Spring, 2010

Research Requirement/Extra Credit for Psychology 112 Students (and Students in Other Selected Classes) via the Sona Research Participation System

There is a research requirement for PSY 112 that may be fulfilled in either (or both) of two ways:

1. participation in faculty/student research projects,
2. writing library research papers on a topic of psychology.

**Requirement: 6 "UNITS" of research activity for Psy 112. The deadline for research participation is Monday, May 10 at 3:00 p.m. The deadline for papers is Monday, May 3 at 3:00 p.m.**

This requirement is intended to broaden your knowledge of the methods of psychology and to give you "hands on" experience related to psychological research. All students must register at http://CCSU.sona-systems.com to receive credit for their research projects or research papers. See details below.

Any credit earned beyond the required 6 units might be used as extra-credit at the discretion of your instructor. See your course syllabus for details.

**Option 1.** Research Project Participation. Faculty and advanced students in psychology conduct research in their areas of interest. In order for the research to be conducted, we request that volunteers participate. Often Psychology students serve this role. You get to see exactly how our research is conducted, and you are a valuable resource for us as well. All research conducted with people at CCSU is reviewed by an Ethical Review Board as to its acceptability, no questionable research is allowed. You are guaranteed confidentiality and anonymity. You are entitled to full and complete information about each study in which you participate. **You must be at least 18 years old to participate (if under 18 you need written parental permission. Ask your instructor for details).**

NOTE: RESEARCH PROJECT PARTICIPATION IS NOT REQUIRED. If for any reason you do not wish to participate in research projects, you do not have to do so. **You may earn your required units (and extra credit) by option #2 (see below).**

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH PROJECTS:**

You will use the on-line Research Participation Scheduling System at http://CCSU.sona-systems.com, a web-based experiment scheduling and tracking system. Projects should be available beginning around late mid-February and will likely end by late April. **Do not wait until the last minute.**
On your first visit you must register as a new user and obtain a password. To do this:

1. Look in the lower left-hand corner of the window to find the **New Participant** link.
2. Click on **New Participant, Request an Account Here**.
3. Enter:
   a. your name,
   b. your e-mail address,
   c. a user ID of your choosing (**you must enter a user ID**) and,
   d. select the course to which you want your credits applied. **BE SURE TO SELECT THE CORRECT COURSE!** Look at your syllabus and match the course, section, and instructor with the course you choose on Sona! **IF YOU DO NOT DO THIS, YOU MAY NOT RECEIVE CREDIT!**
      i. If you have several courses to which you want to assign credits, please contact Dr. Rebecca Wood at Woodre@ccsu.edu or (860) 832-3106 for more information.
4. Be sure to enter an **existing** email address. Your password and login information will be sent to that address in a few seconds. (*The e-mail address you use must be a unique address, that is, no one else using the participant scheduling system can also be using the same e-mail address.*) This logon information will be sent by someone called Research Participation System [ccsu-admin@sona-systems.net]. **Do not mistakenly delete this message as “spam.” You can change your password under “My profile” after you log in.**

After you receive your login and password by e-mail (this just takes a few seconds) return to **http://CCSU.sona-systems.com**

1. Enter your login and password. If you like, you can change your password when you logon. Note: You will not be able to sign up for experiments until you activate your account by logging on.
2. From here you can sign up for experiments, change your password, view your appointments and credit, etc. **If you need to cancel your appointment, please contact the experimenter as soon as possible. If you cancel too late, you may be penalized one unit.**
3. If you make an appointment, but do not show up, **you may be penalized one unit** for each appointment missed. No excuses. Do not sign up unless you intend to show up. **Be sure to keep your scheduled appointments.**

4. **You may NOT participate in the same study more than once.**

**Option 2.** The research paper alternative for earning units is designed primarily for students who, for one reason or another, are not able or do not wish to participate in research projects.
If you choose, you may earn units through both options (up to the maximum that your instructor sets). If you decide to earn units through the research paper option, please follow these instructions:

A. **Registering on-line:**
   Follow the instructions described on page 2 of this handout. Go to the following URL: [http://CCSU.sona-systems.com](http://CCSU.sona-systems.com) to register. **If you write papers totaling 6 units of credit you do not have to sign up for research projects, but you will receive credit for your papers and you will be able to view your credits only if you have registered.**

B. **Choosing an article to read:**
   1. The idea is to do some in-depth first-hand reading about psychological research, beyond that covered in your textbook. Choose a recent article (within the last 5 years or so) from the American Psychologist or other psychology journal. The American Psychologist uses the least amount of technical language of any of the journals available in full-text from the CCSU library. If you prefer a more advanced article, you may look in any psychology journal. Hard copies of many journals can be found by visiting the library, however, for convenience, we suggest using full-text articles found by using PsycArticles or PsycInfo which is available on-line using the digital library resources found at: [http://library.ccsu.edu/](http://library.ccsu.edu/). Another good source for in-depth Psychological research articles in lay language is Current Directions in Psychological Science. Our library subscribes to this journal, however, it is not available “full text” by computer. You will actually have to find it on the fourth floor of the library.

   2. The article you read must be **at least 2 full pages long** in the magazine or journal.

C. **What to write**
   1. The purpose of the report is to demonstrate that you have read and understood the research article. It should be an account in your own words of what you personally got out of the article. The report should be well-written, but does not have to be a completely polished term paper.

   2. Any report that is entirely or partly copied word-for-word from an article is plagiarized. **We check for this. This is not acceptable.** You will not receive credit. Plagiarism is a serious offense that could lead to your expulsion from the University (see CCSU plagiarism policy at: [http://www.ccsu.edu/AcademicIntegrity/UndergradAcadMisconductPolicy.htm](http://www.ccsu.edu/AcademicIntegrity/UndergradAcadMisconductPolicy.htm))

   3. The report MUST BE word processed, spell-checked and double-spaced. **We prefer that you save your document in Microsoft Word.**

   4. If acceptable, you will receive 1 unit for each page you write, **but not more than 2**
DEADLINES: Experiments: May 10
Papers: May 3

units for each article you read. As a general rule, 1 page = 200 words. Margins should be 1 inch.

D. Other details for submitting papers:

1. **To receive credit, you must include all of the following information at the top of your paper:**
   
   a. Your name, your e-mail address, and the date
   b. Your Psychology instructor and class time
   c. Your CCSU student ID number
   d. The author, title, and page numbers of the article you read
   e. The name and date of the magazine or journal
   f. **YOU MUST INCLUDE A COPY OF THE ARTICLE** (saved in .pdf or html format). (Printouts from full-text on-line resources or photocopies are acceptable if you are submitting non-electronically. Originals are not acceptable.)

2. **KEEP A COPY OF YOUR PAPER FOR YOUR OWN RECORDS JUST IN CASE A DISCREPANCY IN RECORD KEEPING ARISES.**

3. **Submit:**
   
   a. your paper, preferably saved as a *Microsoft Word* document, and
   b. the .pdf or html copy of the full article; by e-mail attachment to: PsychPapers@ccsu.edu. If you are unable to submit your paper by e-mail, you may deposit your paper in the "paper drop", the slot located in the Psychology Research Area in the basement of Barnard Hall (just past the psychology lab). **Do not submit your paper directly to your instructor.**

E. **Amount of time to spend**

Since the research paper option is intended to be an alternative to experiment participation, you don't need to spend more than approximately 1 hour writing your paper.

F. **Deadlines**

**Monday, May 10 at 3:00 p.m.** is the last date that one can participate in research projects and **Monday, May 3 at 3:00 p.m.** is the last date that one can turn in research papers.

If you have questions or concerns, you can contact:
Psychology Graduate Assistant at (860) 832-2221
Dr. Steven Horowitz at Horowitzs@ccsu.edu (860) 832-3119
Dr. Rebecca Wood at Woodre@ccsu.edu (860) 832-3106