Dear Student:

This letter explains the research participation requirements in your PSC 1, PSC 41 or PSC 1Y class. If you are <u>not enrolled</u> in PSC 1, PSC 41 or PSC 1Y, then you are <u>not</u> required to participate in research. However, your instructor may offer you extra credit for participating in research studies.

<u>**CONTACT**</u>:

Subject Pool Coordinator at spcoordinator@ucdavis.edu. Always include the following information in your emails:
(1) Student ID and **(2)** PSC Course #, Section #, and Instructor you are enrolled in.

<u>**OVERVIEW**</u>:

(1) SONA Account: To participate in research, you will be assigned a SONA account. You can login here. You will <u>NOT</u> be able to access your SONA account until the <u>first day of classes</u>. For instructions on using the SONA website click here.
(2) Paper Option: If you cannot participate in research studies, you can write research papers instead. Click here for more info. You will not submit your papers to the Canvas website of your PSC class. You will submit them to a special Canvas page called *Papers for Research Credit*. Contact the subject pool coordinator to be added to this page.
(3) Deadline: You must complete your research participation or submit your papers by Friday June 8th at 5pm.
(4) FAQ: If you have questions about research participation that are not covered in this letter, click here.

<u>**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**</u>:

How do I sign up to participate in research on SONA?
You sign up for research studies at https://ucdavis.sona-systems.com. Your user ID is the last 6 or 7 digits of your student ID. If you have never logged into the Sona System before, click on the "Forgot Password?" button. Type in your user ID and the system will send a message to your UC Davis email account with instructions on how to set your SONA password.

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 for students in PSC 1, PSC 41, or PSC 1Y?
You need to earn 6 research participation credits by participating in at least 6 hours of research (or by writing research papers). Some studies can be completed online while other studies require you to visit a research lab on campus. Only

35% of your study credits can come from online studies. You can earn your 6 credits by participating in studies, writing papers, or any combination of the two.

Research Participation Deadlines:

You may participate in research starting on Monday April 2nd until Friday June 8th 5pm.

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 often not enough studies to accommodate them all.

What if I am Retaking a Course?

If you are retaking a course and already completed some or all of your credits in a previous quarter, 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.

What if I do not want to or cannot participate in research?

If you do not wish to participate in research studies, you may write research papers instead. Info is below:

(1) Each paper should be 700-1500 words. **(2)** Each paper is worth 2 research credits. **(3)** Each paper must review a research article from this list. It should include a summary of the article and present your reactions to it as per this template. **(4)** Papers are due by 5pm on Friday March 16. **(5)** You will upload your papers to the *Papers for Research Credit* Canvas course -- if you are not already added to this course, email the subject pool coordinator at spcoordinator@ucdavis.edu.

More information about the Research Paper option can be found here.

What if I am under 18 years old?

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 above. 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.

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 miss an appointment without contacting the researcher of the study. If you fail to show up for a study appointment, chances are you will not find another to take its place.

MOST IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT USING SONA:

- There is a Frequently Asked Questions website that you can visit to resolve almost all of your SONA issues.
- SONA is not automatically linked to your Canvas Account. So if you add or drop a class in Canvas, you have to manually add of drop the class in SONA. Follow the instructions here to learn how.
- When you take the initial prescreen survey in SONA, if you decline to answer the age question, no studies will be available to you. The more questions you answer honestly, the more studies you will be eligible for.
- Don't bother your instructors with SONA questions. Contact me directly.

Leigh Katharine Smith

Subject Pool Coordinator