu

Research Interests: Involuntary Memory; Voluntary Memory; Processes Underlying Remembering; Autobiographical Memory

Students working with Dr. Mace may work on projects developed by him or develop their own projects within his area or in any other area within the study of memory. Students must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and should be juniors or seniors. Although two-semester commitments are preferred, one-semester commitments are possible.

For 2016/17: Dr. Mace will have openings for 2-3 students, at least.



Dr. Brito, PHYS 3139, 581-2219, cfbrito@eiu.edu

Research Interests: Attitudes toward Aging and various other Gerontology topics; Diversity & Multi-Cultural Issues; Perceptual & Cognitive Interactions

Students working with Dr. Brito may develop their own research projects in any of Dr. Brito's major research areas of interest, participate in ongoing research, or assist in general Lab projects. Students need to have successfully completed Statistics (PSY 2610) when they begin their Independent Study work. Generally, students take two or three semester credit hours and spend three hours in the Lab each week for every credit hour taken. Dr. Brito prefers a two semester commitment from students, but will make exceptions for students in their last semester at EIU.

For 2016/17: Dr. Brito will have openings for 2 students, doing their own projects.



Dr. Canivez, PHYS 1001, 581-6413, gicanivez@eiu.edu

Research Interests: Psychometric Evaluation of Intelligence; Achievement, Personality & Psychopathology Tests; Sport Psychology; Computer Applications in Psychology

Students working with Dr. Canivez may develop their own research projects related to individual interests related to psychological measurement or sport psychology. Students may also elect to assist Dr. Canivez on a funded grant project. Students need to have completed statistics and must have taken or be enrolled in research methods. In addition students must have a minimum GPA of 3.0. Although Dr. Canivez prefers juniors and seniors, exceptions may be made for those who have completed the educational prerequisites.

For 2016/17: Dr. Canivez might have openings for 1-2 students.