

INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY (PS101) AND INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY –HONORS (PS101H) EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY EXPERIENCE

WHY? In any department, at any institution, whether a course is designed for majors or non-majors - it is designed with respect to the principles of the discipline and the mission of the institution if the course is to have integrity. Whether you are an intended Psychological Science major, or are majoring in another discipline, one goal of the Introduction to Psychology course is to immerse students in the science of the discipline. The standards for fulfilling this requirement are consistent regardless of your academic status as a major or non-major.

THE IMMERSION TAKES PLACE IN ONE OF THREE WAYS:

1. Students may opt to take part in psychology experiments, for up to five credits – which is equivalent to 2.5 hours worth of participation over the course of the semester. The time commitment is minimum, but requires consistent participation if you elect this option.

Consistent “no shows” (not keeping appointments when scheduled) prevents other students who would have participated from being able to schedule and fulfill the requirement using this method. It also delays the researcher in providing adequate feedback to all participants at the end of the semester – as required by research protocol. If you miss more than two scheduled appointments without appropriately canceling, you will be required to select option 2, instead. A pattern of “no shows” is treated as a preference for option 2.

2. Students may opt to understand the Science of Psychology by writing research reports. It does not provide the same insight into the experiences of research participants, but it does provide further exploration of research that has been conducted and published - and possibly provide some insight regarding the impact psychological study can have in multiple environments.
3. Students may opt to develop a plan which combines the above two options – take part in research for 2 credits (for example) and write three research reports. The combination of research studies to research reports is at the discretion of the student.

By providing this information to all students in the first week of class, you are being given the opportunity to decide which option to select, or whether to continue with Introduction to Psychology at all, enrolling in another course in its place. The design and structure of the course is known to all departments that opt to select the Introduction to Psychology as a support course outside of their own discipline. This requirement will not be waived if you plan to take this course as a prerequisite for a course in another department. Most disciplines that require Introduction to Psychology as a prerequisite often conduct research with human participants adhering to many of the same tenets of research used in the Psychological Science department. Experience in psychological research potentially benefits you when you become a major other departments.

WHAT AM I GETTING OUT OF PARTICIPATING? This experience of participating in research aids in informed decision-making about the nature of psychological research and its potential impact on those participating in the study, as well as those whose lives are affected by psychological research. Any number of students who've participated in research may serve as future members of research ethics boards. Having been a participant would most likely give those individuals greater insight into the research process and associated risks than if they had not participated at all.

Students currently taking Introduction to Psychology may find themselves, at a future date, making decisions about research taking shape at their workplace, in local school settings, in their local communities, and a host of other settings. The experience is potentially beneficial in helping any individual ask different, and hopefully more insightful, questions about research after having direct participation.

Equally important to the process of data collection on the part of the researcher is the Debriefing session. At the end of the study, the researcher explains the actual purpose of the study.

Participants learn that the experience they believe they're having at the time of study may have produced an unanticipated outcome. The debriefing session is used to tie together human behavior and human cognition, which may be opposing or complementary forces.

It should be noted that the participation and library research options are required by nearly all major institutions with accredited programs, public or private, large or small. The research requirement and research studies have been thoroughly reviewed by JCU's Institutional Review Board prior to approval.

HOW? The requirement is met if you earn five credits as a participant, as explained above.

Each time you serve as a participant in a study that requires 15 minutes or less of your time, you will receive ½ credit. If the study takes between 15 and 30 minutes, you will receive one credit. Studies lasting between 30 and 45 minutes are worth 1½ credits, while studies lasting between 45 and 60 minutes are worth two credits. Most of the studies will be those conducted by students as part of their course in Experimental Design or as independent study projects, but there may also be some studies conducted by the faculty in the department.

WHERE? JCU Psychology website: Experiment Sign-up Procedure

1. By the fourth week of classes, you will receive an email from the "SONA administrator". Go to <http://jcu.sona-systems.com> Use the information you receive to access your account.
2. If you lose your email or login information, use the web address cited above. When the page opens, look on the lower left side, and it will say: "Lost your password? Click here to retrieve it." Click on that link.
3. The next page you see will ask you for your ID – it is your JCU email (the part before the @jcu.edu). If your email address is JDOE10@jcu.edu, your ID = JDOE10.
4. Type in your ID. Click on the box, and it will send your password to your JCU email account. Your password will be a list of random numbers.
5. To change your password, look at the third box in the middle of the page (My Profile). The first item is "Change your password." Follow the directions.
6. When you sign up for a study, you will see an ID number. You must keep this number. The experimenter will not know your name. To obtain credit for an experiment, take the number with you to the experiment. You will not be granted credit without this number.

7. See the department Administrative Assistant (Dolan E301) to recover lost email.

IF I OPT TO WRITE THE LIBRARY RESEARCH PAPERS? If you do not wish to participate in experiments and prefer to do library research activities to fulfill this requirement, contact your professor for details. Copies of the paper assignment should have been included in your syllabus with this document. If it has not been included, please obtain a copy from the main office.

**IF YOU DO NOT FULFILL ONE OF THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS
YOUR COURSE GRADE WILL BE LOWERED BY 1/3 LETTER GRADE.**

