

# DIRECTED RESEARCH

Catalina Semester 2001

University of Southern California



It isn't so much the work that is important.  
It's rather what's in the work...the chance to find yourself.

Joseph Conrad *The Heart of Darkness*



**Professor Kathy Ann Miller**

**Lab: 314**

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**Office hours:**

9 January-16 April: please make an appointment with me!

16 April-9 May: 1 – 4, M – F (and by appointment)



This semester, in addition to taking classes, you will design and take possession of a research project, dig deeply into the literature, work closely with a colleague, and produce professional quality products. The opportunity to pursue such an independent study is a gift and a privilege! Your project will not be an exercise; you'll be doing real science. How you proceed and what you derive from the experience is up to you. I expect to see you give your research your very best effort and your finest attention. You will have mine.

I am giving you a schedule of events so that you can plan your time and understand expectations. (Be aware that it is not engraved on stone!) We will be meeting frequently during your courses in January-April to craft your research proposals. You will then carry out a feasibility, or pilot, study to assess your methods. You will continue the research full-time beginning on 16 April. Your results will be the basis of your final paper, which will be in the form of a National Science Foundation grant to continue the study. You will also prepare a poster and give a formal oral presentation of your results at our Research Symposium during the last week of class.



BON APPETIT!

DAY	DATE	TIME	SUBJECT
Tuesday	9 January		Introductions, expectations, schedules, collaborations; library resources; marine reserves and conservation; research proposal format
	10 January – 12 February		Make appointments with me to discuss the evolution of your project!
Friday	16 February	0900	<b>Outlines of proposed research due</b>
Friday	23 February	1700	<b>Bibliography and equipment &amp; material lists due</b>
Tuesday	6 March	0900	<b>Objectives and rationale: rough draft</b>
Tuesday	20 March	1700	<b>First draft of research proposals due</b> <b>Begin pilot studies</b>
Tuesday	3 April	1700	<b>Final draft of research proposals due</b>
Tuesday	10 April	1700	Progress report 1
Monday	16 April		Independent Study begins in earnest!
Tuesday	17 April	TBA	Progress report 2 Tips on making posters
Tuesday	24 April	TBA	Progress report 3
Friday	27 April	1300	<b>Posters due</b>
Friday	4 May	0900	<b>First draft of grant proposals due</b>
Friday	4 May	1300	<b>Practice talks</b>
Monday	7 May	0900	<b>Research Symposium: oral presentations</b>
Wednesday	9 May	0900	<b>Final draft of grant proposals due; clean-up and pack!</b>

<b>Your grade will be calculated based on:</b>	points
Diligence, effort and collaborative skills	100
Research proposal	100
Oral presentation	100
Grant proposal, first draft	50
Grant proposal, second draft	150
Poster	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>600</b>