Duke Psychology and Neuroscience Course Research Requirement

Student Information

IMPORTANT DATES FOR SPRING 2010

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Steps for getting your Sona Experiment Sign-Up Program account activated:

- Go to: http://psychandneuro.duke.edu/undergraduate/subjectpool
- Click on the second link: Psychology Courses Research Requirement Form (Check your email for the password.)
- Complete the form.
- Your Sona ESP account will be activated and your log in information sent within 24 hours. This account is necessary whether you complete the paper or the studies.

General Information

PSY 11, PSY 100RE, PSY 102RE, PSY103RE PSY 104/SOC 106 or PSY 114 include a research requirement:

This requirement can be satisfied in one of two ways:
(1) by being a participant in research studies being conducted in the department, or
(2) by writing a critical review of a research article.

If you choose the Research Participation Option you must complete 5 hours of participation in PSY studies.

**If your scheduled graduation date is in 2013, you must complete 1 hour of your research participation at the Erwin Mill labs.

If you complete the Research Paper Option, you will complete a critical review of research literature which has been approved by your professor. The effort put into reading the article and writing a review should take about 5 hours.

Failure to fulfill the research requirement for this course will result in the grade of incomplete for the course.

Please note:
- Once recorded, a notation of "I" remains on your transcript even after the final grade is assigned.
- If you receive an "I" in a course, you forfeit eligibility for Dean’s List honors in that semester.
If you are enrolled in **PSY 105**, participation in the Subject Pool or completion of a paper is counted as extra credit for that class and does not count toward your 10 credit career cap.

**Cap on research requirement hours:**
If you have either participated in 10 hours of studies or completed the equivalent number by completing the paper option, you have fulfilled your research requirement and are not obligated to participate in any more studies for credit.

The research requirement is administered by the Psychology and Neuroscience Subject Pool Committee, composed of faculty members in the department. If you have questions about the requirement or your status during the semester, submit them via e-mail (along with your name, e-mail address and phone number) to the Human Subjects Coordinator, Anastasia Maddox at amm39@duke.edu

**Research Participation Option:**
If you elect the Research Participation Option, you should start participating in the studies as soon as you can. If you wait until the end of the semester, you might not have enough time or opportunities to earn all of your credits. A lack of opportunities at the end of the semester is not an acceptable excuse for failing to complete the requirement; there will be more than enough opportunities to earn the required credits but only if students do not wait until the end of the semester. Please note that it sometimes takes a week or two before there are a lot of options available; don't worry, just keep checking and you will find plenty of opportunities.

**PRESCREEN (Subject Pool Questionnaire)**
- Monday January 18 9:00 AM Prescreen available
- Monday February 1 9:00 AM Prescreen is no longer available
- It can be found at: [http://duke.sona-systems.com](http://duke.sona-systems.com) Log into your account.
- You will earn one credit for participating in the questionnaire.

The Prescreen is an online survey that you may participate in before you begin signing up for studies. The survey consists of a number of multiple-choice and/or free-answer questions, and may be divided into a number of sections. You may choose to decline to participate, but declining to participate may limit the number of studies in which you are eligible to participate. **YOU MUST BE 18 YEARS OLD TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PRESCREEN.** Those 17 years old will be offered a separate prescreen.

The questions in each section represent a different study that will be conducted during the term. Questions range from those that ask your opinion about general subjects to those that may be considered personal. You may decline to answer any question you choose. Information gathered in each section will be provided to the researcher(s) who have IRB approval for access to that data.

Based on your responses to questions on the Prescreen, researchers may contact you to ask if you would like to participate in their studies. For example, certain experiments may need people who are not color blind or who are left-handed. You are under no obligation to participate in a study for which you have received an invitation. All experiments have been reviewed by the Duke University Human Subjects Committee to ensure that the procedures are ethical.

*After the Prescreen has been closed, there will be no other opportunity during the semester to take the Prescreen questionnaire.*
SIGNING UP FOR STUDIES
You will sign up for studies via the Sona Experiment Sign-Up Program.
http://duke.sona-systems.com/

In general, the number of credits that you earn in a particular study is roughly equal to the amount of time that the study requires. Studies that take 35 to 60 minutes are worth 1 hour of credit. A study that lasts for 30 minutes or less is worth 1/2 hour credit. A study that takes about two hours is worth 2 credits.

There is no credit issued if you sign up for a study, show up, read the consent information, and decline to participate. Participation in each study is your decision. Researchers cannot impose a penalty for your declining to participate in a study.

1. To sign up for experiments, log in to your Sona ESP account. You can look at the experiments that are available and click on the name of a study to read more about it (the description also notes the number of credits you can earn for participating). If there are available times for you to sign up, click the "timeslots" link that takes you to the available dates and times of the study (note that you must also choose a date or dates to check for available timeslots). If you check and cannot find available timeslots, check back again; new dates and times are posted regularly.

2. When you find a date and time that you want, click on "sign up." Wait until you see a confirmation that you have signed up for the experiment. When you see the confirmation on the screen, write down the date, time, location (building and room number), experiment name, and name of experimenter. Do not wait until the day of the experiment to record this information because, occasionally, you might not be able to access it. Also, do not show up at the psychology building and expect someone to be able to look up your experiment time and location for you. The psychology department office staff does not have administrative access to SONA, so they cannot look up experiments or other research activities for you.

3. New research studies, as well as new dates and times for the existing studies, are added regularly, so check back on a regular basis if you do not see anything that works for you.

CHECKING YOUR CREDITS
To see a list of your scheduled experiments and activities, to view your earned credits and penalties, or to see your credit total, log in to your account and click on "my schedule/credits."

Please note: Overall Credits Earned and Overall Credits Requirements reflect only the CURRENT semester.

CANCELLING YOUR APPOINTMENT FOR A STUDY
If you sign up for an experiment through ESP, you can cancel it up until 24 hours before it. You have two options to cancel:

1. You can cancel by logging into your ESP account, clicking on "my schedule," and finding the experiment that you wish to cancel. You must click "cancel," and then you will be taken to another page and asked if you would like to cancel. You have to click "yes, I would like to cancel" before you are cancelled. Wait to receive a confirmation.

2. If you need to cancel and you are unable to do this within the 24 hour limit, please email the researcher and me as soon as possible.
NO SHOWS
You demonstrate your commitment to participating in studies by your attendance at the appointments you have scheduled. It will be a clear indication that you would like to participate in the paper option if you consistently miss appointments for studies.

If you are late for a study and the study cannot be carried out due to your late arrival time, you will not receive credit.

HANDLING SCHEDULING AND OTHER CONFLICTS
If you have difficulty finding studies that fit your schedule, keep checking. New opportunities are posted on an ongoing basis. Participating early in the semester will prevent the mad rush to complete credits at the end of the semester when you are preparing for exams.

Research Paper Option:
The other option for fulfilling the research requirement is to write a critical review of a published research article in psychology or neuroscience. The purpose of this assignment is for you to study one research project in depth so that you learn how the research project was designed and conducted, what questions were asked, what results were found, and how the results related to the original research questions. Students who select the paper option are expected to spend about the same amount of time in reading and preparing a paper as other students spend in their experience as research participants (5 hours).

Step 1: Well before the end of the term, tell Anastasia Maddox (amm39@duke.edu) and your professor of your choice to do the paper option.
Step 2: Ask your professor to approve the article you propose to review.
Step 3: Write the paper, ensuring that it is at least 5 pages long, double-spaced, with one-inch margins, using a font no larger than 12 point.
Step 4: Submit the paper to your professor on or before the last day of class. The rubric by which the paper is evaluated is up to your professor.

Your professor will contact me when you have fulfilled the paper option.

Sample Articles for Paper Option


