

Department of Communication

Participating in Research for Extra Credit

As one option for receiving extra credit in this course you may participate in research studies through the Department of Communication Research Participant Pool. These projects may include surveys, experiments, or pilot tests of future texts or videos. In order to receive extra credit for this course you do not have to participate in research studies. If you decide not to participate your instructor will have other opportunities available to you of equal course value.

As a general rule students are awarded extra credit for their voluntary participation in research studies. An appropriate maximum for extra credit attributable to all research participation (or its direct substitute assignments) for a class is 3% of the final grade. Credit for participating in a single research project cannot be applied to more than one class. Points awarded for participation in research will reflect the amount of time spent in a study and assigned as follows:

Study Lasts	Research Credit Units Awarded	Course Credit
under 30 minutes	0.5	.5% of final grade points
31-60 minutes	1	1% of final grade points
61-90 minutes	1.5	1.5% of final grade points
91-120 minutes	2	2% of final grade points

Therefore if a student was to participate in a study expected to last 1 hour and was in a class with 1000 total points for the class, the student would earn 10 points for participation in the study. Some studies, where participants must travel to a research laboratory at a particular time, may offer an additional 0.5 research credit units, but this will be determined by the researcher and included in the study description. Instructors will have more information about how many credits (through participation in communication experiments or other tasks) are required for the course, or will be allowed for extra credit.

Instructions for Students in COM Participant Pool

All Wayne State University Communication research experiments are set-up via an online system. You **MUST** access this system if you wish to be able to participate in communication research. To access this research system, and to enroll yourself as a user for this system:

- 1) Go to <http://waynecomm.sona-systems.com>
- 2) From there, click on "Request an account here."
- 3) You will then be prompted to enter some basic information about yourself. You will also be asked to submit an "xxxxxx@wayne.edu" email address. You **MUST** use your WSU access ID (e.g., af0000) email address for this. **If you have not yet activated your access ID, you will need to do so.** (Everyone is automatically issued one of these, but you must log on to activate it **BEFORE** requesting an account from SONA system.)
- 4) Once completed, you will be able to access the site. Each experiment will have details about what it entails, along with how many credits you will receive for participating.

When you are looking at the full list of experiments that you are eligible for, simply click an experiment, and information will be displayed about the length of the study, what the study entails, how much credit the study is worth, and where you meet for this study. When you have decided that you would like to participate in a particular study you will:

- 1) Need to decide which class you want the extra credit to count for. **WARNING: ALL COMMUNICATION CLASSES ARE LISTED BUT NOT ALL ALLOW STUDENTS TO RECEIVE EXTRA CREDIT. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE THAT THE INSTRUCTOR FOR THE CLASS YOU CHOOSE DOES INDEED ALLOW EXTRA CREDIT.**
- 2) If you choose to participate **YOU MUST** click on "view available time slots," and register for a timeslot that fits in your schedule. You cannot simply show up at a time without having registered for that timeslot.
- 3) When you sign up for an experiment, write down the date, time, and place of the experiment and the experimenter's name and telephone number (including a telephone number where messages can be left for the experimenter). The staff in the Communication Department does not keep track of experiment times and places, so you cannot call them to get this information if you forget to write it down.
- 4) If you need to cancel the time you have signed up for, you must login to the system and cancel your time as many hours in advance as required by the particular experiment (often it is 24 hours but this time can differ by experiment so make sure to note this information when signing up). Failure to do so will be counted as a "no show." **WHEN THE SYSTEM RECORDS YOUR SECOND "NO SHOW," YOUR ACCESS TO THE SYSTEM WILL BE BLOCKED, AND YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY FURTHER EXPERIMENTS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SEMESTER.**

During the course of the semester, if you are having difficulties of any kind with SONA system, please visit the department homepage <http://www.comm.wayne.edu> and click "Research Participation" on the left hand side. This will take you to an FAQ page.