

## **SUNY Fredonia Psychology Department Research Participation - Guide for Introductory Psychology Students -**

### **Why Participate?**

The foundation on which psychology stands is a large body of research. All areas of psychology draw heavily from research, but there is much more to learn. Research is currently being conducted here at SUNY Fredonia to learn more about such topics as developmental psychology, child language acquisition, memory, human computer interaction, gender issues, cross-cultural psychology, sport psychology, spirituality, and attitude change.

There are at least three specific reasons why students should participate in the extra-credit opportunities. 1) The various research projects allow students to learn about the procedures and topics involved in current psychological research. 2) Student participation helps to further the science of psychology. 3) Students receive extra-credit toward their course grade.

### **Ways of Earning Extra-Credit**

There are two ways to earn extra-credit: 1) participate in an experiment, or 2) read an article from a psychology journal and write a review of the article. Participation in an experiment is recommended over reading and reviewing articles because it gives students first hand experience with the research process. To participate in a psychology experiment you must be 18 years of age or older, but students of all ages can complete article reviews.

### **The Research Participation System**

In order to view research opportunities and sign up to participate, you will need to log onto the Psychology Department research participation website (<http://fredonia.sona-systems.com/>). A detailed user's guide and FAQ for the system are available on the Psychology Department website. Students receive an email after the first week of classes with the password needed to access their account. If you have lost your password, request it using the link on the front page of the research participation website. If you never received a password, the same user ID needed to log into your Fredonia email account can be used to request a password.

All available research opportunities are posted on the research participation website. In the *Studies* section of the website you can view information about the studies, check the times available for participation, and sign up to participate. In the *My Schedule/Credits* section you can view the studies you have signed up for, cancel appointments for participation, and monitor the number of credits you have completed. In the *My Profile* section you can change your password and your email address.

You will periodically receive email notifications of new research opportunities. In addition, you will receive an email confirmation when you sign up for a study, cancel a study, or receive credit for a study. Reminder emails are also sent the day before a study. All emails should be kept for your personal records.

### **Recording Appointment Information**

Appointment information is only available on the research website. As such, you should carefully note the name, date, time, and location of research appointments when you sign up for them on the research website.

### **Credits**

You will receive 1 credit for every 30 minutes of participation, up to a maximum of 6 credits. Studies may include more than one session, and you will receive 1 credit for each session. All records of credit are maintained on the research website. If you believe there is an error in your number of credits, contact the appropriate researcher and/or the administrator (Guy Boysen: [guy.boysen@fredonia.edu](mailto:guy.boysen@fredonia.edu)). Credits may not be transferred between courses.

## **Failure to Attend Research Appointments**

If you fail to show up for 3 research appointments, you will be permanently blocked from signing up for future studies. This will prevent you from earning extra credit through participation in future experiments. Showing up for experiments you have signed up for is the best way to avoid having your account blocked, but there are situations in which you might have to cancel a research appointment.

## **Canceling Research Appointments**

You should cancel all research appointments that you will not be able to keep. There is no penalty for cancellations. Canceling your participation for a study is done by going to the *My Schedule/Credits* section of the research participation website and clicking the cancel button next to the appropriate study. Although some studies can be canceled as late as 2 hours before the scheduled time, others may require more notice. Please carefully make note of the cancellation deadline listed under *Study Information* before signing up.

In the event that you need to miss an experiment and cannot access the internet, call the Psychology Department secretary (673-3129) in advance. You will need to provide the secretary with the experiment name and the date and time of your scheduled appointment. If you miss an experiment and were unable to call or cancel in advance, you must provide written evidence for the absence in order to avoid it being unexcused. Take this written evidence, along with the experiment name and date and time of your appointment, to the Psychology Department secretary in Thompson W357.

## **Voluntary Participation**

All participation in research is voluntary. When you arrive for participation, the experimenter will provide you with a description of what you will be doing during the course of the experiment. The experimenter will ask you to sign a consent form. If you feel that you cannot ethically or morally continue to participate in the experiment you may elect to end the experiment, and you will still receive credit for participating.

## **Journal Article Review**

Journal article reviews are the other method of earning extra credit. Each review of a research article is worth 1 credit. The article review, plus a copy of the article should be turned in to your instructor. You may find articles in the on-line library database PsycArticles ([http://www.fredonia.edu/library/db\\_list.asp](http://www.fredonia.edu/library/db_list.asp)). After you navigate to this web page, scroll down and you will see the link for the PsycArticles. Your task is to search the database for an article, read it, and write a 2-3 page review that conforms to the outline below.

### **Article Review for Extra-Credit**

**Reviewer's Name**  
**Intro. Instructor's Name**  
**Date Submitted**

**Authors:**

**Date of Publication:**

**Title of Article:**

**Hypotheses of the research:**

**Method**

**Subjects:**

**Independent Variable(s):**

**Dependent Variable(s):**

**Procedure**

**Results:**

**Suggestions for future research:**

**Your comments, criticisms:**