



# Psychology Subject Pool

Department of Psychology  
Syracuse University



# What is the Psychology Department Subject Pool?

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- It is a collection of undergraduate students who participate in research.
- Research is an important aspect of faculty and graduate students' roles at SU.
- The purpose of the University is not only to teach, but to expand knowledge.



# What is the Psychology Department Subject Pool?

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- In psychology, much of the research concerns the behavior and cognitions of people. Thus, there is a need for people to participate in experiments.
- To establish a “pool” of such people, many psychology courses offer course credit(s) in exchange for participation in psychology experiments.



# What's In It For You?

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- Help make a contribution to basic knowledge in psychology
- Learn more about psychology and how research is conducted
- Obtain first-hand experience with psychological research
  - This may make understanding research easier
  - This may help you appreciate the value of research to society
  - This may help you decide whether research is the career choice for you and/or whether you might like to work in a research lab during your time at SU
- Many students find participation interesting and enjoyable
- Earn course credit(s)



# What to Expect If You Participate

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- All experiments are reviewed by SU's Ethics Review Board (IRB) to ensure that the benefits of the research outweigh any possible risks
- You will be given a *consent form* explaining the purpose of the experiment and what you will be asked to do
- Typically, no identifying information will be collected. If it is, you must be informed how that information is protected (this is included in the consent form.)



# What to Expect If You Participate

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- You have the right to withdraw from the experiment at any time for any reason
- At the end of the experiment, you will be debriefed – told about the purposes of the experiment and the role you played in testing the hypothesis



# What to Expect If You Participate

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- The course credit(s) that you earn through participation in psychology experiments will automatically be sent to your instructor at the end of the year
- You can review how many credits you earned by logging into SONA systems
- Your earned credit(s) are then distributed according to your instructors syllabus (at their discretion)



# How Do I Participate?

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- Experiments for which you can earn credit(s) by participating are listed online at:  
<http://syr.sona-systems.com>
- Go to this site to learn about available experiments and to sign-up for participation in these experiments
- Detailed instructions on how to sign up for and review experiments are given in a document called **DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH PARTICIPATION POOL MANUAL FOR PARTICIPANTS**. This is posted on the course lecture blackboard





# Canceling Appointments

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- You can cancel research participation appointments, either by contacting the researchers via e-mail or by going to <http://syr.sona-systems.com>
- You are required to provide at least 24 hours notice to cancel an appointment
- Simply not showing up for your scheduled appointment is a big inconvenience to the researcher and slows the research process tremendously



# Complaints

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- If you have any complaints or concerns, you may contact the Department of psychology Research Coordinator or the IRB (contact information is listed on the consent form).
- Any complaints about the research covered under Upstate IRB approved protocols will be reported to the Upstate IRB Administrator immediately upon receiving such a complaint



# What If I Don't Want to Participate

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- Your instructor is required to provide an alternate option to research participation for students who wish not to participate in an experiment
- You will receive the same credits/points awarded for research participation, detailed in the course syllabus



# Review Handouts

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*The following are available on blackboard:*

- *DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY  
RESEARCH PARTICIPATION POOL  
MANUAL FOR PARTICIPANTS (which  
includes Basic Rights and Privileges of  
Research Participation)*