PSYC 001 RESEARCH REQUIREMENT – Spring 2017

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All questions about the Research Requirement should be directed to inpypool@lehigh.edu, and NOT to your PSYC 1 Professor or TA.

1) THE OPTIONS

Most introductory science courses have a lab requirement. Similarly, Introduction to Psychology has a research requirement that is intended to provide you with firsthand experience of Psychological research. This requirement involves either participating in experiments or writing a paper about experiments. Participating in experiments provides invaluable support to the cutting edge research being conducted in the Psychology Department at Lehigh.

A - EXPERIMENTAL OPTION: Participating in experiments will take no more than 6 hours over the semester. You will sign up for experiments as you are assigned to them. Some experiments may take less than an hour, so you may be asked to participate in up to 10 studies. Other experiments take more than an hour in which case the number of hours will count toward your requirement. Though you should expect to do 6 hours of research participation, you may end up with less than 6 hours. That is fine so long as you participate in all assigned experiments. The entire process is efficiently managed by an easy-to-use program called SONA.

B - PAPER OPTION: Writing the research paper will require reading and reviewing 4 scientific journal articles, three assigned by us and one that you find on your own. The task is to pick a question (chosen from a list that will be provided) and to use your review of journal articles to show how data from 4 research papers help us understand this psychological issue. The paper option details are provided part way through the semester and is due on the last day of classes.

2) EXPERIMENT OPTION DETAILS

If you choose the experiment option, you have two responsibilities. You need to
(1) sign up for ALL experiments to which you are assigned, and
(2) show up to participate in ALL sessions as scheduled

- You will only participate in experiments that you have been assigned to. When you are assigned to an experiment, you will receive an email that will instruct you how to sign up for a timeslot. A range of timeslots will be posted for each experiment, and you will be able to sign up for a slot that fits your schedule. It is important that you sign up as soon as possible after receiving a participation email; most experiments only run for 2-3 weeks, and it is your responsibility to sign up within that timeframe. Once an experiment is complete, you will not be able to participate in it.

- If you forget when or where your appointment is or need to cancel it: Log in to SONA. All the information about your appointment, and how to contact the relevant experimenter if you need to, will be there.

- If you don’t sign up for an experiment to which you were assigned: You will be given a penalty for that experiment in our records. It is your responsibility to check your Lehigh email account regularly. You
should also check your Junk/SPAM folders regularly just in case an email goes astray. If you don’t sign up for assigned experiments, you will not have completed the course requirement. You will receive an incomplete for the course and will need to write one or more completion paper pieces, depending on the number of missed experiments, to remove the incomplete.

- **If you miss an appointment:** You will be given a penalty for that experiment in the SONA system. If something comes up and you cannot attend a session, contact the experimenters in advance, just as you would with any other appointment. You will then be rescheduled. If you are absent without timely notice, you may still contact the experimenter and ask if you can reschedule. Sometimes this is possible, but sometimes it is not. It is the experimenter’s decision. If the experimenter does not reschedule you, your penalty cannot be removed. In this case, you will not have completed part of the course requirement. You will receive an incomplete for the course and will need to write a completion paper to remove it. **So it is best for you not to miss your appointments.**

3) **THE COMPLETION PAPER (TO MAKE UP FOR MISSED ASSIGNMENTS)**

As with other course requirements, there is a consequence to your grade for not properly completing the research requirement (whichever option you choose). You will initially get an incomplete in the course, but you have until the 5th day of the next semester to remove this by writing a “completion paper”.

- **If you chose the experiment option:** The length of the completion paper and amount of work required will depend on the number of experiments missed. For every missed session, you will need to read 1 research article and write 2 (double-spaced) pages about it, up to a total of **5 articles and 10 pages** if you miss 5 or more sessions. The completion paper will review a single topic in psychology and will require that you integrate insights from all of the articles that you are assigned into a coherent essay. The topics and articles for the completion paper will be assigned at the end of the semester.

- **If you chose the paper option:** If you fail to hand in your research paper by the last day of classes, you will need to write the maximum length completion paper (5 articles, 10 pages). The topics and articles for the completion paper will be assigned at the end of the semester just as with the experiment option.

If you don’t complete this “second chance” opportunity to fulfill the requirement, the incomplete turns into a grade with a **1/3 grade deduction** from what you would otherwise get. For example, if your grade were B with the research requirement satisfied, it would become a B- without the research credit. If you submit a satisfactory completion paper by the 5th day of the next semester, the incomplete is removed. Otherwise, the grade with deduction becomes your final grade for the course.

4) **HOW DO I BEGIN?**

In the second week of semester you will receive an email detailing how to register to participate in experiments or write the research paper. You will need to complete registration by the end of the week. If you choose the experimental option, you will be asked to complete a Pre-Screening survey and will be enrolled in the participant pool. Soon after that, you will receive another email describing how to activate your account in SONA, the web-based system for scheduling and managing experiments.

If you choose the research paper option, you will receive the assignment by email about one month into the semester.

5) **FURTHER INFORMATION**
Essential information on the Research Requirement is available via your CourseSite. This memo, and additional information can be found on the Participant Pool Webpage. Before contacting us with questions, please ALWAYS check the web pages first. Many answers can easily be found there. The Research Requirement page provides:
- The options and procedures (this document)
- A guide for using SONA and managing your account
- An explanation of your rights as a participant
- A frequently asked questions (FAQ) document