UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH
University of Delaware
NSCI 368, 468
PSYC 366, 466, 468

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

PROFESSOR:	Dr. Naomi Sadeh
E-MAIL:	nsadeh@udel.edu
LAB SPACE:	Suite 405 Wolf Hall
OFFICE HOURS:	By appointment
LAB MEETINGS:	Virtually via Zoom: https://udel-hipaa.zoom.us/j/95922811129

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Personality & Dysregulation Lab is directed by Dr. Naomi Sadeh and conducts research on why people engage in risky, impulsive, and self-destructive behavior, with a special emphasis on elucidating how personality factors and sensitivity/ resiliency to life stress contributes to these harmful behaviors. We study mental disorders in adulthood that are marked by severe self-regulation deficits (e.g., psychopathy, antisocial personality disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance use disorders) and related public health problems (e.g., suicidal behavior, violence, substance use, criminal behavior). Research in the lab spans biological (neurobiology), psychological (personality traits, emotion-cognition interactions, psychopathology), and environmental (traumatic life events, stress exposure) units of analysis.

Undergraduate assistants in the lab will learn about research on adult psychopathology, neuroscience, and data collection with human subjects. Students will assist with ongoing data collection projects in the lab at different stages of the research process. Students will work closely with lab staff (e.g., Research Associates), graduate students, and the PI through group lab meetings and individual meetings to discuss each their research interests and professional development and to work on their academic project.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

Undergraduate assistants are expected to do the following activities as part of the course:

- **Time Commitments**
  - Attend weekly lab operations meeting
  - Attend the professional development seminar hosted by the UAC each semester (see under Roles for details)
  - Commit to at least two full semesters in the lab
  - Spend 9 hours on lab responsibilities each week (this includes the 1-hour lab meeting). All other hours are to be completed physically in the lab, with the exception of MRI runs and community recruitment activities or covid-related restrictions.
  - Time in the lab will be scheduled and consistent each week

- **Reflections on Learning, Lab Experiences, & Professional Development**
    - Students are expected to actively engage with the material and reflect on their learning experiences with other students and supervisors through the weekly lab meetings
    - Undergraduate researchers need to present on what they learned through their lab experience at the end of the semester by presenting on their initial learning goals and their accomplishments towards these goals
        - This presentation also needs to demonstrate critical thinking skills and the knowledge/concepts you learned in the lab
        - It can different forms depending on the goals of the student, ranging from a scientific poster, power point presentation, or a literature review
- **Responsibilities**
    - Complete the Goals & Expectations form at the beginning of each semester
    - Learn to conduct literature reviews and record the findings systematically
    - Engage in participant recruitment and data collection, always treating participants with respect
    - Follow all data collection protocols carefully and precisely
    - Seek support from the PI, research associate, or a graduate student if you are uncertain about a task
    - Keep a log of the tasks and activities you did in the lab
        - Summarize these activities in letter form at the end of the second semester (prior to leaving the lab)
        - Providing this summary to the PI, which will be used to write any future requests for letters of recommendation
    - Completing an exit interview at the end of the year to summarize your progress and tasks completed

LAB ROLES:

- **Director:** Dr. Naomi Samimi-Sadeh serves as the Director and intellectual leader of the lab. All sub-projects occurring within the team – including use of lab data – must receive approval from the Director prior to implementation. This includes research and proposals for the purposes of conference posters or presentations, independent and honors projects, manuscript development, or class presentations. Dr. Sadeh needs to be contacted immediately when any safety, risk, or data security issues arise in the lab. Contact info: Wolf Hall 222, nsadeh@udel.edu, 608-698-2216 (cell), 302-831-3876 (office)
- **Undergraduate Assistants (UA):** Students who have committed to working in the lab for at least 2 consecutive semesters for 9 hours per week with the goal of gaining experience in research. They must submit a timesheet by Friday at 5pm each week and to complete the Goals & Expectations form at the beginning of each semester. These individuals report to the Undergraduate Assistant Coordinator who is responsible for signing off on UA timesheets.

- **Senior Undergraduate Assistant (SUA): This** position is open to an advanced UA who has been in the lab for at least 2 consecutive semesters and has committed to working in the lab for an additional 2 semesters. At times, this may be a paid (hourly) position. The SUA reports directly to the Undergraduate Assistant Coordinator and may assist them with the training and management of other research assistants. Interested undergraduates can apply for this position.
- **Undergraduate Assistant Coordinator (UAC):** The UAC is a graduate student who manages all aspects of Undergraduate Assistants (UA), onboarding and training (e.g., course credit, CITI trainings, confidentiality agreements, Bioraft), and education. The UAC will meet with each undergraduate individually about their goals for the lab at the start of the academic year, and they are responsible for completing an exit interview with them at the end of the year to summarize their progress and tasks completed, information that will be used for later recommendation requests, which will also be coordinated by the UAC. They are also responsible for organizing two professional development workshops each semester for the UAs focused on the development of research skills (e.g., data analysis in SPSS) and professional materials (e.g., CV workshop, graduate school application).

GRADING

Final letter grade: Your grade for the course will be based on your engagement with the course expectations. Extra credit is not available.

Disputed grades:

- If you believe that your assignment has an error in grading, you must submit a request for regrading to the Professor within one week of receiving the graded assignment.
- When submitting a regrade request to the Professor, you must submit:
  - a point-by-point essay response with each of these points clearly addressed:
    - (i) what you believe was graded in error in the assignment or exam
    - (ii) why you should have points added back
    - (iii) evidence supporting your argument by referring to specific material in the assigned readings or textbook
  - the request needs to be submitted to the Professor using the Canvas email function
- Note: Re-grading can result in no change, a decrease, or an increase in the grade.

Grading Scale									
A	94 – 100	B+	87 – 89.9	C+	77 – 79.9	D+	67 – 69.9	F	<60
A-	90 – 93.9	B	84 – 86.9	C	74 – 76.9	D	64 – 66.9		
		B-	80 – 83.9	C-	70 – 73.9	D-	60 – 63.9		

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- **Required Trainings:**
    - **Human Subjects Training.** These trainings are required before an individual can be added to the IRB protocol for this study: Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI). These courses provide training in human subjects research, including the history and development of human subjects protections, ethical issues, and regulations for biomedical researchers and social/behavioral researchers. All undergraduate assistants need to complete the following training course:
        - Human Subjects Protections- Social-Educational-Behavioral-Focus
            - https://www.citiprogram.org/index.cfm?pageID=14
    - **BioRaft Training**. BioRaft "Right-To-Know" Training. This must be completed once every year. Go to: **delaware.bioraft.com**
    - **MRI Safety Training.** Before undergraduate assistants are permitted in the CBBI control room, they are required to complete MRI Safety Training Level 1 and pass the associated quiz

- **Professionalism**
    - **Confidentiality:** Lab members are expected to protect the confidentiality of research participants to the extent possible by law. This includes keeping private information about participants that is obtained at any point during the research process, such as recruitment, eligibility screening, interviews and written materials, small talk with participants, personal stories, performance on tasks, neuroimaging data, databases and consent forms. Securing data should also be a priority and members should routinely take measures to protect against data breaches, including closing doors during interviews with participants/ phone conversations, locking up forms with personally identifying information, logging out of computers when not in use, locking the lab doors when leaving, not sending personally identifying information over email, etc., It is important to understand that confidentiality DOES NOT APPLY in terms of keeping information from the lab P.I. (Dr. Sadeh) who should be informed of any pertinent information obtained from participants regarding safety issues, adverse events, complaints or concerns, breaches to confidentiality, etc. All lab members (graduate students, research assistants) need to sign a confidentiality agreement before working with human subjects or data indicating they understand their responsibilities when it comes to protecting confidentiality. This form should be signed and given to Dr. Sadeh.

    - **Lab Environment:** Maintaining a productive and collaborative work environment should be a priority. Lab members are expected to respect each other's opinion, contributions, and diversity of viewpoints. Disrespect or discrimination on any basis, including but not limited to ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, physical ability, class, religion, or value system, will not be tolerated. Please also be

mindful of disruptive behavior when others are working in the lab, including playing music, loud conversations, etc.

- **Cheating & Plagiarism:** You are expected to honor the University of Delaware's policies on academic integrity, which can be found here: http://www1.udel.edu/stuguide/16-17/code.html#honesty. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and will be responded to in accordance with the University's policies. When you prepare material for the course, you must (i) cite all sources used for papers, (ii) place quotation marks around any cut-and-pasted materials and after the quote note the exact source of where that quote came from, (iii) cite your source each time you use borrowed material, and (iv) include a Reference section in which all sources used are listed.