

PSYC 001 RESEARCH REQUIREMENT – Fall 2017

Administrator: Professor Nancy Carlisle
Graduate Assistant: Irmak Olcaysoy Okten
Webpage: [Lehigh Participant Pool](#)
Contact us: Lehigh Participant Pool <inypool@lehigh.edu>

All questions about the Research Requirement should be directed to inypool@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.

Both options must be completed by Friday, Dec. 1.

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.

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 are having trouble finding a time that works, contact the experimenter directly and send your class schedule. Researchers try their best to be accommodating!

- *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 not have completed your requirement. 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 $\frac{1}{3}$ grade deduction for the course. Writing completion paper pieces, (one or more, depending on the number of missed experiments), can remove the $\frac{1}{3}$ grade deduction but these must be completed satisfactorily by the first day of finals.
- *If you miss an appointment:* This will be recorded 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, you will not have completed part of the course requirement. You will receive a $\frac{1}{3}$ grade deduction for the course and will need to write a satisfactory completion paper to remove it. **So it is in your best interest 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. You will have the option to write a "completion paper" to make up for this missed requirement and avoid the $\frac{1}{3}$ grade deduction. The completion paper is due the first day of finals.

- *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 after failing to meet the deadline for this requirement.
- *If you chose the paper option:* If you fail to hand in your research paper by the deadline, 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 after failing to meet the deadline for this requirement.

If you don't complete this "second chance" opportunity to fulfill the requirement satisfactorily (either because you do not meet the deadline, or the work is not of sufficient quality), **a $\frac{1}{3}$ grade deduction** will be applied to your final grade. For example, if your grade were B with the research requirement satisfied, it would become a B- without the research credit.

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
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