THE PSYCHOLOGY

Subject Pool Research Requirement

As a student in this class, you are required to take part in research experiences over the course of the semester (or you are earning extra credit). Below is all the information you need to do this. You will need to read this IN FULL to meet the requirements for this class.

Visit the Subject Pool Website at: http://you.stonybrook.edu/subjectpool

Psychology as a science relies on research experiments. As a student in this class, you will get the opportunity to take part in some of these experiments as research participants in the Subject Pool. Your experience should be educational. The goal is for you to learn in general about what research is like, and you should also learn a little about the experimental hypothesis, design and methods of each experiment in which you participate.

How many experiments do I need to do? Intro Psychology (PSY 103) must earn 5 credits. For other courses check with your instructor. Experiments vary in length. Short experiments (30 minutes or less) will earn you a ½ credit, while longer experiments will offer 1 credit or more. The general policy is for experiments to earn you a ½ credit for every 30 minutes of participation.

I must create an on-line account? Yes, you set up appointments and receive credits on Sona Systems.

Do I just participate, and that’s it? No, your credits only count if you “assign” them to the course you’re taking. When you sign up for an experiment, you will need to indicate which course you wish that credit to count towards. NOTE: This is not the same as picking which course you are in. This is a separate function and MUST be done to receive credit. (See p.2)

What happens if I don’t meet the requirement? Psych 103 students: your grade will be affected by a 1/3 of a grade (ex. B+ to B). Non-Intro students: Check with your instructor about his/her grading policy. ALL STUDENTS should check their course syllabus for detailed information on their instructors grading policy!

FALL 2016: THE LAST DAY TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY STUDIES IS the last day of classes: FRIDAY December 9th, 2016. NO EXCEPTIONS

***Additional deadlines may be imposed by your instructor. Please refer to your syllabus***

----- How to create an account: Go to http://sunysb.sona-systems.com/

1. Click ‘Register for an account” in the lower left corner to create an account if you do not already have one. NOTE: We no longer use the Experimetrix system as in previous semesters. You must use this new website.
2. Your login/password will be emailed to your email address.
3. LOG IN using that login info to make experiment appointments.
4. You will receive automatic email confirmations of your appointments (or any cancellations).

Questions? psychsp@stonybrook.edu or 632-7027

Once you have your account created you can also choose to download the mobile app for your Apple or Android device by searching for "Sona Mobile" in the App Store or Google Play Store.

Rules for attending experiments:

*Read the CRITERIA for each experiment. Sign-up only for experiments for which you meet the specified requirements (i.e. smokers only, etc.) This is important. You will not receive the credit if you do not meet the criteria, even if you show up.

* Psychology A vs. Psychology B: The same room #’s exist in both buildings. Know the difference between Psych “A” and “B”. Know your experiment number and room number. (If you can’t find a room ask someone, or go to room 154B.)

*If the experimenter is not there, wait at least 5 minutes. DOUBLE CHECK that you are in the right place (i.e. Psych “A” or “B”). You can go to the Coordinator/154 Psych B for help.

*If the experimenter did not show, (and did not notify you 24 hours in advance via e-mail), you are entitled to either .5 credits for ½ hour experiments, or 1 full credit for all other experiments. (For sessions worth more than 1 credit, you will not earn all the credits, only 1---plan ahead for this at the end of the semester!)

You should notify the Subject Pool Coordinator immediately (during the appointment!) so we know that the experimenter did not show. If the Coordinator is out of the office, leave a note with: name, email, ID, experiment #, date/time of appt.
* **No Sleeping during your appointment!** You must actively participate in the experiment as instructed – if you fall asleep, credit will not be issued, but you can sign up for that experiment again at a later date. If you blatantly ignore instructions at the experiment, you will not receive credit.

* **CANCELING APPOINTMENTS***: *You must cancel 24 hours in advance!*

DO NOT EMAIL the Subject Pool Coordinator/Webmaster! – Cancel on the Sona Systems website 24 hours in advance. If you do not cancel 24 hours in advance, you will be penalized one credit.

* **PENALTIES:** If you fail to show up for an appointment, you will receive a penalty point (a negative credit), even if you are participating for extra credit or signed up to receive cash instead of credit for participating. Since a penalty will decrease your balance by 1 full point, you will have to earn one additional research credit for every penalty you receive. Any student who accrues 4 or more unexcused no-shows (penalties) will be banned from using Sona Systems for the remainder of the semester. Note: penalties are still given for experiments that offer cash instead of credit.

INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS: Despite any weather conditions, if classes are in session, experiments run as usual. If the University cancels classes, you are not required to attend your scheduled appointment. (631-632-SNOW for status of University closing)

Once you earn a credit, you must ASSIGN it to the course you’re taking! If you are only enrolled in ONE course which is requiring subject pool participation, your credits will automatically be assigned to that course. If you are enrolled in more than one course which requires subject pool participation, you must assign the credit to each course. When you are signing up for any experiment, you will be asked to indicate which course you would like the credit to go towards.

* **You can leave the experiment at any time.** It is your right to leave the experiment at any time if you do not feel comfortable. However, it is the discretion of the experimenter to award you credits based on the amount of work you have completed. Questions should be directed to the Subject Pool Coordinator.

* **Don’t wait until the end of the semester to do your research participation** because there will NOT be enough experiments available for you to meet your requirement. It ends up being a competition among students, and very chaotic for you. You also won’t have time to allow for cancellations/snow days, etc.

How do I check that I got credit? Click “My Schedule/Credits” in Sona Systems to see an itemized list of each credit you have been awarded. (Give the experimenter a few days to issue the credit.)

PSY 103 Students only/Fall and Spring: One way for you to earn one of your credit hours is by participating in “Mass Testing”, which is available on-line through Sona Systems for the first 3 weeks of the semester. (Fall and Spring only. Must be at least 18 years old to participate). Check Sona Systems for an experiment called “Mass Testing”

Under 18 yrs old and/or Non-native English speakers:

In compliance with a 1998 decision by the Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects (CORIHS):

If you are a full-time college student UNDER THE AGE OF 18 YEARS, you must participate only in studies that are specifically approved for the use of minors. Experiment listings will state whether or not it is approved for minors.

What if I don’t meet the criteria, or if I don’t want to participate?

There will be alternatives available for students who either wish not to participate in research studies or who do not meet the participant criteria. The alternative assignments involve reading an article on a research study, and taking a quiz on that article. This way you, as students in Introductory Psychology, can become familiar with a research study in the field of psychology without actually participating as a subject. Students can sign up for these options on the Sona Systems scheduling system. They will be clearly labeled as “Alternative” and will be offered several times throughout the semester. NO alternatives will be run during the last 5 days of class. If you require alternatives, you must complete them before the last week of class.

Have a good semester!