

# PSY 1902 DIRECTED READING GUIDELINES

University of Pittsburgh

Department of Psychology

Directed Reading is intended for students who wish to study a particular area of psychology that is not currently covered by an existing course, or the subject of a course that is not regularly offered in the Psychology Department.

**Prerequisites:** Students must complete the following prerequisites before the start of Directed Reading: Minimum overall GPA of 3.0, completion of relevant course work, and permission of the faculty sponsor.

**Registering for PSY 1902:** The student must approach a psychology instructor who is an expert in the area of interest. If the instructor agrees to direct the reading course, a topic, tentative reading list, and grading system are chosen. The student will then complete the ***PSY 1902 Directed Reading Learning Agreement*** with the faculty sponsor. Make two copies of the signed agreement form. Keep one copy for your records, leave one copy with the faculty sponsor, and take the original to the Psychology Advising Office. A psychology advisor will provide you the permission number during walk-in hours, or by appointment. The student then uses the permission number to self-enroll for the course.

Students must be registered for PSY 1902 during the semester in which the Directed Reading hours are completed.

**Credit Options:** Students may take a maximum of 3 credits of PSY 1902 in one term. Grading for PSY 1902 is the letter grade (LG) option. Students may use 3 credits of PSY 1902 to fulfill one of the psychology degree course requirements. Please talk to your advisor to determine which requirement this may fulfill in regard to your own degree progress. The PSY 1902 experience must be non-paid in order to earn credit. If more than 3 credits of PSY 1902 are earned, these will count as elective credits.

Credits are determined by the number of hours spent at the site over the term:

**1 credit = 55 hours**  
**2 credits = 85 hours**  
**3 credits = 120 hours**

Also note that only 12 credits of PSY 1902, PSY 1900, and PSY 1903 may be applied toward the B.S. degree, with a maximum of 9 credits under one course number. Arts & Sciences allows a maximum of 24 research/internship credits toward the degree; therefore, students can take 12 research/internships credits through A&S and/or other A&S departments in addition to the 12 credit maximum in psychology.

**Receiving Credit:** In order to earn credit, the student **MUST** meet with the faculty sponsor at least once a week to discuss the readings. (It is recommended that the student prepare written notes and comments on the readings each week.) By the mid-term of classes, the student submits a copy of the final reading list to the Psychology Advising Office.