

2023-24, INTRODUCTORY PSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH REQUIREMENT

Psychology is a data-driven discipline. To become better acquainted about how data is gathered and interpreted, all introductory psychology students are required to participate in research studies and/or review selected research articles. This requirement will give you a deeper experiential understanding of the scientific research process. Your time and effort will be greatly appreciated by the Psychology honours students who must complete a research thesis to graduate, and if you are a future honours student, this will give you a taste of what awaits in your final year!

We want your participation to be an interesting learning experience and are interested in your feedback. Concerns and questions about this requirement can always be directed to the **SONA coordinator**, n.alahakoon@uwinnipeg.ca. (Not to your professor.) Ethical concerns related to study participation may be directed to the psychology department research ethics chair: ethicspsyc@uwinnipeg.ca.

In brief, to complete this requirement you must earn at least **6.0 research credits by the end of your course (specific due dates below)**. Your credits are recorded in a program called *SONA*. *SONA* has a FAQ tab (frequently asked questions) with answers to common questions. At the start of class, you'll receive access to *SONA* via an email sent to your student webmail. The 6.0 credit requirement or online limits may be adjusted mid-term on a section-by-section basis based on unanticipated factors such as study availability, but will not be adjusted on an individual basis.

In *NEXUS*, you should see a separate course called PSYC1000 Introductory Psychology Research Requirement. This is additional to your lecture class section. You can find everything you need to know about the subject pool requirement in *NEXUS*. For example, this is where you might access the journal articles you might want to review.

WHEN TO START AND FINISH

Your 6 research credits must be earned by:

Sections entirely in the fall term: December 11, 2023

Articles submitted after December 6th are not guaranteed feedback before the submission deadline.

Sections spanning the fall and winter: April 10, 2024

Articles submitted after April 6th are not guaranteed feedback before the submission deadline.

Sections entirely in the winter term: April 10, 2024

Articles submitted after April 6th are not guaranteed feedback before the submission deadline.

Note to students who are enrolled in-person sections

To ensure a well-rounded learning experience, a maximum of 3.0 of your 6.0 credits can be earned via online studies.

Feel free to start looking at *SONA* as soon as possible. If you log into *SONA* and don't see studies, then there are simply none available at the moment, or timeslots in current studies are all full ... just keep checking. Throughout the course you may receive emails when a new study is posted. If at the end of term you find yourself short of credits you can make them up by doing article reviews. *If you drop this course and are still receiving SONA messages, just send the coordinator a quick note to remove you.*

HOW THIS ASSIGNMENT AFFECTS YOUR GRADE

The research requirement is worth 5% of the grade in the course and is based on a PASS or INCOMPLETE basis. “PASS” means receive 5% and INCOMPLETE means receive 0%.

In other words, when you earn 6.0 research credits in SONA, you PASS and receive the full 5% as your mark for the research requirement. If you have fewer than 6.0 credits at the end of the course you receive 0% as your mark for the research requirement.

WAYS TO OBTAIN CREDITS

There are three ways of fulfilling the research requirement. You may choose any combination of the options below to achieve 6 credits.

1. Participation in online or on-campus research studies: You'll view a list of studies posted in SONA and sign-up for a time slot (*not during your PSYC 1000 class time*). Carefully read the study description and requirements, and note any pre-requisites and eligibility requirements (e.g., only red-headed males owning pet turtles). **Studies have variable credit values at the rate of 1.0/hour in 30 minute increments.** For example, studies taking 30 minutes or less are worth 0.5 of a credit and those taking between 31 and 60 minutes are worth 1.0. Some longer or two-part studies are worth more than 1.0 credit, proportional to the time required. *n.b.*, Please cancel any sign-up that you cannot attend—even for on-line studies—to avoid a ‘no-show’ penalty (see below).

2. Journal Article Reviews: **1.0 credit for each satisfactory review.** In the Research Requirement link in **Nexus** there are 10 articles to choose from, which are listed at the end of this document and are found in your **Nexus** site as reserved readings. Choose an article and answer three questions using the Review Form, in **Nexus** (instructions are also on the form). **Your review should summarize the research findings in the article and provide evidence from the article.** They are graded on a PASS/FAIL basis, and the credit for each satisfactory review is posted in your SONA account. **Use of AI tools is prohibited.**

3. Observation of Research Studies: The observer-only option is for students who want to complete and learn about the procedures of a research study but prefer to not have their results used for research. Observers do everything that active study participants do, however, they must inform the researcher in advance (or as soon as is practicable) that they are opting for only observer status. The researcher will then not use their results. Although this option is available for most studies, some studies cannot accommodate observers.

INITIAL SETUP

If you're registered in the class, then a SONA account will be automatically set up for you. During the first week of classes **your @webmail.uwinnipeg.ca** will receive a message containing a user ID and a temporary password to activate your SONA account. Your very first login will require that temporary password and you'll create your own password to use going forward. (The procedure is the same for a forgotten password.) In SONA, for anonymity, you will be known to researchers only by a unique 5-digit Identity Code and you'll need to know this ID number when participating in any study. Activating your account also involves completing a short pre-screen questionnaire that asks various background and demographic questions (e.g., gender). These responses may be used when studies are recruiting specific groups of participants. These questions are optional but completing them may increase your eligibility for some studies.

If you do not receive an e-mail with your user ID on the specified dates below, contact the coordinator, not your professor!

Fall, Fall-Winter students: September 20, 2023

Winter students: January 18, 2024

MISSED APPOINTMENTS

To respect people's time, and to not disadvantage other students who could take your spot, please cancel appointments that you cannot attend – ***including studies on-line***. You don't need to give a reason to cancel/remove your signup before the timeslot closes. Researchers will also try to email participants if a study is cancelled, so try to look out for those. Appointment reminders are automatically e-mailed to you the night before your session.

Therefore, if you do not cancel before your appointment SONA will *assess you a no-show penalty* (a credit takeaway) equal to the credit value of the study. Cancelling in SONA is easy as long as it is before the cancellation deadline. Cancelling in advance also allows you to sign up for any future timeslot which might be available for that study.

If for some reason you cannot cancel before the appointment deadline, as soon as possible contact the study researcher via SONA or the SONA coordinator by e-mail explaining the circumstances. You may receive an "excused" no-show instead.

CALCULATION OF CREDITS AND PENALTIES

The 'Credits Earned' number shown on your SONA profile is your running total, including any credit penalties assessed against you. The 'Credits Needed' number is the assignment's total credit requirement, *not* the amount of credits *that you still need*. The number of credits you still need is the difference between credits earned and credits needed. A credit-penalty is the loss of that study's credit value due to a no-show. For example, if you signed up for a study but you didn't show up and you didn't cancel in SONA, then the result is two-fold, no credit is earned for that study, *plus* the credit value for that missed study is ***deducted*** from your account. **You will not be able to receive credit twice for the same study.**

Your 6.0 credits may be earned via SONA (participation or observation) and/or Article Reviews. Once you have 6.0 credits, you are done and it's best if you leave the spots for others because there is no grading benefit to completing >6 credits. Once classes are finished your requirement results (pass or incomplete) will be reported to your professor.

SELECTION OF JOURNAL ARTICLES TO REVIEW

1. Berridge et al., C. W. (2016). Liking, wanting, and the incentive-sensitization theory of addiction. *American Psychologist*, 71, 670–679.
2. Dolinski, D. et al (2017). Would you deliver an electric shock in 2015? Obedience in the experimental paradigm developed by Stanley Milgram in the 50 years following the original studies. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 1-7. DOI: 10.1177/1948550617693060
3. Fredrickson, B. (2003). The value of positive emotions: The emerging science of positive psychology is coming to understand why it's good to feel good. *American Scientist*, 91, 330-335.
4. Haslam, N. (2015). Biogenetic explanations of mental disorder: The mixed-blessings model. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 24, 399–404.
5. Melzack, R. (1992, April). Phantom limbs. *Scientific American*, 120-126.
6. Nairne, J.S. et al. (2017). Remembering the living: Episodic memory is tuned to animacy. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 26, 22 –27.
7. Rapp, D.M. (2016). The consequences of reading inaccurate information. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 25, 281-285.
8. Rodier, P.W. (2000, February). The early origins of autism. *Scientific American*, 56-63.
9. Soto, C. J. et al. (2015). Personality traits in childhood and adolescence: Structure, development, and outcomes. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 24, 358–362.
10. Steele, C. M. (1999, August). Thin ice: "Stereotype threat" and Black college students. *The Atlantic Monthly*, 44-54.

Students are encouraged to attend one of the following sessions (via Zoom) to learn more about the Introductory Research Requirement or to clarify any questions you may have.

Session 1: Friday, September 8, 2023- 2:00- 3:00 p.m.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83630410445>

Meeting ID: 836 3041 0445
Passcode: 1000

Session2: Monday, September 11, 2023- 12:30-1:30 p.m.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87604169130>

Meeting ID: 876 0416 9130
Passcode: 1000

Session 3: Tuesday, September, 12, 2023- 2:00-3:00 p.m.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82472445765>

Meeting ID: 824 7244 5765
Passcode: 1000