

RESEARCH PARTICIPATION

The following applies to students enrolled in Intro Psych (1002 or 1003). If you are enrolled in another course that is using the SONA system please check with your course instructor on specific information regarding credits and studies as it applies to the specific course.

A central characteristic of scientific knowledge is that it is based on systematic observations in empirical studies. This is also true for psychological knowledge about human behaviour, which is based on empirical observations in natural settings or psychology labs. To familiarize students with the methods of scientific research in psychology and to provide first-hand experiences with the procedures presented in the lectures, Intro Psych includes a mandatory research experience component, which involves the participation in psychological studies for a total of three (3) research hours. The course instructor may impose a limit to the number of online research credit hours you can complete. Please check with your instructor regarding any limitation. As an alternative, students who do not wish to participate in psychological research may fulfill this requirement by reviewing three (3) research articles published in psychological journals from a selection available from the SONA studies list as "Research Article #1", "Research Article #2", etc.

It is also possible to combine participation and article review (e.g., do 2 studies and review 1 article). The following sections include important information on the research participation component and its alternative for students who do not wish to participate in psychological research.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CAREFULLY!!

RESEARCH PARTICIPATION

To acquire deeper insights into research methods in psychology, students enrolled in Intro Psych (1002 or 1003) are expected to earn three (3) research credits by participating in empirical studies conducted in the Department of Psychology. Studies are offered in half-hour units and students will receive one (1) credit for each one (1) hour that they spend as a participant. **IMPORTANT: ALL RESEARCH CREDITS MUST BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO 12:00 p.m. ON THE LAST DAY OF CLASSES FOR THAT TERM.** As the number of available time slots tends to be lower at the end of the academic term, we strongly recommend that you sign up early for research studies to guarantee flexibility regarding the contents and schedules of your desired studies.

PRE-SCREEN

When you log in to SONA for the first time you will need to complete the mandatory pre-screen questionnaire which includes some basic demographic questions. Once you fill out the prescreen, the list of studies currently seeking participants will be filtered so that you are less likely to see studies for which you don't qualify. For example, right-handers will not see studies listed that are seeking only left-handed participants. This will help keep your list of potential studies more manageable. However, some studies have requirements that are not part of the prescreen, so do look carefully at the requirements for a study before signing up.

SIGN-UP FOR RESEARCH STUDIES

To sign up for research participation, you first need to visit the following site:

<http://uwo- psychology.sona-systems.com>.

Students registered in Intro Psych will receive an email with your login information; **we expect that the Research Participation pool will be available shortly after the end of the add/drop period**. We recommend that you login to this web site regularly to check the list of studies available for research participation. Once you are on the site please do the following. **Click on “STUDY SIGN-UP” to view a list of studies with available time slots. Click on the study name to view more details about the study including details on open time slots. Once you have decided on the timeslot you wish to book, click the “SIGN UP” button beside the timeslot to book your appointment.** IMPORTANT: RECORD THE TIME, DATE, AND ROOM NUMBER IN YOUR NOTEBOOK AND ARRIVE ON TIME FOR THE STUDY. You can always check your appointment times by logging in and choosing “MY SCHEDULE AND CREDITS”. If you have any problems (e.g., illness), please call email psysona@uwo.ca and let us know.

CANCELING YOUR APPOINTMENT

Please note that you can cancel an appointment only until the day before the appointment (unless you are ill). To cancel an appointment, login to the web site and click “MY SCHEDULE AND CREDITS”. Click on the word “Cancel” beside the appointment. It is not possible to cancel an appointment online on the day of the appointment. If you are ill and need to cancel an appointment on the same day, please call the above number. Note that if you miss an appointment and you cannot provide an acceptable excuse (e.g., sudden illness), you must obtain one (1) extra research credit in addition to the three (3) research credits that are mandatory for each unexcused missed appointment.

EXPERIMENTS WITH 2 OR MORE CREDITS

Please do not sign up for an experiment with 2 credits or more unless you can complete both credits. In other words, if you already earned 2 research credits and only need 1 credit to complete your course requirement, do not sign up for a 2-credit study.

EXPERIMENTER DOES NOT APPEAR

If the experimenter does not appear, please email psysona@uwo.ca and provide your name, Western email address and a description/name of the experiment including the time you were to participate. This is important, so that the experimenter can be reminded of his/her obligation to you and so that you will receive your credit. PLEASE DO THIS IMMEDIATELY!

ETHICAL REVIEW

The ethics of all research conducted by members of the psychology department is reviewed in accordance with the policy of the university's Office of Research Ethics. General guidelines regarding the conduct of research with human participants require that you are free to terminate your participation in a study for any reason at any time and still receive research credit for attending.

PENALTY FOR MISSING A STUDY

Students who fail to show up for a study (an unexcused no-show) will be assessed a penalty equal to the credit(s) for the study and will be required to make up this penalty. In other words if you miss a 1 credit study without an excuse you will need to do an extra credit in addition to the 3 credits required. If you miss a 2 credit study you will need to complete an additional 2 credits etc. If you missed your appointment due to an emergency situation please contact the researcher and request an excused no-show.

ALTERNATIVE TO RESEARCH PARTICIPATION

Students who do not wish to participate in psychological research may fulfill the research experience component by reading three (3) research articles published in psychological journals from a selection available from the SONA studies list as "Research Article #1", "Research Article #2", etc.

Students will be required to answer a series of questions on each article.

Responses will be graded by your instructor on a Pass/Fail basis. **REVIEWS OF RESEARCH ARTICLES MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 12:00 p.m. ON THE LAST DAY OF CLASSES FOR THAT TERM. NO REVIEWS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE END OF TERM.**

As mentioned earlier, a combination of research participation and article review is acceptable.

As with any written assignment at UWO, plagiarism will not be tolerated.

Please be sure to also check the FAQ section in SONA as well as the student manual posted on the SONA home page for additional information and instructions regarding use of SONA.

Any comments or complaints regarding research participation should be directed to Professor Mike Atkinson, Psychology Coordinator, SSC Room 6316, atkinson@uwo.ca.