

Student Research Engagement Program
University of Arizona
PSYC 150A1 “Structure: Mind & Behavior”/PSYC 101
Fall 2017

Research Engagement Requirement:

A requirement for the course is a research assignment designed to increase your engagement with psychological research. This experience will provide firsthand knowledge of how psychological studies are conducted and can substantially enhance your understanding of the research you learn about during the course. It may also spark your interest in joining a lab to help conduct such research yourself.

You will earn 10% of your points toward your grade by completing this research assignment. You must complete this assignment in its entirety to earn this 10%. Although 10% may not seem like a lot, if you do not complete the assignment, this will most likely cost you an entire letter grade. So it is the difference between an A and a B, a B and a C, a C and a D, etc. For example, if a student earned Bs from tests and other assignments, but failed to complete the research requirement, the student would receive only a C, whereas if the student had simply completed the research requirement, the student would have received a B.

PSYC 150A1/Psychology 101 students can complete the research requirement in one of two ways. The first way is to earn eight (8) research credits by participating in approximately four hours of studies being conducted by faculty in the psychology department. This experience illuminates how psychological research is conducted and provides cutting edge knowledge of topics within psychology. It's a good idea to sign up early in the semester for experimental participation if you choose this option, although studies will be available throughout the semester. The deadline to participate in an experiment this semester is the last day of classes, **Wednesday, December 6, 2017.** Experiments are available as they get posted on Experiment Web Site as early as the first day of class. You can earn your first credit toward this eight credit requirement by completing the mass survey during your class, typically scheduled during the first or second week of class. Some studies only allow participants who have completed the mass survey, so doing so will make you eligible for a wider range of studies.

The other way to meet your requirement is to read a professional journal research article and complete a paper summarizing the research. Fulfilling your research engagement requirement in one of these two ways will earn you 10% of the points toward your grade. Failing to meet the requirement will make 10% of the points

toward your grade unavailable to you.

Research Participation Option:

This way to fulfill the research engagement requirement involves participating in approximately four hours of research conducted by the psychology faculty. Through such experiments, psychologists contribute new knowledge to the field. Many thousands of students have participated in such research over the last fifty years, and in doing so, they have contributed to much if not most of the knowledge described in your Introductory Psychology textbook.

Because many of the experiments require "fresh" participants, it is important that you do not discuss details of the experiments with others in the class. A participant who goes into an experiment with some extra knowledge about its methods and purposes may distort the results of that experiment. For this option to fulfill its educational objective, the experimenter must give you clear feedback about the nature of the experiment, the ideas being studied, and the methods being used. Do not hesitate to remind the experimenter to explain the purposes and methods of the experiment to you at the conclusion of the experiment if he or she has forgotten to do so, or to report any such failure to do so to your instructor.

How to sign up for experiments and earn credits:

- Experiment signup is done over the internet. Direct your web browser (Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer, Microsoft Edge, Firefox, etc.) to **<http://arizona-psych.sona-systems.com>** to sign up for experiments.
- First, you must create an account. Follow the link on the left side of the page and submit the requested information (Name, student ID #, UofA email address). Your user ID should be the beginning of your University of Arizona email address that is the part in front of “@email.arizona.edu” After you submit this information, you will receive an email with your password. (Please make sure that you are using a valid U of A account because you will not receive your password otherwise.) You should then use this password to log in. When you log in, you can then examine the available experiments, and sign up for particular available time-slots. Before you can sign up for an experiment, you must read and acknowledge some information, and provide brief demographic information. **Please do not wait until the end of the semester to sign up because we will not be able to guarantee available times late in the semester if there is a last-minute rush.** You can create

your account immediately, and would be advised to do so.

- For answers to frequently asked questions, follow the FAQ link. Make sure to read all the frequently asked questions and answers; these contain information about important questions such as: What happens when I don't show up for an experiment? How do I get credit for having participated in an experiment?
- When you sign up for an experiment, **please keep your own records** of the experimenter's name and email address, experiment number, date, time, and location of the experiment. The majority of experiments will be conducted in a specified room in the Psychology Building. **The Department Office does not keep records of experiment dates and times.** Please refer to the web site for experiment dates, times, and locations.
- Some studies require more than one session. When this is specified, you are required to complete all the sessions to receive credit.
- Some experiments require special restrictions to be met before one is allowed to participate (such as females only, mass survey participants only, or no hearing deficits). Examine the specific experiment information on the web site to ensure that you meet any special restrictions. To limit access to eligible participants, some of these experiments may require an authorization code (see FAQs).

IMPORTANT: You should be aware that if you participate in the mass survey session, you might be emailed or receive a phone call to participate in research sessions for credit; at that time you would be given a special invitation code that allows you to sign up for that particular study. Legitimate inquiries will not involve a survey over email or the phone, nor will they ask you any questions at all of a personal nature. You should immediately hang up on anyone making odd, inappropriate, or rude remarks or requests. Legitimate authorized callers will simply ask if you are interested, and then provide you with date, time, location, experiment number and email address in case you need to cancel, and the invitation code. You will be responsible for remembering the experiment data just listed (time, date, location, experiment number and email address), as the Psychology Department Office will not have this information.

- **For the purpose of leaving a message for an experimenter, use the experimenter's email address to leave him/her a message. Be sure to include the experiment number and the time of your experiment in your message.**
- Credit for the Mass Survey will be added to your Experiment web site account, so it is important to sign up for an account as soon as possible.
- Missing an experiment. Missing an experiment is a serious matter, as researchers prepare for the sessions assuming you will arrive on time and ready to participate. In some labs, this can mean that considerable resources (personnel, equipment, and supplies) are already devoted to the session before you even arrive. The system will lock your account if you accumulate more than 2 unexcused no-shows during the semester. Once locked, you will be unable to meet your research requirement through experiment participation, but would instead need to write the paper (described in the next section) to meet the requirement. To avoid unexcused no-shows, you can cancel participation up to 24 hours before the scheduled time by using the web site. You can also contact the experimenter at least one hour prior to the experiment at **the experimenter's phone number, or by sending an email, or as a last resort by phoning 621-7447 (the Psychology Front Desk)**, and provide a reasonable excuse for your absence; if you do so, your absence will be noted as an excused no-show, thus not locking your account. If you cannot notify the experimenter before the experiment, you have 48 hours to email a legitimate excuse to the experimenter.
- If you show up for an experiment on time and it is canceled without warning, you are entitled to one credit for having shown up. In this instance, send an email to the experimenter.
- At intervals during the semester, you should log in to examine how many credits you have earned so far, and what experiments you have completed or have signed up for.
- **If you have any credits not posted for a particular experiment, contact the experimenter listed on the web site as responsible for that experiment. If you have other questions regarding the experiment web site, contact one of your TAs for this course.**

Research Paper Option:

This other way to fulfill the research requirement entails completing a research paper (4-6 pages in length) on the topic of your choice, which clearly demonstrates that you read and understood a research article from a scholarly journal in psychology. Through such articles, psychologists contribute new knowledge to the field of psychology. Notify your professor by the first class exam if you choose the paper option. The deadline to turn in the research paper to your instructor, if you choose this option, is **Wednesday, December 6, 2016.** The research paper should be turned in to Room 312 Psychology Building (the Psychology Department Office) to be put in the mailbox of your course instructor. Include your name, lecture number, student ID#, and professor's name on your paper. You are also required to **attach the journal article you are summarizing** to your research paper. Here is a link to further instructions should you decide to write the paper to meet the requirement:

<http://libguides.library.arizona.edu/psy150a1>

To fulfill the research requirements, you may either participate in eight (8) credits' worth of research participation or complete the research paper, but not both. In order to receive credit for the research paper, you still need to create an Experiment Web Site account, as described previously.