Psychology Participant Pool
For Researchers Recruiting PSYC 100 Students
September 9, 2017

Preamble
Research is at the heart of the Department of Psychology’s mission. The Psychology Participant Pool is an essential and valuable component of the Department’s teaching and research. The advancement of psychology depends on the participation of investigators, research assistants, and human participants. We invite undergraduates to become involved in Departmental research in one or more of these roles: by volunteering to be a research participant, working in a research laboratory as a paid or volunteer research assistant, or enrolling in an independent research course. By volunteering, undergraduate students can make a contribution to fundamental knowledge in psychology and human nature, learn more about Departmental research and how it is conducted, as well as earn extra credits in their courses.

Overview
The Psychology Participant Pool will allow students in the Department of Psychology’s Introduction to Psychology course to receive academic credit in return for participating in studies conducted by researchers in the Department. To make the compensation consistent with university participant pools across Canada, students will receive 0.5% toward their final mark in PSYC 100 for every half hour of research completed up to a maximum of 5%. Research credit cannot be used to improve a failing mark to a passing mark.

Researchers must have ethics approval for all studies that use the participant pool including prescreening questionnaires, and study debriefings must conform to the pedagogical guidelines for participant pool use. Researchers must request participants by completing a Department of Psychology Participant Pool application form and submitting it to the participant pool officer. Researchers cannot compensate participants more than 2% credit for a given study, but the 2% course credit can be combined with other means of compensation (e.g., $5 per half hour) for studies that require more than 2 hours of participation. In the application, researchers will designate if they will be recruiting from PSYC 100 only, PSYC 200-level only, or both. For the 2017-18 school year, researchers recruiting only PSYC 100 students do not need to provide an alternative assignment, but an alternative assignment will be required of all researchers using the participant pool next year.

Using SONA
If you do not already have an account, you will be emailed one by the SONA administrator when your study is approved by the subject pool officer. Then to log onto SONA, follow the instructions at 1:09 of the SONA instructional video available at https://youtu.be/ec8S3xfO-a8. To learn how to add a study, go to 3:51 of the instructional video (specifics about online studies start at 4:32 and also see 12:17). From the list provided on SONA, researchers must select the courses for which students can get credit for their study (for more details, go to 11:20 of the video or https://youtu.be/ec8S3xfO-a8?t=11m20s). So if recruiting only PSYC 100 students, the researcher would choose only PSYC 100 from the list. If recruiting PSYC 200-level students, the researcher would select all the PSYC 200-level courses on the list. Note: If a researcher restricts to PSYC 100 only, but a student is retaking PSYC 100 while also enrolled in a participating PSYC 200-level course, he or she still will be deemed eligible for the study. Students have to be enrolled in only one of the eligible courses to participate in a study.

SONA Prescreening. In addition to the regular prescreening, four prescreening items have been added to SONA that researchers can use to recruit participants or to restrict access to their studies. For 2017-2018, these items assess gender, ethnicity, corrected vision, and native language. To learn more about how to use SONA prescreening, go to 15:57 of the video or https://youtu.be/ec8S3xfO-a8?t=15m57s.