

## RESEARCH REQUIREMENT

**Students taking a 100 or 200 (entry) level course in psychology must complete a research participation requirement for a maximum of two semesters.** There are two alternatives for the completion of this requirement. The first alternative is participation in three credits of laboratory experiments in psychology, conducted by members of the faculty or by students under the supervision of the faculty. **These three credits must be earned by the last day of classes.** The rationale for this option is two-fold. Introductory courses in psychology serve the purpose of conveying information to the student about the nature of the study of behavior: the terms used, how the psychologist looks at the world, how the psychologist gathers information, and how the psychologist uses or applies this information. The information-gathering process is a large part of research, and participation in these experiments gives the student the opportunity to see this process in action, to learn the details of several experiments, to understand why experiments are performed, and to learn what information experiments add to the knowledge of behavior. In short, it is expected that being a participant in experimental research will be a learning experience. While the student rarely benefits directly from the research in which he or she participates (as opposed, say, to a medical patient who participates in research leading to a cure for a disease), the participation permits the gathering of information that may ultimately benefit science in general. It should be noted that the experiments in which you choose to participate have been approved by the Carnegie Mellon University Institutional Review Board.

We realize, however, that some people may object to participating in research. If this is the case, you may choose the second option for completing the course research requirement. The second option involves reading a research article (selected from an approved list compiled by the faculty), and answering a set of questions about it. **The lists of articles from which you may choose and the questions you need to answer are available from Hunt Library. All articles will be on file at the Hunt Library reserve desk, under course number 85-001 (Dr. Vicki Helgeson); or go to: <https://cameo.library.cmu.edu/uhtbin/cgiirsi/hTKepFgHxn/HUNT/207540074/36/30/X> and type in "85-001" and click on Course Number to display and download the articles.** The rationale for this option is that it, too, is a learning experience, requiring you to read material other than that neatly arranged in a textbook, and requiring a critical evaluation rather than passive acceptance of the validity of the authors thesis. **The paper is due at the end of the semester, Monday, November 19, 2007,** so that a faculty member familiar with the article chosen can evaluate your paper. If the review is satisfactory, you will have satisfied the course requirement. If the review is unsatisfactory, it will be returned to you within one week for revision.

The two alternatives described above are designed to involve approximately an equal amount of time (about three hours). You may switch options up until two weeks before the end of the semester. **You must advise of any option change by notifying the Research Requirement Administrator, Erin Donahoe, at [donahoe@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:donahoe@andrew.cmu.edu) or by phone at 268-6026.**

**One of these two options must be successfully completed by their respective deadlines or you will receive an Incomplete grade for your class.** If this occurs, you will have until the end of next semester to make up the Incomplete. If you do not complete it by the end of the next semester, your course grade will be reduced by one letter grade.