Subject pool requirement description for Research Methods

Subject Pool Policy

The Psychology Department of the Camden Faculty of Arts & Sciences has established a policy that students enrolled in Research Methods in Psychology (50:830:256) must either participate as subjects in psychological research activities or complete a designated alternative activity. This policy is designed to enhance students’ understanding of the nature of psychological research and to support the research activities of the faculty. At the present time, the participation option for Research Methods in Psychology requires completion of a total of 3 hours worth of credits for participating in research studies (but only 2 if you complete them without missing appointments). The designated alternative activity consists of writing a paper on some aspect of the psychological research process associated with a psychology-related topic. This option must have the prior approval of the instructor, be on a topic selected by agreement between the instructor and the student, and be five (5) pages in length, typed and double-spaced, with appropriate documentation. (Please review the campus policies on plagiarism at \( \text{http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu} \), if you are not familiar with them). Failure by a student to satisfy the requirement before the end of the semester, either by completion of 4 hours worth of experiments or by writing an acceptable paper, will result in the student receiving no credit for 10% of the course OR in the student receiving a grade of "Incomplete" ("IN") for the course (as determined by the course instructor). This "Incomplete" will only be bestowed based on prior arrangement with the instructor, and can only be removed by the student’s fulfillment of the requirement. Unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor, all the work needed to remove an "Incomplete" grade should be finished before the start of the following semester.

The deadline for completing the research participation requirement or the alternative paper requirement is the last day the class meets during the regular semester.

Benefits of Participating. By participating as a subject in research, you will contribute in a small way to increasing our understanding of psychological processes. You will have an opportunity to gain some direct experience of what psychological research involves, and you may acquire a better understanding of some of the issues and topics you are studying in your course. You will be able to give your own insights and comments to the experimenter and perhaps suggest ways to improve the methods or alternative ways to think about the task. Finally, the research project may simply be interesting to do.

Where to sign up. Sign-up for participation is handled online at the website \( \text{https://experimetrix2.com/rutcmdn/} \). Before you can get credit for participating in experiments, you must register as a new user (select “New User Registration” and follow the instructions). You must register using your assigned Rutgers email account. Once you register you will be sent a password and login ID which you can use to sign up for experiments. If you do not use the account within 30 days, you will need to re-register. Please make sure that you register for the correct section of your course.
Once registered, you can see what experiments are available and sign up to participate in any of them. Each posted experiment includes a brief description of the study, its location, the number of credit hours you will receive, and available appointment times. To participate in a study simply sign up for an available time.

Sign-up responsibility. Students who sign up for a particular time are responsible for fulfilling their commitment. If you must cancel your appointment, notify the experimenter at least 24 hours before the scheduled session; the telephone number will be provided with the description of the study. You may be subject to a penalty of additional required time for completing this requirement if you fail to notify the experimenter in a timely manner.

Experimenter also have a responsibility. Should an experimenter fail to show up within 15 minutes of the scheduled session, the student will receive full credit for that session. To receive credit, make a note of the study, the date, the time, and the name of the experimenter and give this information to the secretary in Room 301 on the same day that the experimenter did not show up. At times, students may be called by experimenters requesting participation in a particular experiment. In such cases, several available times will be discussed and such calls will be at least 24 hours prior to any agreed upon session.

Credit for participation. When a student arrives at an experimental session, he or she will be provided further information on the nature of the experiment and the procedures to be used and may be asked to sign a consent form. When the experiment is over, the experimenter will ask you to write your name and id # on the master list that will be turned in to the research pool coordinator. You may check at any time on the Experimetrix website to see that you have received credit for your participation. If you find you did not receive credit for an experiment in which you participated, please contact the department secretary in Room 301.

Participant safeguards. Please be assured that you will not be asked to participate unknowingly in research that is detrimental to your physical or psychological health. All research projects must be approved by an institutional review board (IRB) before they can be posted. The IRB screens proposed research carefully to be sure it is safe and justified. In addition, you are entitled to refuse to participate in a study if you find it personally objectionable or feel it is harmful to you. Obviously, we do not expect you to sign up for studies if you object to them, based on their descriptions. Conversely, you would normally be expected to complete a study if you sign up for it. However, you may only find out while you are participating that you have serious objections to further participation. In such a case, you are free to terminate your participation without prejudice or penalty, and you will receive credit for participation. If you have further questions or concerns, please refer them to your instructor or to Dr. van der Wel (r.vanderwel@rutgers.edu), who is serving as the coordinator of the psychology research subject pool this semester.