UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

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Dear Student:

This letter explains the research participation requirement in your PSC 1, PSC1Y or 41 class.

What is the reason for the research participation requirement?

Just as biology students often do dissections and chemistry students often conduct laboratory experiments, psychology students learn about research partly by participating in it. When you participate in studies, you will see how psychologists and communication researchers collect data and what it feels like to be the 'subject' of study. You will be able to talk with researchers about what they're doing and why.

Besides being educational, your participation is very important to UC Davis researchers who depend on human participants to advance their research programs. UCD's Psychology Department has an excellent reputation for research, and this reputation could not be sustained without the help of research participants like you.

What exactly is required?

You need to earn 6 credits by participating in at least 6 hours of research (or writing papers, as described below). Some studies can be completed online while other studies require an appointment. Only 35% of your study credits can come from online studies.

You may participate in research starting on June 26th, and you can participate in research until 5 pm on August 4th. The deadline for turning in papers is also August 4th at 5 pm.

Completing the requirement in advance of this date is highly recommended—in the final week there are many students who wait until the last minute, and there are not enough studies to accommodate them all.

If you retaking the course and already completed some or all of your credits, **you do not** have to do them again. However, you **MUST** email the Subject Pool Coordinator (spcoordinator@ucdavis.edu) and say you would like to reuse your old credits. This process will NOT happen automatically.

If you are **under 18 years of age**, then you cannot fulfill your requirement by participating in studies. Instead you must write brief research papers as described below. If you turn 18 during the term, then you may participate in studies after your birthday— just email the Subject Pool Coordinator to reset your age.

Are there any other options?

You can earn your 6 credits by participating in studies, writing papers, or any combination of the two.

If you do not wish to participate in research studies, you may write research papers instead. These papers are based on reviewing one or more research articles written by faculty members in the Psychology Department. The list of accepted research articles: List of Faculty Research Papers.

You can receive 2 research credits for writing a 1000 word minimum summary and commentary on an article included on the list. Your paper(s) will be read and graded by me, the Subject Pool Coordinator and should be submitted on **the Sona Papers SmartSite**. If you are not on the Sona Papers SmartSite and wish to turn in a paper, email the Subject Pool Coordinator and ask to be added: spcoordinator@ucdavis.edu.

We recommend you submit the paper in advance of the deadline, as students often need to make revisions before the paper is accepted. More information about the paper option can be found here: Paper option

What happens if the requirement is not met?

If you have not earned the 6 required credits by the deadline, you will receive an Incomplete for the course. If the incomplete is not made up within three *registered* quarters, it will automatically be changed to an **F**. So please do everything in your power to complete the requirement by the deadline.

What can I do to help make sure I meet the requirement?

Do not no-show. If you no-show a study appointment, chances are you will not find another to take its place.

How do I go about meeting the requirement?

The system for signing up for studies: Sona Systems

Your user ID is the last 6 digits of your student ID. Your password is encrypted. If you have never logged into the Sona System before, click on "Lost your password? Click here to retrieve!" Type in your user ID and the system will send you a message to your UC Davis email account with instructions on how to reset your password.

If you have read and followed the instructions but still cannot log in, or if you have looked in the Research Requirement FAQ and cannot find an answer to your question, then feel free to contact the Subject Pool Coordinator at spcoordinator@ucdavis.edu.

Heather Rees
Subject Pool Coordinator