

Student Requirement for Research Engagement
University of Arizona
PSYC 150A1 “Structure: Mind & Behavior”/PSYC 101
Summer 2018

Research Engagement Requirement:

A requirement for passing the course is a research engagement assignment designed to increase your firsthand knowledge and understanding of psychological research. This experience can substantially enhance your understanding of the research you learn about during the course. You will earn 10% of your points toward your grade by completing this research assignment. If you do not complete this assignment in its entirety, you will not earn this 10%. Although 10% may not seem like a lot, it would mean the difference between earning enough points for an A vs. a B, a B vs. a C, a C vs. a D, etc. For example, if a student earned 77% of the available points from tests and other assignments, but failed to complete the research engagement requirement, the student might receive only a C, whereas if the student had succeeded in completing the research engagement requirement, the student would have received a B. PSYC 150A1/Psychology 101 students can complete the research engagement requirement in one of two ways. The first way is to earn six (6) research credits by participating in three to four (3-4) hours of studies being conducted by faculty in the psychology department. It's a good idea to sign up early in the semester for experimental participation if you choose this option. The deadline to participate in an experiment this semester is the last day of classes for you summer session. Experiments are available as they get posted on Experiment Web Site as early as the first day of class. The other way to meet your requirement is to read a research article from a professional journal in psychology and complete a paper summarizing the research. Fulfilling your requirement in one of these two ways will earn you 10% of the points toward your grade. Failing to meet the research engagement requirement (6 full credits of experimental participation or an acceptable research summary paper) 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 research conducted by the psychology faculty. Through such experiments, psychologists contribute new knowledge to the field of psychology. Because many of the experiments require "fresh" subjects, it is important that you do not discuss details of the experiments with others in the class. A subject 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 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 help me).

IMPORTANT: You should be aware that you might be solicited by phone or email to participate in research sessions for credit. Legitimate callers will not conduct a survey over 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. 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.**
- 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 engagement 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.
- Credit receipts. You will receive a credit receipt from the experimenter for each experiment in which you participate. Keep all of your credit receipts as proof of your participation until you have received your final grade for PSYC 150A1/Psychology 101.
- 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 your instructor or one of your TAs for this course.**

Research Paper Option:

This way to fulfill the research engagement requirement entails completing a research paper (3-5 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 the last day of class for your summer session. 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 engagement requirement, you may either participate in six (6) 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.