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| **Social Relationships Lab – PSYC 403****Spring 2018** |

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Lab: Miller Hall 1235

**Course Description**

This is the second semester of a two-semester sequential research experience. Experiences are intended to extend and build upon those completed during the Fall semester. Students register for 3 credit hours (120 total semester hours).

The Social Relationships Lab aims to understand how social relationships with family members, friends, and romantic partners contribute to meaningful qualities of future relationships and individual adjustment. We also aim to study these relationships in both offline and online contexts. Please see “Description of Projects” below for current lab directions.

**Learning Objectives**

Students will learn a variety of skills in the research process. Learning objectives will include:

* Reviewing research literature and creating a research hypothesis
* Collecting, coding, and preparing data for analysis
* Data analysis using SPSS, SAS, and/or Mplus
* Interpretation of results for discussion
* Preparing and collaborating on posters to be presented at university, regional, and/or national conferences
* Preparing and collaborating on manuscripts that can be submitted for publication

**Description of Projects**

Students working in the lab will have access to data from a longitudinal study of social development spanning from adolescence (age 13) to young adulthood (to age 27). Current areas of interest for the lab that can be explored using this dataset include (but are not limited to):

* The development of romantic relationships in adolescence and young adulthood, including how family and peer relationship factors promote healthy vs. unhealthy relationships
* Contributions of social relationships with peers enacted online (i.e. Facebook) to future peer/romantic relationship quality and individual health and well-being
* How individual differences in emotion regulation and coping responses may affect the quality of romantic relationship development and online social relationships

**Required Activities**

Students are required to attend a 1 hour lab meeting once a week. The date, time, and location will be determined based on lab members’ schedules. Lab meetings will include the discussion of research, data analysis, and updates about students’ progress on individual projects. Students are expected to be involved in all aspects of the research process.

**Weekly Activities:**

*Data Analysis*

* Attend lab meeting for in-person assistance with data analysis
* Spend time outside of lab meeting working with the data analysis software to test and revise hypotheses (as needed) from the Fall semester. **In order to produce a successful project with interesting and significant results, you will absolutely need to plan on spending at least 1-2 hours per week outside of lab time conducting data analysis.**
* Document data analysis activities, questions, and results each week for review by the instructor and to share with other lab members

**Semester Activities:**

*Brief Papers*

* **Participants and Procedure (~1-2 pages)** section which outlines how the data were collected, how the study was conducted, and over what time frame research activities took place
* **Results section paper (~3 pages + more for tables/figures)** outlining the findings from your project in detail, including relevant tables and figures
* **Discussion section paper (~ 4-5 pages)** based on the results of your analyses
* **Reflection paper (~2-3 pages)** that discusses what you have learned during your year-long research experience.

*Poster*

* Create a poster based on your research findings that will be presented at the JMU Undergraduate Psychology Research Symposium. The poster should have the following sections: Introduction, Method, Results, and Discussion. Examples will be provided.

**Method of Evaluation**

Students will be evaluated on the quality and timeliness of their work in the lab:

* Students must prepare for and attend lab meetings regularly. If a conflict arises, students must contact Dr. Szwedo immediately so that alternative arrangements for obtaining missed information can be made.
* Students should complete tasks in a timely manner. It is the responsibility of the student to complete the task before the due date and to ask questions if they are unsure of how to approach the assigned task/activity.
* The final grade will be comprised of lab meeting attendance/participation/completion of weekly activities (30%), and the production, quality, and presentation of the Participants and Procedures, Results, and Discussion papers (40%), the Research Symposium Poster (20%), and the Reflection paper (10%).

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| **Course Schedule** |

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| **Week** | **Class Date** | **Lab Session**  | **Assignments**  |
| **1** | 1/8; 1/9 | * Welcome Back / Semester Plan
* SAS Review
 | * **Review/Clarify Hypotheses**
* **Review Participant &Procedure sections from** [**www.teenresearch.org**](http://www.teenresearch.org) **website**
* **Begin developing analysis plan**
* **Which measures?**
* **Which waves?**
* **Develop plan for tracking/recording analyses**
* **Begin working on 80 word abstract for VAPS:** [**http://www.vapsychscience.org/convention/call-for-papers/**](http://www.vapsychscience.org/convention/call-for-papers/)
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| **2** | 1/15; 1/16 | * Data Analysis: Correlations

**Monday group: No Meeting MLK Day****Tuesday group: Meet as scheduled** | * **Begin running correlations between variables of interest**
* **Work on Participants and Procedure Section**
* **80 word abstract for VAPS due Sunday 1/21**
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| **3** | 1/22; 1/23 | * Data Analysis: Correlations/Regressions
 | * **Continue running correlations & organize key findings**
* **Work on Participants and Procedure Section**
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| **4** | 1/29; 1/30 | * Data Analysis: Correlations/Regressions
 | * **Run correlations/regressions & organize key findings**
* **Apply for presentation at VAPS by Friday 2/2**
* **Submit travel grant to JMU Psychology Department**
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| **5** | 2/5; 2/6 | * Data Analysis: Correlations/Regressions

**Monday group: Meet as scheduled** **Tuesday group: No Meeting Assessment Day** | * **Run correlations/regressions & organize key findings**
* **Review Results sections from** [**www.teenresearch.org**](http://www.teenresearch.org) **website**
* **Participants and Procedure Section Due (Sunday, 2/11)**
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| **6** | 2/12; 2/13 | * Data Analysis: Interactions/Mediation
 | * **Run mediation/moderation & organize key findings**
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| **7** | 2/19; 2/20 | * Data Analysis: Interactions/Mediation
 | * **Run mediation/moderation & organize key findings**
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| **8** | 2/26; 2/27 | * Data Analysis: Univariate Statistics Revisited
 | * **Results paper + tables and figures due Thursday 3/1 at Midnight on Canvas**
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| **9** | 3/5; 3/6 | ***Spring Break – No Meeting*** |  |
| **10** | 3/12; 3/13 | * Share results with peers
* Discuss possible interpretations
 | * **Submit Abstracts for 3 Articles to use in Discussion paper on Canvas (Sunday, 3/18)**
* **Work on Discussion Paper**
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| **11** | 3/19; 3/20 | * Share results with peers
* Discuss possible interpretations
 | * **Submit Abstracts for 3 Articles to use in Discussion paper on Canvas (Sunday, 3/25)**
* **Work on Discussion Paper**
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| **12** | 3/26; 3/27 | * Work on posters
 | * **First Draft of Poster Due Sunday 4/1 at Midnight on Canvas**
* **Work on Poster**
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| **13** | 4/2; 4/3 | * **Poster Presentation Practice in Lab**
 | * **Discussion Paper Due Sunday 4/8 at Midnight on Canvas**
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| **14** | 4/9; 4/10 | * **Poster Presentation Practice in Lab**
 | * **Final Draft of Poster will be due to the Psychology Office This Week!**
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| **15** | 4/16; 4/17 | * **TBD**
 | * **Attend/present at VAPS on 4/19**
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| **16** | 4/23 | * **JMU Psychology Student Symposium Presentations**
* **No Group Meetings**
 | * **Present at JMU Psychology Student Symposium on Monday, 4/23**
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| **17** | 4/30; 5/1 | * ***Finals Week – No Meeting***
 | * **End-of-year Group Lunch (TBD)**
* **Reflection Paper Due at Midnight on**

 **5/1 on Canvas** |

**Academic Honesty**

All activities in this course, including attendance and participation, data collection, coding, and analysis, and written assignments are to be completed in accordance with the JMU Honor Code which can be found at [www.jmu.edu/honor](http://www.jmu.edu/honor)

**University Policies**

This course will be taught in accordance with University Policies.  For further details about academic honesty (including safe assign), disability accommodations, religious accommodations, inclement weather, and other policies, please visit: <http://www.jmu.edu/syllabus/>