

Department of Psychology

PSYC 1013 / 1023 Research Requirements

Psychology is an empirically based discipline. In learning about psychology, students should have exposure to the methods that are currently used in research. All students enrolled in Introduction to Psychology 1013 and 1023 at STU may earn up to 6% of their final grade by

(a) participating in experiments

(b) writing critical reviews or

(c) a combination of both (a) and (b). Students can earn 2% points for their participation in each one-hour experiment. Students can also earn 2% points for each critical review that they write. A detailed description of these options is presented below.

A. Participation in Experiments

As you read and learn about psychology from class lectures and presentations, you will find that psychology is a dynamic field that is continually evolving and developing, largely as a result of experiments conducted by researchers. Students are encouraged to participate in research studies conducted by members of the Psychology faculty or by students under their supervision. Students will earn 2% points for each experiment lasting one hour or less. **Failure to show up for an experiment will result in a deduction of 2% points.**

B. Critical Review

The second option is to critically review research articles. Each review is worth 2%. The article reviewed must have been published within the last year and must be at least five pages in length from: American Psychologist, Canadian Psychology, Scientific American, or Scientific American Mind. Other journals and books will be acceptable if approved by your professor. The article should reflect the content of the course. Students cannot submit the same articles for both Psychology 1013 and 1023. The review must be at least 250 words in length (one typed, double-spaced page). Submit the review and a copy of the article to your professor when you have it/them completed.

C. A student may combine the options by participating in one, two, or three experiments and writing one, two, or three critical reviews.

General Information for Participants in Research Pool

- I. Procedure for scheduling an appointment for experimental participation:
 - A. When an experiment becomes available, sometimes an announcement will be made in class, and an advertisement will be posted on *Psychology Research Information System*.
 - B. The details of using the *Psychology Research Information System* will be supplied in a separate document. Please read the instructions very carefully.
- II. Your rights:
 - A. All experiments involving human research participants conducted by the professors and their students have been reviewed by an Ethics Review Committee. To the best of their ability they have determined that the experiments do not involve an invasion of your rights or privacy, nor do they incorporate any procedure or requirements which may be found morally or ethically objectionable. If, however, at any time, including during an experiment, you wish to terminate your participation, you have the right to do so without penalty.
 - B. At the start of each experiment, the experimenter will explain the basic procedure. At this point, you may decide whether or not to participate.
 - C. If you arrive more than 10 minutes late for an experiment, you will have arrived too late. Each time you arrive more than 10 minutes late or do not show at all for an experimental session, you will lose 2% points. For each 2% that you lose, the number of experiments or reviews that you need to complete to earn the maximum 6% increases. If elementary schools in Fredericton are closed due to a snowstorm on the day of an experiment, there will be no penalty if you miss your appointment. **If you miss 3 experimental sessions that you signed up for, you will be expelled from the research pool and will not be allowed to participate in research studies for credit toward your final grade in Psychology 1013 and 1023.**
 - D. If you show up for an experiment but the researcher does not, please leave a written message for Debbie Coughlin at Room 302 Edmund Casey Hall. The message should include your name and telephone number and the title of the experiment, the experimenter's name, and the time and place of the experiment. If it is the case that you were at the right place at the right time, but the researcher was not, you will be given credit for participating in the experiment. If you experience any problems or have concerns about participating in research, please talk to your professor.
 - E. When you participate in an experiment, you will receive a copy of your consent form signed by the researcher. This should include the title of the experiment, your name, date of participation, and name of experimenter. Your 2% points (or more) will be posted on the *Psychology Research Information System*. This should take place shortly after your participation in the research.

For questions, complaints, or information, consult your professor. If there is still a problem, consult Dr. Kim Fenwick, chair of the Psychology Department.