# Behavioral and Social Sciences Department, Southern Arkansas University Research Exposure Requirement—Psychology Participant Pool "Blue Sheet"

The Behavioral and Social Sciences Department requires that students enrolled in Psychology 2003, General Psychology, gain first hand experience in research by: (1) being part of a research experiment, and/or (2) reading and evaluating original research articles in psychology. Details about these two options are given below.

The purpose of this requirement is to provide students with direct exposure to the conduct of psychological research, so that they can learn more about **how** psychologists learn about human behavior. The field of psychology continues to evolve at a rapid rate due to the intensive research going on in all areas of the field. Exposure to research thus provides you with a better appreciation of the process of expansion of our knowledge base in psychology.

This information is being given to instructors and students in General Psychology, and researchers who are seeking to recruit participants for research. If you have any questions concerning the Policies and Procedures described below, please contact the department chair, Dr. Deborah Wilson (djwilson@saumag.edu).

#### **Policies and Procedures for Human Research Pool**

Students in General Psychology (Psychology 2003) are required to gain exposure to the research process in order to learn more about the field of psychology. Students may elect gain exposure by one or both of the two methods below:

- (1) be part of research experiments being conducted within the department, and/or
- (2) read and write a critique of research journal articles.

This assignment <u>must be completed by the last day</u> of class for the semester! Do <u>NOT</u> wait until the last minute because all experiments might be complete!

Note that completion of the research requirement involves earning three credits in total. Students are free to 'mix and match' between the two options above (e.g., doing all credits through participation in experiments, doing all credits through reading journal articles, participating in both experiments and articles).

### Option 1: Participate in a Research Study

If you are under 18 you must have the Parental Permission Form signed and returned to your instructor prior to participation in any research studies. This form can be found on the Research Participation web page linked below. Not all experiments allow participants under 18 years old.

Descriptions of research studies that are eligible for credit can be found at the Research Participation web page:

#### http://sites.saumag.edu/bssexperiments/ or tinyurl.com/bssexp

Listed studies have been reviewed by the Southern Arkansas University Institutional Review Board to ensure compliance with ethical guidelines. The studies will also have been approved for use of the Human Research Pool. **You can only receive credit for studies that are approved and posted on this site.** 

Ordinarily, you will sign up for a study based on the fact that the time scheduled for the study is one that fits into your schedule. Some studies also ask you to provide a phone number where you can be contacted. **Be sure to write down the time, date, and location of the study and show up at the appointed time.** Take note of the following conditions:

1. If you cannot attend a session that you signed up for, please cancel your session online up to 24 hrs before the study.

 If you show up for a session and the experimenter fails to show up you will still receive credit for the session. You MUST report this using the Experimenter No-Show form on the Research Participation Availability webpage linked above

Be sure to make note of the amount of time required for participation and the number of experimental credits you will receive for participation. Many studies will last approximately a half hour or less and you will receive one half credit for participating. Participation in a study between a half hour and one hour will earn you one credit. Some studies may last longer and provide more than one credit.

If you have any questions or concerns please email the system administrator listed on the Research Participation Availability webpage linked above. The subject pool will close on the last day of classes for the semester. No studies will be available after this date.

## Option 2: Critique of a Journal Article

In addition to participating in research studies, you can read and critique an empirical **primary source research articles** in an <u>academic scientific psychology journal</u>. To complete this option you should write a two page long (typed, double-spaced) critique of the article. In your critique you should address the following points: (1) Why the researchers were conducting the study (i.e., what problem were they trying to understand, or what question were they trying to answer); (2) describe the methods that the researchers used in the research; (3) what the researchers concluded from their results – what did they find out, and what are the implications and limitations of the findings.

Each article critique is the equivalent of one (1) research credit. There is a **list of acceptable article sources** on the **Psychology Journals Eligible for Research Exposure Credit webpage**: <a href="https://web.saumag.edu/library/psychology-journals/">https://web.saumag.edu/library/psychology-journals/</a> The **ONLY** sources eligible for credit are on this web page. Do **NOT** try writing a critique of an article from any other source—you will not get credit for it.

These critiques should be submitted to your General Psychology instructor for credit.

# This assignment also must be completed by the last class day of the semester.

Thank you for your help in creating a vibrant and effective psychology research program at Southern Arkansas University.

If you have any questions please contact the department chair, Dr. Deborah Wilson (djwilson@saumag.edu).

#### Research Participation Tracking Form

Experiment Name	Date	Time	Location	Number of Credits