

INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY (PSYC 1010)

Research Participation Requirement

The primary goals of a university are to provide an educational experience for its students while advancing knowledge through research. The Psychology Department is committed to each of these goals and believes that one important aspect of your educational experience in psychology is to learn, preferably through direct experience, how psychological research is conducted. Thus, the Department requires that students in the introductory psychology course (PSYC 1010) gain research experience in one of the ways outlined below. Any of the three (3) alternatives provided are acceptable; however, by serving as a participant in research (Alternative 1), you will learn about research projects and contribute to the advancement of knowledge. It is often only through research with human subjects that important questions about human behavior can be answered.

Ways to Meet the Requirements

Alternative 1: Research Participation You may participate in two and a half (2.5) hours of research approved by the Psychology department. Each hour of participation equates 4 credits or every 15 minutes of participation counts as 1 credit. Therefore, you will need a total of 10 credits.

Each semester, investigations on a wide range of psychological phenomena (e.g., learning, perception, social behavior, psychological testing, and biological bases of behavior) are conducted at a variety of times. At the beginning of the semester there are generally few studies to choose from. However, by mid-semester more opportunities will become available. In general, you can expect more studies to become available as the semester progresses. You should be able to select several studies to fit your schedule. Current projects are posted on clipboards hung on the north wall outside of the Psychology Department Office (SS370). The postings provide information about how to participate in a study. While some request that you sign up for a day and time, others indicate a weblink or location where you can complete or find more information about the study.

Alternative 2: Writing Assignment You may read peer-reviewed journal articles from one or more areas of psychology and write about them. Individual instructors vary on what they will accept for this assignment, but you can expect to generate a minimum of 375 words of quality writing about each article in order to earn one hour of credit toward the Research Requirement. Articles can be found by clicking on the following link [place link here]

Alternative 3: Research Observation You may observe on-going research and write a report about it. In view of the demands on the time and facilities of researchers, only a few individuals can be accommodated with this alternative. It will be up to you to make your own arrangements with a researcher to meet the requirement this way.

Students must receive pre-approval from their instructor before completing the Research Requirement by means of Alternative 2 or Alternative 3. Check with your instructor concerning the deadline for the pre-approval of projects or materials for your section of the course. You should, however, aim to obtain approval by midsemester.

**All work for the research requirement must be completed and/or turned in by
One week before the last day of class.**

Consequences of Not Meeting the Requirements

A percentage of your grade is earned by successfully completing some combination of the research-related alternatives described above. Not meeting the requirement will impact your overall grade. Each instructor determines the amount of points associated with research participation. Therefore, you will need ask your instructor for details or look at the syllabus.

Rights of the Students Relative to the Requirements

1. **Autonomy**: Students are free to elect any of the alternatives listed above in order to complete their research requirement. Furthermore, they may mix participation in research with another alternative, such as writing about journal articles, in any combination they wish to make up the four-hour requirement.
2. **Informed Consent**: Students who elect Alternative 1 are entitled to receive, before they consent to participate, as much information as is needed for them to make an intelligent decision as to whether or not to participate. For example, if electric shock or other painful stimulus is to be used, this information must be provided in advance of participation. Students should receive a print copy of the informed consent agreement for each study in which they volunteer to participate.
3. **Right to Withdraw**: Students may drop out of any study at any time after showing up and learning about the research and what their participation will entail. You will not earn credit towards your research requirement for a study from which you withdraw, but you will also not be penalized as if you had “no showed.”
4. **Right to Respect and Dignity**: Researchers will treat all students who volunteer to participate in their projects with respect and dignity.
5. **Debriefing**: Students who elect Alternative 1 will receive an explanation from the researcher regarding the purpose of the study and the role that the student played in it. In some cases, this explanation may be postponed until after the student's participation in the research is complete, so as not to affect the student's behavior during the study.
6. **Recourse**: If a student feels that his/her rights have been violated, or that he/she has been treated unfairly or in any other way harmed by means of participation in research, he/she should register a complaint with one of the following individuals: (1) his/her PSYC 1010 instructor, (2) One of the Psychology Research Coordinators, Dr. Theresa Kay or Dr. Todd Baird, or (3) the Chair of the Department of Psychology, Dr. Eric Amsel.

This is an example of a research project posting you will see on the clipboards

Title of Study: Experience Abroad

Study Number: 08-PS-002

Time: about 45 minutes

Credits: 3 credits

Dates Available: see sign up sheets below

Location: Location will vary depending on day of study. Be sure to check sign up sheet below for exact location. But this study will take place in either room 324, 376A, or 325 in the Social Science Building

Brief Description: This study explores people's experiences while living or visiting for an extended time a different country than their own. You will be asked to answer a series of questions that pertain to your experience abroad and at home.

Participant Criteria: Must be over 18 years of age.

Special Participant Request: If you have lived out of the country for school, work, or personal reasons for more than 4 months OR if you are currently living here from another country, we would especially appreciate your participation. This is NOT a requirement for participation, however. If you have been out of the country for shorter periods of time, you are also welcome to participate. Thank you.

Researchers: Azenett Garza, Samantha Burroughs

Questions: Dr. Azenett Garza, (626-6249), agarza@weber.edu, Samantha Burroughs, SamanthaCollier@mail.weber.edu