

# Introductory Psychology Research Requirement

PSYC 1000-001      Spring 2015

Scientific knowledge of human behaviour depends upon empirical research. This course requires you to participate in departmental studies and experiments, or read and report on relevant psychology publications. Your contributions to the research studies are valuable and much appreciated by psychology faculty and honours students, and your involvement also promotes deeper understanding of the concepts learned in the course.

**ABOUT THE RESEARCH STUDIES**      Our research surveys and experiments are conducted by Psychology faculty members and by our students doing honours theses under the direction of a professor. To earn a research credit, you participate in these studies in-person, or an alternative to in-person participation is to prepare a research article review. Fairness, respect, and concern for your welfare are paramount in research and participation is never forced on you. Every research study is carefully reviewed and approved by a University Research Ethics Board and if for any reason you find a study uncomfortable once it has been explained, you may leave, but receive credit nonetheless. Our research covers various areas of Psychology, such as cognition, learning, memory, personality, and social attitudes—and relates to topics you'll study in your psychology class. The purpose of the research generally is to increase knowledge. Participation may take place on campus and might take anywhere from 15 to 60 minutes; however some studies—the first one for example, typically called “Mass Testing”, can be done on-line and accessed anytime until the study expiry date. Some studies will have a prior study as a pre-requisite or must-haves such as being right-handed or having corrected vision. Don't worry if you aren't able to participate in all studies; there will be something for everyone. Following each study you'll be given further information explaining the study, such as a written or oral debriefing and an opportunity to contact the researcher about the results. In April of every year, our honours level thesis students present their research at our annual Prairie Undergraduate Research Conference, which you are welcome to attend and see the results of all this effort. In the not too distant future you could very well be one of these researchers.

**WHEN TO START?** Get going as soon as possible. Everything is tracked and recorded for you in a program called SONA. Your SONA user ID will be set up for you automatically and emailed to you at the beginning of the term. You will receive your SONA User ID and temporary password and a link to the SONA website asking you to log-in to your account and change the temporary password to whatever you want. After that, simply go to the SONA website, log-in, and sign-up for studies. Remember, you must activate you User ID in order to receive credits of any kind.

**IMPORTANT** \*\* If you haven't received the SONA e-mail containing your User ID in your university  
webmail by the end of May, contact the coordinator below, not your professor! \*\*

Begin participating by looking at the studies available in SONA. When you first log in, if you don't see any studies that just means they haven't come out yet...keep checking for studies. If you want to read one of the pre-selected journal articles, you can start that way too. Don't leave this assignment to the last minute.

**NOTE:** SONA assigns you a random 4 or 5 digit Identity Code used for anonymity between you and the researcher. You'll need this numeric code whenever you participate in a study.

**GET HELP**      *Check Frequently-Asked-Questions in SONA or contact the research coordinator:  
Karen Barkhouse, office 4L35, 786-9744, k.barkhouse@uwinnipeg.ca*

All questions and concerns regarding the research requirement should be directed to the coordinator, Karen Barkhouse. We want your participation to be an interesting learning experience for you and we're always interested in your feedback. Should you need it, there is also a SONA Student Manual found on the Nexus site.

See reverse for further explanation on how to complete this assignment

## HOW TO COMPLETE THE RESEARCH REQUIREMENT

**PASS** You are required to reach a total of **4 credits in your SONA account**. This total may be a combination of the options described below, including participation in research studies. Research studies may vary in credit value. Shorter studies (less than 30 minutes) can be worth .5 of a credit. Studies taking 30 - 60 minutes are usually worth a full 1.0 credit. Occasionally, there are longer or two-part studies that may be worth more than 1.0 credit. The credit value will be clearly posted in the description of studies. Some studies take place on campus, whereas others can be taken on-line.

**N.B.** There is a 2.0 credit maximum for ON-LINE studies posted in SONA. You will not be allowed to sign up to earn more than 2.0 credits from on-line studies. (Article Reviews and NOT considered on-line studies.)

**3 TYPES OF CREDITS YOU CAN EARN.** The required 4 credits may be made up of any combination of credit types. It can be a mixture of studies and article reviews such as 3 study credits plus 1 article review credit. Your final number in SONA includes any penalties assessed against you. See more about penalties and consequences below.

- Study Participation:** Using SONA you will select from a list of research experiments and sign –up in a workable timeslot. Read the description and requirements carefully noting the pre-requisites and eligibility. At the start of term, when you first go into SONA, if you don't see a study that just means the researchers haven't made them available yet.  
**Remember, you need your 4 or 5 digit Identity Code to participate in studies.**
- Observer:** The observer-only option is for those who want to have the same experience as participating in a study but prefer not to have their results used. In this option you would do everything that regular participants would do and, in addition, you must inform the researcher in advance that you would like Observer status, so that the researcher won't include your data. Although this option is available for most studies, there may be some that cannot accommodate observers.
- Journal Article Review:** You can choose to any number of the pre-selected journal articles on a psychology topic and then briefly answer 3 questions about the article. The approved articles are listed below; if you Google them, make sure that you are reading the exact article. You are to prepare your review using the Article Review Form. Article Reviews are subject to the same rules as any other course assignment regarding academic misconduct, such as plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration. They are graded on a PASS/FAIL basis and your review must show that you have understood and identified the research presented in the article. If a PASS, you will receive 1.0 research credit posted to your SONA account. Everything regarding the article review option is found in Nexus under Intro Psych Research Requirement. Deposit article reviews use the electronic dropbox method in Nexus, or in the Psychology drop box outside of 4L41. Final Deadline for article reviews for Spring class is August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

**PENALTIES AND CONSEQUENCES** A credit-penalty is the loss of that study's credit value due to no-show without canceling. For example, if you have signed up for 2 studies, you attended one of them, but you missed the other and didn't cancel, then the result is no credit for the missed study, *and* a deduction of whatever that study was worth credit from your account. You can always check your total credits, owing or completed, on SONA.

**MISSED APPOINTMENTS:** We ask you to try to respect everyone's time and just cancel if you need to. You will always receive an emailed appointment reminder the night before, and you don't need a reason to cancel. However, if you miss a study and you haven't cancelled before the session, SONA will automatically charge you. If you can't make a study, just go to SONA and cancel your appointment, or make your best effort to let us know by e-mail or telephone message to the coordinator, Karen Barkhouse.

**FAILURE TO COMPLETE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF CREDITS** The consequence of not completing the required number of credits is one letter grade penalty to your mark, and **your course grade would be lowered one step. e.g. from B+ to B , C to D, or D to F.**

**Select ONLY from the following articles:** These are posted in Nexus under the Intro Psych Research Requirement site, or they are also on reserve in the library under Psychology Research Requirement.

- Cervone, D., Shoda, Y. (1999). Beyond traits in the study of personality coherence. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 8, 27-32.
- Gauvain, M., (1998). Cognitive development in social and cultural context. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 7, 188-192.
- Goldstein, I., and the Working Group for the Study of Central Mechanisms in Erectile Dysfunction (2000, August). Male sexual circuitry. *Scientific American*, 70-75.
- Krauss, R. M., (1998). Why do we gesture when we speak? *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 7, 54-60.
- Melzack, R. (1992, April). Phantom limbs. *Scientific American*, 120-126.
- Nelson, C. A. (1999). Neural plasticity and human development. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 8, 42-45.
- Ramachandran, V. S. (1992, May). Blind spots. *Scientific American*, 86-91.
- Rodier, P.W. (2000, February). The early origins of autism. *Scientific American*, 56-63.
- Steele, C. M. (1999, August). Thin ice: "Stereotype threat" and black college students. *The Atlantic Monthly*, 44-54.
- Tsien, J. Z. (2000, April). Building a brainier mouse. *Scientific American*, 62-68.