

PSY 2012 Research Participation

One of the goals of PSY 2012 -- General Psychology -- is to familiarize you with the research process in psychology. To meet this goal, we have designed two options. As a student in PSY 2012, you must complete one (and only one) of the two options. Failure to meet this requirement will automatically earn you an "I" in the course. (Unless your final course grade is an E, in which case you still receive the E, not an I.)

You have two options:

- Option 1 must be completed by Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2007.
- Option 2 must be selected by Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2007, and completed by Wed., November 28, 2007.

OPTION 1: Earn **14** credits by participating in experiments. One credit is given for every half-hour you spend in an experiment, and you need to earn 14 credits in total. (This is equivalent to 7 hours of participation in research.) You must be at least 18 years old to complete Option 1.

OPTION 2: Read four research articles from professional journals in the area of psychological science and submit a paper that discusses each article for a total of 4 papers. If you select OPTION 2, you must inform your instructor and the participant pool coordinator (psy2012@grove.ufl.edu) by email. First-hand experience in research is a valuable component of understanding the science of psychology. However, students who prefer not to participate in research can select option 2 as an alternative. Students who decide on the paper option must declare their intentions in an email to their instructor (and pool coordinator) no later than Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2007. After that time, the paper option cannot be selected. Pool coordinator email: psy2012@grove.ufl.edu

Option 1: Research Participation

Research is a fundamental component of psychological science. Learning about psychology involves learning about the research process, and research participation provides a hands-on opportunity to become familiar with how research is conducted. This option gives you experience as a participant in actual psychology experiments. You will also have the opportunity to learn more about yourself and your behavior in these studies. There are many different kinds of studies conducted in our department. For example, you might be asked to complete questionnaires, to view videos, to listen to music or conversations, to interact with others in a group, or to make judgments on a computer. All studies are reviewed and approved in advance by the University of Florida Institutional Review Board. When you arrive at each study, the investigator will explain that particular study to you and you will have a chance to ask any questions you may have about participation. If you do not wish to participate, you will receive 1 credit for the time required to get to the location of the experiment and be allowed to leave. If you decide to participate in the study, you will be given a written explanation of the study and asked to give your consent to participate. Even after you have consented and have started to participate, it is always up to you to decide whether to continue.

The sign-up procedure uses a web-based system called **Sona Systems** which means you will sign up for studies on-line. The procedure for signing up for experiments is detailed below. If you are still confused after reading this document check the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (on the Sona Systems Webpage).

I. Setting up an account and password. The first time you use Sona Systems, follow the steps below to set up an account for yourself and indicate your course section:

Step 1: In Netscape, Internet Explorer, or AOL, go to: <http://ufl.sona-systems.com> and under New User on the left side of the screen, click on the request an account link. Then, enter the following information: **First name:** enter First Name, **Last name:** enter Last Name, **User ID:** enter your Gatorlink username, **Re-enter User ID:** enter your Gatorlink username again, **Student ID:** enter your UF ID, **Select course:** Select your course.

Step 2: A logon and password will be sent to your email account immediately with the link to Sona Systems in the email so that you can immediately login.

If you do not receive a logon and password shortly (at least 24 hours) after you have signed up, it is most likely due to complications with the email address you provided. For any problems with your gatorlink email, try contacting the UF computing help desk at (352) 392-HELP (4357). If you continue to have problems with the Sona Systems webpage, contact the participant pool coordinator at psy2012@grove.ufl.edu. NOTE: Do not use AOL accounts. Doing so will prevent you from receiving important emails.

Step 3: To login, in Netscape, Internet Explorer, or AOL, go to: <http://ufl.sona-systems.com> and type in your gatorlink username and the password you received.

Under My profile, you can change your password as well as any other information (e.g., your phone number). **If you forget your password**, go to <http://ufl.sona-systems.com/> and on the left side of the screen under “your password”, click on retrieve password. You will be sent your password via email.

III. Signing up for experiments After you have set up your account, you may sign up for research projects.

The first study you will probably complete is an online prescreening study. You will receive 1 credit for this study, and it will appear on the screen after you login. The online survey will only be available a short period. If you do not complete this online study in the beginning of the semester, however, there is no penalty.

Step 1: In Netscape, Internet Explorer, or AOL, go to <http://ufl.sona-systems.com> and login with your username and password. To view available studies, click on the study sign-up icon. This will bring up a list of studies and you may view the schedule of available times by clicking on the specific study. You can then view the number of credits the study awards and amount of time required. To view available time slots, click on the link provided, and you will see additional information including the location of the study.

Step 2: When you find a study that meets your schedule, simply click the Sign Ups button and you will be signed up for that study. Also, please write down the day, date, time, and location of the experiment in your calendar.

Step 3: You will receive a confirmation/reminder email about 24 hours before the scheduled time of the study. To receive a reminder, you need to make sure your email address is correct in the online sign-up system. To verify or change your email address, go to <http://ufl.sona-systems.com> and click on the “My Profile” icon at the bottom of the screen and adjust your contact information as needed. If your email address isn't there or is incorrect, you can type another address in the Alternate Email Address box. However, note that if you type in an alternate email address, all emails from the website will be sent to the alternate email address.

Step 4: On the date and time of the study, go to the location of the study. If you have any questions about the location of the study, please email the person listed as the Researcher under the study description. After arriving at the experiment, you will first be given a description of the experimental procedures and asked to sign a consent form. If you do not wish to participate in the study at this time, tell your experimenter, and you will be given 1 credit for showing up for the study.

After you have completed the experiment, the researcher will assign you credit via the website. *Please allow researchers 1 week after the study has ended to formally assign you credit on the SONA website.* You can keep track of the credits you have earned by going to the website, clicking on My Schedule/Credits and logging in. The experiments you have participated in, and the number of credits you have earned, as well as any outstanding appointments will be listed there.

IV. Canceling an appointment.

If you must cancel your appointment, be sure to remove your name from the web sign-up page under My Schedule/Credits as soon as possible, so that another student may take your spot in the study. If it is more than 1 hour before the session is to begin, Go to the **Sona Systems** website and find your initials next to the date and time you signed-up. Click the "Cancel" button to the right of your initials. If it is within 24 hours before the

session begins you must call the researcher. PLEASE do not call the Psychology office, your TA, or instructor with information about cancellations, as these people are in no way involved in this procedure.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1. If you forget the date, time, or room number for your session, go to <http://ufl.sona-systems.com>, log on, and click on My Schedule and Credits. Once you log in, you can see a list of any projects you are signed up for. You can then verify the date, time, and location, as well as the researcher's phone number and the Researcher's email address.
2. Failure to show up for a study without notifying the researcher (described above) will result in a demerit (minus 1 credit).
3. You will be able to track the credits and demerits you have earned for participation in research studies by viewing the Schedule/Credits page. Check periodically to make sure that your credit has been correctly applied. If there is a problem, contact the researcher as soon as you can. If you think that the Sona system is incorrect, send an email to psy2012@grove.ufl.edu.
4. Last day to sign up for research projects: **December 5, 2007.**

OPTION 2: Writing summaries of research studies already completed.

This option is designed to give you exposure to the research that psychologists conduct by reading and reporting on already completed experiments that have been published in professional psychology journals.

Students who decide on the paper option must declare their intentions in writing to their instructor and to the Participant Pool coordinator (psy2012@grove.ufl.edu) no later than the **Wednesday, September 5, 2007**. After that time, the paper option cannot be selected.

The typed papers and complete articles should be turned into mailbox #56 in the main office of the Psychology Department (PSY 2012 Participant Pool mailbox) no later than **5:00 PM Friday, November 28, 2007**. They will be graded on a pass-fail basis. Be sure to include your name and your instructor's name on the packet of papers.

Step 1. Locating a research article: Select 4 articles in a professional research journal that describes one or more experiments. Be sure to choose articles that are empirical (i.e., a study was conducted). Do not select theoretical articles. Only professional journals in Psychology are acceptable. Some examples of such journals are: Psychological Science, Journal of Experimental Psychology, Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Child Development, and Cognitive Psychology. These journals are available in Library West or in the Health Center Library, or on-line via WebLuis. Your instructor or TA can assist you in determining whether your articles are acceptable.

Please note that Psychology Today, Science Magazine, Omni, Redbook, Reader's Digest, etc. are NOT professional journals.

Step 2. Format of Report: Please have your reports conform to the following guidelines:

- a. Include a photocopy. Turn in a complete copy of each of the 4 articles, including the reference list provided at the end of the article.
- b. The written report of each article can be brief. Two- three typed, double-spaced pages, not including the photocopy, is acceptable.

Step 3. Coverage: Include information that responds to the following questions:

- a. What was this article about (i.e., briefly summarize the purpose, methods, results, and conclusions)?
- b. Why did you choose this particular journal or article?
- c. How understandable or usable was the article to you? (If it seems vague or impossible to understand, feel free to say so.)
- d. What did you learn as a result of your reading and how did this article relate (if at all) to class material?