

142 W. 36<sup>th</sup> St., 9<sup>th</sup> Fl.  
New York, New York 10018  
212.206.7919 212.206.7994 (FAX)  
[www.prideresearch.org](http://www.prideresearch.org)

## Psych 201—Independent Study Syllabus

Dr. Tyrel Starks, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology  
E-mail: [tstarks@chestnyc.org](mailto:tstarks@chestnyc.org)

Dr. H. Jonathon Rendina, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology  
E-Mail: [jrendina@chestnyc.org](mailto:jrendina@chestnyc.org)

PRIDE Intern Coordinator  
[internship@chestnyc.org](mailto:internship@chestnyc.org)

### Course Description:

Students must first apply to the PRIDE internship program by the specified date. Once selected to the internship program, students will register for the course under either Dr. Starks or Dr. Rendina, depending on their research interests. Intern program staff will work with students during the application and enrollment process to match them with the faculty member who is best fitted to their intended research project.

### Requirements:

All students must have completed the online course in the protection of Human Subjects ([www.citiprogram.org](http://www.citiprogram.org)) before beginning the intern experience. Students who previously completed this online training for other courses simply must provide PRIDE with a copy of their completion certificate.

### Grading:

Grades for Psych 201 will be based on the following: 25% each for Part A and Part B; and 50% for Part C. Completing your Internship Hours and Essay Paper are NOT sufficient for a grade of A for the course. You will also be graded on the quality of your work and attendance.

#### **A. Attendance and Hours (25% of your final grade)**

- Students are required to work 112 hours (8 hours a week for 14 weeks, breaks not included, shift minimum length 3 hours) at PRIDE for the course of the semester. Students will set their schedules with the Intern Coordinator. Students will be given an INCOMPLETE if the required hours are not completed by the last day of classes.
- Conduct that is in conflict with the stated policies and procedures (e.g., excessive breaks, disturbing others, improper use of cell phones, doing personal work on PRIDE time, etc.) as outlined in the PRIDE Policy and Procedure Manual, as well as lack of progress in accomplishing tasks, will negatively impact your final grade.
- In line with PRIDE policies and procedures, non-adherence to expectations regarding tardiness and attendance will negatively impact your grade. Students who are excessively late or who do not show up for their shifts without letting their appropriate supervisors know will have their final grade significantly impacted.
- There will be several mandatory trainings (held once a month in the evenings), including your Orientation. Each of them will be relevant to research, professional skills and/or the area of HIV.
- All students will be given a copy of the PRIDE's Policy and Procedure Manual before their first scheduled day of interning and must return to the Intern Coordinator the signed form on the last page stating that they have read and agreed to these policies.

- The internship experience is professional development. Students are expected to approach the internship as such. Therefore students' conduct is part of their evaluation for this part of their grade, which will be determined through input from the Intern Coordinator and other PRIDE staff with whom you work.

### **B. Quality of Work (25% of your final grade)**

- Throughout the semester, the student will receive project-related tasks from PRIDE staff. Students will be expected to be available for task assignments from any staff member (e.g. Project Coordinators, Research Assistants, etc.), and perform their duties ably and thoughtfully. At the end of the semester, PRIDE staff will send the intern coordinator evaluations for each student, based on their experiences working with said student, as well as general observations regarding their quality of work performed. Final grades will be based on these evaluations, as well as experiences that the student's mentor, task supervisor, and intern coordinator have had with the student.

### **C. Reflection Paper (50% of your final grade)**

- Paper length shall be 7-10 pages of written content (not including title pages, reference pages, abstracts, etc.), prepared in APA style (e.g., proper font size and margins). In addition to the depth and scope of the essay, proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling will be considered in grading.
- The purpose of this paper is two-fold:
  - To describe what you have learned about the practice of research as it is conducted at PRIDE. Connect these lessons with what you have learned in psychology courses, such as research methods and psychological theories. For example, in what ways does the work at PRIDE correspond (or not) with things you have learned in your psychology coursework? How does research at PRIDE differ from what your expectations were about psychological research?
  - To describe your personal experience with the internship, specifically:
    - How will the things you learned help you in your future work, graduate school plans, studies, etc.?
    - What was the biggest surprise or challenge you experienced in doing your work at PRIDE?
    - What would you say to another student considering an internship at PRIDE?
- **Students are expected to turn in their paper by the LAST DAY OF CLASSES for the semester. Failure to do so will result in loss of 50% of your final grade, at the discretion of your research mentor. Submit your final paper to Dr. Starks, or Dr. Rendina by email.**