

PSYC 401: DIRECTED RESEARCH in PSYCHOLOGY

Instructor: Dr. Ariel N. James
she/her/hers

Email: ajames2@macalester.edu

Office drop-in hours:

Mon. & Wed. 2:30 -3:30 pm | and by
appt. via <https://calendly.com/ajames2>

Macalester College

Fall 2022

MWF 10:50-11:50 am

Olin-Rice 300

In this course...

...well, it's not so much a *course* as a semester-long project. You will identify your own research question, propose a way to investigate that question, and then *actually carry it out*. All in one semester!

....there will be many meetings.

The structure of this course is essentially a series of group meetings (with our 4-person class) and individual meetings, with the occasional large group meetings with everyone in DR this semester.

...you will be asked to complete a:

- Proposal
- Library meeting
- Introduction section draft
- Method section draft
- PRB application
- Results section draft
- Discussion section draft
- Poster
- Full manuscript

Your poster will be presented here at Macalester on the last day of class, and again at the Minnesota Undergraduate Psychology Conference (MUPC) in late Spring semester (date and location TBD).

Letter Grades	
A	≥ 93%
A-	≥ 90%
B+	≥ 87%
B	≥ 83%
B-	≥ 80%
C+	≥ 77%
C	≥ 73%
C-	≥ 70%
D+	≥ 67%
D	≥ 63%
D-	≥ 60%
F	< 60%

Grade Composition		
Attendance: 2.5%		
IRB process: 2.5%		
Drafts: 30%	Outline + Refs	5%
	Lit review	5%
	Method	5%
	Results	5%
	Discussion	5%
	Poster	5%
Final poster: 15%		
Final paper: 50%		

How do assignment grades work? Everything **except for the final paper** will be graded for timely completion only. “Timely completion” means submitting on or before the deadline, including all required elements (according to instructions), and using correct formatting. You will receive feedback, but no letter grade for quality.

Attendance

Attendance is very important in this course. Our group meetings are a chance for us to discuss issues, get on the same page, and provide moral support. In such a small class, your absence will be deeply felt.

Absences & late work

Missed group and individual meetings can negatively impact your attendance grade. **Missed individual meetings will need to be made up.** Absences due to special circumstances may be excused. Talk to me as soon as you know you might miss class.

Late work will be accepted at a penalty of 10% per day up to 50%. Talk to me as soon as you are feeling concerned about completing something on time.

Flex Tokens

You have **4 “flex tokens”** this semester that you can use to:

- miss a group class
- get a 48-hour extension on a draft

without penalty or explanation! Just let me know that you’re using a token.

*You do **NOT** need to use a token for religious observances, COVID-related absences, or accommodations via Disability Services.*

If you need more than the 4 tokens, exceptions can be granted under many circumstances. **Please reach out to me ASAP** so we can discuss!

Accessibility & Well-being

Doing a capstone is hard. I encourage you to **make your well-being a priority** throughout this semester and beyond. Investing time into taking care of yourself will help you engage more fully in your academic experience. Remember that beyond being a student, **you are a human being** carrying your own experiences, thoughts, emotions, and identities with you. It is important to acknowledge any stressors you may be facing, which can be mental, emotional, physical, cultural, financial, etc., and how they can have an impact on your academic experience. I encourage you to remember to **attend to and advocate for your needs**. Outside of the classroom, sleeping, moving your body, and connecting with others can be strategies to help you be resilient at Macalester. If you are having difficulties maintaining your well-being, please don’t hesitate to **contact me** and/or find support from other resources listed on Moodle under **“Resources”**. If you think you might need **accommodations** for a disability (e.g. depression, anxiety, chronic pain, etc.), please contact the **Disability Services Office** (disabilityservices@macalester.edu) at your earliest convenience.

Week	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
1	1-on-1 days have letters. ABC = 20-min sessions with each of you. A single letter means a whole hour with one of you.		9/2: Introductions
2	9/5: Labor Day	9/7: ABC Due: 6 refs	9/9: ABC
3	9/12: A Due: Outline + 12 refs draft	9/14: B	9/16: C
4	9/19: Group	9/21: ABC	9/23: ABC
5	9/26: Group Due: Outline (final); Library session	9/28:ABC	9/30: ABC Due: Lit review sketch
6	10/3: Group	10/5: ABC	10/7: Everyone! Qualtrics session Due: Method draft
7	10/10: ABC Due: IRB draft	10/12: Reviewing?	10/14: Reviewing?
8	10/17: Reviewing? Due: revised IRB	10/19: ABC	10/21: Fall break
10	10/24: ABC	10/26: ABC	10/28: Drop-in
11	10/31: A	11/2: B	11/4: C
12	11/7: Group Due: Results draft	11/9: ABC	11/11: Drop-in
13	11/14: ABC	11/16: ABC	11/18: Drop-in Due: Discussion draft
14	11/21: Group	11/22: Thxgiving	11/24: Thxgiving
15	11/28: ABC Due: Draft poster	11/30: Poster practice	12/2: Poster practice
16	12/5: Poster practice Due: Final poster	12/7: Poster practice	12/9: Poster practice Presentation 4:45-6:30 in Smail
Final papers due Wednesday December 14th			