

**Psychology Beyond the Classroom (PBC)
(PSYC 1001)**

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Course Description and Objectives:

All students enrolled in PSYC 1000: Introduction to Psychology are required to enroll in PSYC 1001: Psychology Beyond the Classroom (PBC) as a co-requisite. The goal of this satisfactory/unsatisfactory course is to encourage students to learn more about how the scientific field of psychology operates in the real world. By the end of this course students will complete a minimum of 4 PBC points (i.e., applied experiences in psychology).

Course Requirements:

In order to satisfy the PBC requirement, you must earn 4 points for psychology experiences outside the classroom. There are several ways you can earn PBC points:

1. Research Participation Points. To complete this options student can participate in research conducted by members of the Tulane University Psychology Department. Each hour of research is worth 1 PBC point.
2. Psychological Assessment Points. To complete this option, students can participate in a Psychological Assessment conducted by a graduate student in the School Psychology Program. Each hour of assessment is worth 1 point.
3. Research Talk Report Points. To complete this option, students can attend an APPROVED psychological research talk and write a report on the talk. Each talk with report is worth 1 point.
4. Research Article Report Points. To complete this option, students can write a report on an APPROVED psychological research in Psychology. Each appropriately completed report is worth 1 PBC point.

Course Outcomes:

There are important reasons for the PBC requirement. The first is educational. Psychology is a scientific discipline. The laws of behavior studied in psychology are based on research findings. Thus, an awareness of the research process is essential to an understanding of the basis of Psychology. The best way to learn about research is to participate in research or assessment directly, attend a research talk, or to review published research findings. If you choose to participate in one of the approved experiments, you will see the process from the inside and can ask questions about research. If you participate in a Psychological Assessment, you can learn more about how psychologists standardize clinical research procedures. If you attend a research talk and write a report about it, you will get the opportunity to hear researchers talk about their own research. If you choose to write a report on a published study, you can discover how

researchers translate theoretical questions into testable hypotheses while adding new results to the field. Any of these four experiences will give you greater insight into the research process.

The second reason for the PBC requirement is scientific. Psychology is a rapidly growing science, expanding on many fronts. There are many questions to be answered, hypotheses to be tested, and problems to be solved. Most professors in the Psychology Department are active researchers, and results from these experiments - the very ones you may participate in - shape current and future developments in Psychology. Your textbooks may contain results from faculty here at Tulane.

By participating in psychological research you contribute directly to the development of the science you are studying. By participating in psychological assessments, you contribute to the training of future school psychologists. By reviewing and writing a report on a published article or attending a research talk, you observe the finished product of research. Many students are surprised to discover how much Psychology is research-driven. Formal research in Psychology extends back to the mid-1800's, and psychological journals appeared as early as the late 1800's. For the past 100 years, the vast bulk of published findings in many subfields have come from university students who have chosen to participate in approved experiments. Virtually all principles in Psychology, both applied as well as theoretical, can be traced to research findings obtained from research labs. Participating directly in the experiments will enhance your knowledge of Psychology while maintaining the continued development of theory in Psychology.

Students with Special Needs or Disabilities:

All students attending Tulane University with documented disabilities or illnesses are eligible and encouraged to apply for services with the Office of Disability Services (<http://www.erc.tulane.edu/disability/index.html>). It is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting academic accommodations, and for accommodations planning in cooperation with students and instructors, as needed and consistent with course requirements. For more information about the rights of people with disabilities, please see <http://erc.tulane.edu/RightsRespon.html> or call: (504) 862-8433

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. The following statement is an excerpt from the Tulane University Code of Academic Conduct: "In all work submitted for academic credit, students are expected to represent themselves honestly. The presence of a student's name on any work submitted in completion of an academic assignment is considered to be an assurance that the work and ideas are the result of the student's own intellectual effort, stated in his or her own words, and produced independently, unless clear and explicit acknowledgment of the sources for the work and ideas is included (with the use of quotation marks when quoting someone else's words). This principle applies to papers, tests, homework assignments, artistic productions, laboratory reports, computer programs, and other assignments." For a complete copy of the Tulane University Code of Academic Conduct go to: <http://college.tulane.edu/honorcode.htm>

Removal of Incomplete:

In accord with Tulane University policy, if you received an “Incomplete” or “I” because of this course requirement, the “I” will be removed, and the grade will be changed on your transcript after you complete the experimental credits. For more information on Tulane’s policy on “Incomplete” grades please go to:

http://catalog.tulane.edu/content.php?catoid=37&navoid=835#Incomplete_Grades

Student Protection:

Psychological Studies are reviewed and approved by Tulane’s Institutional Review Board (IRB); Psychological Assessments are overseen by a faculty advisor, articles are from refereed journals, and research talks are the invited guests of Tulane University. If you participate in one of the approved experiments, you should know that all research conducted in the Department of Psychology has been carefully reviewed by the university IRB. The function of the IRB, in part, is to ensure the safety, rights, and dignity of participants. If you decide to attend a research talk, the speaker will have been reviewed by the faculty in the psychology department to determine that the speaker is a reputable scholar in his or her area. If you decide to participate in a psychological assessment, you can be assured that all of your responses will be kept confidential. If you decide to review a published research study, you will be able to choose from a large array of suitable, refereed journals. These journals contain articles that have been carefully reviewed by other colleagues in Psychology prior to publication. Because these journals accept only refereed studies, the studies contain research findings that have followed sound and established principles of science.

Participation in experiments entails additional safeguards:

Withdrawing from a study. Once you have started a study, you may withdraw from it at any time for any reason without penalty, as long as you inform the experimenter of your decision. You will still receive the points.

Informed Consent. Each study posted on SONA contains a brief description of what the study is about, e.g., whether the experiment involves memory or perception or group decision-making, etc. When you participate in a study, you will be asked to give your informed consent to participate in that experiment. Giving your informed consent does not negate your right to withdraw from any experiment for whatever reason. If the experiment has IRB approval to include minors (individuals under 18 years of age), then the researchers MUST obtain parental permission and student assent prior to the minor's involvement in the research project. If the experiment is not open to minors, the researcher should be prepared provide an alternative research experience upon the student’s request.

Confidentiality. All data collected are kept strictly confidential, to the extent permitted by law. The only persons with access to data are those directly associated with the study. Data are typically kept in locked files in locked lab rooms.

Here's How It Works:

The requirement is very simple. You have to complete the required PBC points by the **LAST DAY OF CLASS**. Failure to do so will result in a grade of incomplete for the course. As discussed above, there are four kinds of PBC points: Research Participation, Psychological Assessment, Research Report, and Research Talks. Please plan to complete this requirement before the last week of classes. You may combine different types of PBC requirements to complete your requirements.

RESEARCH PARTICIPATION POINT

Research participation point is awarded in units of ½ point or more. Different studies award different amounts of points, roughly 1 point for each hour of participation. You may earn from 1/2 point to 4 points by completing a single experiment.

Please note that you can earn .5 *point* toward fulfilling the PBC requirement by completing the Prescreening Study. The Prescreening Study is available only for a limited time at the beginning of the semester. You will receive an email when the survey study is open for participation.

How to Sign Up for Research Participation Points

- You will receive an email from Sona Systems with your log-on information during the second or third week of classes.
- Go to <http://tulane-psych.sona-systems.com/>
- Log in using your Tulane userid and the initial password provided to you in the email. You can change the password to one of your choosing when you login.
- If you experience any problems logging in, please email your TA, Shereen Naser, at snaser@tulane.edu
- Click on "My Profile." Make sure your information is correct. Click on "Update" if you make any changes.
- Click on "Studies" Click on a study name to view the description of that study. Click on "view time slots" to sign up for the study.
- Click on "My Schedule" to view the studies you have signed up for and for points/no-shows you have earned.
- Occasionally psychology studies available for pay are also listed on Sona Systems website. If you receive pay to participate in a study, **YOU CANNOT ALSO RECEIVE PBC POINTS FOR THE STUDY.**

Canceling Appointments:

You may cancel your experiment appointment by logging onto <http://tulane-psych.sona-systems.com/>, click on "My Schedule," click on the cancel button next to the study that you have signed [up for].

PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT POINTS

In order to participate in Psychological Assessments conducted by Tulane graduate students in the School Psychology Ph.D. program, log onto Sona Systems (<http://tulane-psych.sona-systems.com/>) and search for “Psychological Assessment” under the “Studies” tab and sign up just as you would for a study. There are a limited number of Psychological Assessments available and they will be posted at various times through-out the semester.

RESEARCH TALK REPORT POINTS

The Research Talk Report point is awarded in units of 1 point. A summary (250 words) of a research report of an APPROVED research talk, if done appropriately, earns 1 point. Instructions for these reports are listed below.

How to Complete Research Talk Report Points:

1. Please carefully read over the “Instructions for Research Talk Attendance and Reports for PBC” handout which is posted on the PBC course Blackboard page.
2. In order to attend a Research Talk and earn PBC point, you will need to log onto Sona Systems (<http://tulane-psych.sona-systems.com/>) and search for “Research Talks” under “Studies.” You will sign up to attend a Research Talk just as you would a Research Study. Due to space restrictions, there are a limited number of seats available at each research talk. You can only receive the point for attending the talk if you sign up in advance on Sona.
3. On the day of the talk, you will need to show up outside the room for the talk and look for a person with a sign that says “RESEARCH TALK PBC POINT.” You will need to check-in with this person using your Tulane ID. Out of respect to the speaker, if you do not check-in before the talk begins, you will be unable to receive the point for attending.
4. Within one week of attending a research talk you will need to turn in a short report in order to receive the PBC point. Because most talks will have an Introduction, Method, Results, and Discussion section, we recommend that you follow this structure in your report.
 - a. What the researcher expected to find.
 - b. The study procedure and important independent variables and dependent variables.
 - c. The major result or findings of the study.
 - d. The main conclusion(s) of the study.
 - e. Why the general public would care that this work is being done.
5. An electronic copy of your Research Talk Report must be emailed to the TA, Shereen Naser, snaser@tulane.edu, no later than one week after the talk. The report should be sent as an email attachment. Acceptable file forms include .doc, .docx, and .PDF. Please include the words *Research Talk Report* in the subject line of the email.
6. Once your report has been evaluated, you will be credited on Sona System if it meets the requirement. Please expect to wait 1 – 2 weeks to receive your electronic credit.

ONLY RESEARCH TALKS LISTED ON SONA SYSTEMS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR PBC POINTS.

RESEARCH ARTICLE REPORT POINTS

The Research Article Report point is awarded in units of 1 point. A summary (350 words) of a research report if done appropriately earns 1 point.

How to Complete Research Article Report Points:

1. Please carefully read over the **“Instructions for writing a Research Report for PBC”** handout which is posted on the PBC course Blackboard page.
2. To obtain a report point, you should read one of the provided scientific articles and write a report. A report (350 words, 12-point Times New Roman Font, 1 inch margins) of a journal article receives 1 point. **THE ARTICLE REPORT MUST BE WRITTEN IN YOUR OWN WORDS AND GO BEYOND THE ARTICLE ABSTRACT.**
3. Because most articles have an Introduction, Method, Results, and Discussion section, we recommend that you follow this structure in your report:
 - a. What the researcher expected to find.
 - b. The study procedure and important independent variables and dependent variables.
 - c. The major result or findings of the study.
 - d. The main conclusion(s) of the study.
 - e. Why the general public would care that this work is being done.
 - f. What you liked and disliked about the article.
4. An electronic copy of your Research Article Report must be emailed to the TA, Shereen Naser, snaser@tulane.edu. The report should be sent as an email attachment. Acceptable file forms include .doc, .docx, and .PDF. Please include the words *Research Article Report* in the subject line of the email.

There are 12 approved articles posted on Blackboard under “Course Documents” in a folder called “Research Articles. Please choose an article that interests you and read it carefully. Next, write up your summary. Be sure state the title of the paper on your report.