Introduction to Research
Asynchronous online course

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About this course: This course represents an exciting collaboration that crosses multiple UC campuses and your online instruction will include interviews with many faculty across these campuses. Your classmates will be students from UC campuses all over California! The aim of the course is to provide a broad overview about research so you can better understand how being enrolled in the UC system can enable you to engage in cutting edge research, and how research experiences will position you to succeed in college and in your future career.

Course Objectives: This 10-week course is designed to help you understand more about that mysterious entity known as “research”. You will explore and determine what type of research you find most appealing and follow a pathway to conduct research with a faculty mentor. You will also do some self-assessment to figure out what is most interesting and important to you, and fits your personality and priorities. By the end of this class you will be able to:

- Better describe your interests and preferences
- Describe what research means in your major
- Use the library to find multiple sources information
- Compose professional correspondence
- Explain the ethical, legal, safety, and societal impacts that affect and are affected by research

Grading and Assignments: Online activities (60%), Homeworks (40%). Final exam is assigned as part of the online activities (Final Quiz) and will be due in during finals week, there is no in person final. Grading is a modified straight scale (moderate curving to account for +/- grades) and will not be posted until the completion of the course. The “what if” tool will not be accurate but can give an approximate guess of things you can do to improve your grade.

This course is (semi) self-paced. You can proceed complete the Modules (and videos) at your own rate. Homework still must be submitted no later than the posted due date.

Late policy: Absolutely no late work will be accepted unless you have received prior permission from the instructor before the due date! This means you should be careful not to wait to the last minute to submit, so that you have time to sort out technical issues before the deadline. The assignments close right at the due date time, so you will not be able to upload late work.

Videos: This class is meant to be fun and interesting, and the work is not difficult. A significant portion of your grade is from watching weekly videos and answering embedded questions. **To aim for that coveted A grade— complete the videos before the deadline and make sure that your score was transferred to the gradebook properly! This last one is VERY important! IMPORTANT INFO BELOW:**

- Plan ahead and complete your videos well before the deadline, so that if you run into technical issues there is time to fix them. The videos contain embedded questions and you can repeat the video as much as you like to get a better score. Woohoo! Perfect score here you come!
- Make sure you watch the videos TO THE VERY END. Don’t stop after you answer the last question but go all the way until video runs out (might be after credits) or your score will not be uploaded to the gradebook. You know you have reached the end when you see the green box (more about that below).
- If you click “retake” it will clear your previous answers and you must complete the video again or you will have a score of zero. Do not click “retake” unless you really plan to do the video
again.

- When you finish a video, make sure you see a green box that says “grade exported successfully”. You can take a snapshot of the page (including the URL) as proof of completion. Check the gradebook to be sure your score is accurately recorded. All errors with grade for an assignment (e.g. video grade says zero but you thought you answered the questions) must be reported within 24h of the due date if you want a resubmission to be considered.

- Playposit is used extensively in this course, review the information at the link below to be sure you can navigate it and that your scores are properly recorded. This information is also in the Course Basics and Navigation module. **It is your responsibility to be sure your video scores go to the gradebook correctly. Any errors must be corrected within 24h of the due date to receive full credit.** See section on syncing grades: https://knowledge.playposit.com/article/212-the-student-experience-3-0#completing

**Office hours:** The course instructor(s) and the TA are available asynchronously in the forum threads on the course website and by appointment through Skype/call/in person.

**Meeting your classmates:** A “coffee break room” will be available for you to drop in and meet/chat with your fellow students. The class is “attended” by students from many different UCs and the coffee break room is meant to be a social site to meet and get to know each other. Drop in when you have a moment between classes to get help on assignments, ask questions, etc.

**How to ask questions in this class:** For all course related questions that are not specific, confidential questions that only apply to you (use e-mail for those), post the question in the “Post your course questions here” thread instead of e-mailing the instructor. You can get help there from the instructor, TA and your classmates. e.g. “I finished the video but my points are not showing”, “Could you clarify the assignment instructions, it says…does that mean…?”, “If there is no video about my major do I only need to …?”, “I am confused about the due date for HW 3” etc. Look here first for potential answers to your questions.

**About the game:** *The game is not linked to the gradebook, so scores are entered after the due date* each week. For ALL questions about the game, including grades, post the question to the “Help with the Game” thread. The programmers will monitor this thread and they will need to address these questions. e.g. “I finished the game for this week but my points are not showing up.”, “My avatar is stuck”, “How do I make the figure walk faster?”, “I can’t log in and now it says my account is locked” etc.

**About Clifton Strengths:** There is a fee for the Clifton strengths (~$10 online). You access and pay this online with a credit card at the link below:


about the strengths theme thursday:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxDaK7wIyw947k6hxvoPa4-DYMbgJZYNt

**Notice of the code of academic conduct:** All UC Davis students are bound by the academic code of conduct: sja.ucdavis.edu/files/cac.pdf There is a zero-tolerance stance on plagiarism in this class. Be aware that if you copy any part of your work from another source you may receive a zero on that assignment.

**How the online course works:**
The course is set up in Canvas. Each week watch the primary lecture and follow instructions regarding watching any additional videos for the module.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>What this week is about</th>
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| 1      | Course Overview  
History of Research  
Objectives:  
• Self Discovery,  
• Appreciation for research,  
• How to incorporate research in your personal journey | Welcome to the class! We go over course logistics, learning goals, look a little bit at research beginnings, introduce the concept of research and what it means.  
No homework: Enjoy your first week of Spring quarter! |
| 2      | Research at the UC  
How is research done? | We further examine what research means in different disciplines using examples from faculty at different UC campuses throughout the state.  
Week 2 Homework Faculty videos |
| 3      | Introduction to self-discovery | This week you will learn more about yourself. What are your interests, your priorities, your abilities? What kind of personality type are you?  
Week 3 Homework – self assessment tests |
| 4      | Self Discovery results  
Interpreting the Myers-Briggs | We go over your assessment results to understand what the different personality traits are and how different career options might suit one type better than another.  
Week 4 Homework Self assessment reflection |
| 5      | What is your field about?  
Conducting the broad search  
Be sure you understand how to avoid plagiarism when using research sources. | Use common search methods to find information about research in your major field of study  
Week 5 Homework Broad search exercise |
| 6      | How to narrow a topic of interest | Use more focused search methods to narrow down your list of topics of interest to only a few.  
Week 6 Homework Deeper dive into your interests |
| 7      | Using the library  
Note: this week’s video is longer than previous weeks, and information dense. It will be available earlier (previous Friday instead of Monday) and you should take a break in the middle where recommended. | Hone your research skills by learning how to use the library to find information. Brace yourself, this week is real work.  
Week 7 Homework Find articles and make a bibliography |
| 8      | How to contact professors | How can you compose correspondence to successfully contact professors about research?  
Week 8 Homework Write a letter to a professor |
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Homework</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Don’t give up!</td>
<td>What to do if you are not getting responses to your inquiries</td>
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<td><strong>Week 9 Homework</strong>: Peer review of letters, input comments to the letter writer, letters will be distributed to you for review</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Safety, and Intellectual Property</td>
<td>Understanding other benefits to conducting research, such as intellectual property rights for students.</td>
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<td>• Idea theft</td>
<td><strong>Week 10 Homework</strong>: Critical analysis of the letters you peer reviewed last week</td>
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<td>• Falsification of data</td>
<td><strong>Final Quiz</strong></td>
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<td>• Reproducibility of data (new thing, NIH)</td>
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<td>• IRB</td>
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<td>• Fair use, privacy issues, censorship</td>
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