

Subject Pool Information –INSTRUCTORS

The UNLV Department of Psychology REQUIRES all PSY 101 students to participate in the subject pool to better understand research. Instructors in other courses can also require participation and/or offer bonus points. Students can either participate in experiments or complete article summaries.

Important Website:

Psychology Subject Pool Information (e.g., deadlines): www.unlv.edu/psychology/sona

Contact Information:

You can contact the Subject Pool GA (subjectpool@gmail.com) or the Faculty Director of the Subject Pool, David Copeland (david.copeland@unlv.edu), for questions. Students should contact the Subject Pool GA for all questions; do not refer them to David Copeland.

Requirement:

6 credits are required for PSY 101 students – a maximum of 3 credits can be earned with online studies. Also, at least 3 credits must be completed by the semester halfway point. Instructors can offer bonus points if students complete additional credits.

Instructors for other courses can require credits and/or offer bonus points (the # of credits is up to the instructor). Experiments will vary in the number of credits offered (0.5 – 9 credits), but the article summaries are worth 1 credit each (students can do a combination of experiments and summaries). Students under the age of 18 cannot participate in experiments and can only complete article summaries.

Effect on Grade:

For PSY 101, one of the following methods can be used (they only differ in terms of framing):

- (1) Make the research requirement worth 10% of the student's total points (e.g., if there are 400 possible points in the class, research activity is worth 40 points).
- (2) If requirement is not completed → Reduce student's final grade by one letter grade.

In addition, you can offer extra credit for those who complete more than the required credits. Whether this is done, and how much each credit is worth, is up to the instructor. Instructors of other courses are free to decide how students' participation credits will affect their grades.

Your Role:

Inform students of the requirement, distribute the Student Handout in class, and refer students to the Subject Pool website (post the link in Canvas or your website). Please remind students of the requirement every week and inform them that it is very difficult to find open appointments toward the end of the semester –this seems to help increase participation (procrastination tends to be a problem for many students). During the last week of the semester, the Subject Pool GA will provide you with a list of credits for your students – please inform your students right away so that they can resolve any discrepancies or errors.

What Students Must Do:

ALL STUDENTS MUST REGISTER ON SONA because we use this to track students' credits. Please encourage them to do this early in the semester. Specific instructions for students can be found on the Subject Pool website.

Researcher Solicitations:

The Subject Pool GA will typically visit classes in the first few weeks of the semester to answer questions and to promote participation. You may also be contacted by researchers to promote their study or to collect data in your class. While it is ultimately up to you, we suggest that you do not do this. An instructor may appear to be biased toward a particular study, and students may feel pressure to participate in it (they may think that their instructor is endorsing it). Also, keep in mind that experiments conducted in your class will use up valuable class time. Please simply encourage students to check the list of experiments posted online.

Finally, the Psychology Subject Pool is only for researchers in the UNLV Department of Psychology. If a researcher from a different department or school contacts you, please refer them to the Subject Pool Director and GA immediately.

Deadlines:

Check the Subject Pool website for the deadlines. There are NO EXCEPTIONS to these dates.

Plagiarism:

Cheating will be referred to the instructors for disciplinary action. It will also be reported to the Faculty Director of the Teaching of Psychology and the Faculty Director of the Subject Pool.