PSYCHOLOGY 280
- Social Psychology -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professors:</th>
<th>First half of semester</th>
<th>Second half of semester</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Gary Wells</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Robert Hessling</td>
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<tr>
<td>476 Science 1 Bldg.</td>
<td></td>
<td>West 261 Lagomarcino Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>515-294-6033</td>
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<td>515-294-1786</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:glwells@iastate.edu">glwells@iastate.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:rmh@iastate.edu">rmh@iastate.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tu &amp; Th 3:40 – 5:00</td>
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Offices: 476 Science 1 Bldg. West 261 Lagomarcino Hall
Office phone: 515-294-6033 515-294-1786
Office hours: Tu & Th 3:40 – 5:00 Tu & Th 3:40 – 5:00

Course Assistant: Christopher Groves & Garrett Hisler: e-mail psy280@iastate.edu
Chris Grove’s office hours: Tue 12-1; Wed 2-5; Thu 12-1
Garrett Hisler’s office hours: Mon 12-2; Thu 1-2; Fri 10-12

Contact your course assistant at psy280@iastate.edu

- Outside of the course assistants’ office hours, you can contact the COURSE INFORMATION OFFICE: W004 LAGOMARCINO, 294-8065. The Course Information Office (CIO) is staffed by Graduate Assistants who are prepared to deal with almost any question or problem that might arise about how the course is run or your scores on Blackboard. The CIO hours are Monday-Friday from 9am to 5pm.

Social psychology is an area of scientific psychology that seeks to understand how people feel, think, and behave in social situations. The professors in this class are social psychologists who have conducted scientific studies and have published articles on a variety of topics in social psychology. The first half of the course (through March 5th) will be covered by Dr. Wells and the second half of the course (March 10th through the end of the semester) will be covered by Dr. Hessling.

Course Goal: The professors teaching this course expect students who finish this course to have a good understanding of basic psychological processes that underlie human social thinking and social behavior and to understand empirical approaches to the study of social psychological phenomena.


Be sure that you get this custom edition of the textbook in the 2013 edition. Only this custom edition includes a Part 2 that has 24 readings that are needed for exams and research credits.

In addition to the textbook, all students must have a “Response Card Handheld Clicker Device.” See page 3 of this syllabus for instructions on purchasing and registering your clicker.

Course note packets: Course notes are available on Blackboard [https://bb.its.iastate.edu/]. You should print these and bring them to class for taking notes.

There are five sources of points that determine your grade:

- **Exams:** There will be four exams, each comprised of 60 multiple-choice questions (worth one-point each) and 2 short-answer questions (worth up to 3 points each). Hence, there are 66 X 4 = 264 possible points to be obtained from exams. Each exam will include at least 20 multiple-choice items and one short-answer item that are not in the book but instead will come from lecture material. The fourth exam is not comprehensive and must be taken on the exam date by all students. All exams, except exam 4, are held in the evening (6:45-8:00 p.m.). See exam schedule on page 2 of this syllabus for exam dates. Bring photo identification and soft-lead pencil to each exam. **An exam that is missed for any reason will require the student to take a comprehensive final exam immediately following the regularly-scheduled fourth exam.**
• **In-class quizzes:** Starting on January 20th, there will be a quiz in every class period. Two multiple-choice questions (worth one point each) will be asked. One question will be answerable from the immediately-preceding lecture and one from the text. You will use your clicker (“Response Card Handheld Clicker Device”) to take quizzes. Accordingly, you must bring your clicker to every class period starting on January 20th. Counting January 20th, there are 25 in-class quizzes. At the end of the semester we will drop your two lowest quiz scores. Hence, there are 23 X 2 = 46 possible points from in-class quizzes.

• **Research Credits:** 10 research credits are required for this course. Each credit is worth 3 points. There are two methods to obtain research credits: 1) participation in research studies and/or 2) written essays to specific readings in Part 2 of the textbook. Students who opt to obtain some or all of their research credits through the essays should note that, beginning on January 29th, one essay can be e-mailed (as an attachment) each Tuesday (by 11:59PM) through April 28th. No essays will be accepted after April 28th. See the Lecture schedule for deadlines. Pages 5-8 of this syllabus, which explains these credits in detail.

• **Online test:** A five-point online test over an empirical social psychology article (that will be posted later). Details TBA - Week of March 10th.

**Grading**

Exams allow a maximum total score of 264 points (four exams: 60 multiple choice questions - worth one point each, and two short-answer questions - worth 3 points each). In-class quizzes allow a maximum of 46 points (23 quizzes at 2 points each). Required research credits are another 30 points (10 credits at 3 points per credit). The short online test near mid-semester is worth 5 points. The number of points that you obtain out of these 345 possible points will be used to determine a grade distribution that approximates ISU norms for 200-level courses (i.e., 15% As, 30% Bs, 40% Cs, 13% Ds, 2% Fs). Extra credit (up to 24 points from 8 additional research credits) will be added after the grade distribution is created. **Please note that extra credit points cannot be used to raise your final grade by more than 2/3 of a letter grade.**

Starting about mid-semester, you can access your scores on Blackboard [https://bb.iastate.edu/]. Research credits earned through experiments are recorded in SONA and will be downloaded to Blackboard during finals week. Research credits earned through essays will be updated on Blackboard every few weeks. E-mail the course assistant at psy280@iastate.edu (not the professors) regarding questions or concerns about your scores.

Any problems with your scores should be addressed ASAP, not at the end of the semester.

**EXAM DATES:**

- **Exam 1:** Thursday, February 5th (6:45 p.m.) Location TBA. Exam covers Chapters 1-4, readings pages pp. 566-584 & 591-596 (from Part 2 of text), and all lecture to date.
- **Exam 2:** Thursday, March 5th (6:45 p.m.) Location TBA. Exam covers Chapters 5-7, SPA 3, readings pages (from Part 2 of text) 559-565; 585-590; 603-612, and all lecture since Exam 1.
- **Exam 3:** Thursday, April 9th (6:45 p.m.) Location TBA. Exam covers Chapters 8-10, SPA 2, readings pages (from Part 2 of text) 618-623; 630-635; 642-647; 673-681, and all lecture since Exam 2.
- **Exam 4:** During Exam week, May 4-8. [Specific date, time, and location TBA when the University sets the final exam schedule.] Exam covers chapters 11-13, readings pages (from Part 2 of text) 624-629; 659-664; 689-701, and all lecture since Exam 3.

**Comprehensive Final:** (Same date as Exam 4, taken immediately after Exam 4). The comprehensive final is taken only by those students who missed a previous exam. It is also 60 multiple-choice and two short-answer questions, but it covers the entire course; all chapters and lectures.

**Disability:** If you have a disability and require accommodations, please contact the Disability Resources (DR) office, located on the main floor of the Student Services Building, Room 1076, 515-294-6624 to obtain a Student Academic Accommodation Request (SAAR) that describes the needed accommodations. Students are responsible to make arrangements with the Course Information Office (W004 Lago) before each exam for individual accommodations.

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1 It is the student's responsibility to put the correct ID number and name on all exams and research participation cards. Failure to do so could result in no credit for that exam or research participation session.

2 If you know you are going to miss an exam date, contact the appropriate professor for that exam at least two days prior to the exam. If you miss an exam date for unforeseen reasons, contact the professor at the earliest possible time.
A Message to Students

Our intention in this course is to enhance your ability to analyze human social thought and behavior. Minimally, you should be able to consider the ways in which human social behavior is influenced heavily by errors in reasoning, attitudes, prejudices, misconceptions, and temporary situational factors. We hope that you will learn to temper your natural tendency to assume automatically that people’s behaviors reflect their inner dispositions, looking instead at the possibility that their behaviors are a common reaction to their situation and that you would probably behave the same way under these circumstances. It takes a skilled and knowledgeable observer to perceive and understand the influence of these nearly invisible but powerful situational forces on social behavior. Your life is now, and will continue to be, filled with thousands of social encounters of considerable significance. Whether you are trying to understand a social issue, a friend, an enemy, a co-worker, a boss, an employee, a relative, a child, a lover, or yourself, there is no escaping the fact that having a scientific understanding of social thought and social behavior is an advantage over your lifetime. Given the goals that we have for this course, you can perhaps appreciate our enthusiasm for the student whose goal is congruent with ours rather than merely having the goal of achieving a particular letter grade.

Purchasing and Registering Your Clicker (Required) for This Course

IMPORTANT: You must purchase and register your clicker before Tuesday January 20th and bring it to class on January 20th and each class period for the rest of the semester.

Students are required to use student response systems (also known as “clickers”) for quizzes and lectures. Students must: 1) Acquire a clicker and maintain the battery. Clickers can be purchased at the University Book Store. This class will not support the web / smartphone version of the clicker. 2) Register the clicker on Blackboard Learn. Check below for how to do this. 3) Remember to bring the clicker to every class. 4) Remember to set the clicker to the channel being used that day. The instructor will show you how to do this. Students will not receive quiz credit if they fail to meet any of the above requirements. If you are having problems with your clicker, click on the link below and check the troubleshooting portion of the webpage.

How to register your clicker (from http://www.celt.iastate.edu/technology/clickers/for-students/):
1. After you log into Blackboard Learn [https://bb.its.iastate.edu/] for Psychology 280, locate the clicker registration tool on your course’s menu.
2. If unable to locate, ask your instructor where in your Blackboard Learn course the clicker registration tool can be found.
3. On the clicker registration page, click on the picture of handheld clicker devices. The picture is titled “Response Card Handheld clicker device”.
4. In the provided space enter your 6-digit device ID from the back of your clicker device. Click Submit.
5. Be careful when entering your 6-digit device ID. There is no letter “O”, only the number “0”; there is no letter “I”, only the number “1”.
6. You will receive a confirmation that your device has been associated with your Net ID.

A tutorial and test of your clicker will occur in class on January 20th.

When you purchase your clicker, we recommend that you purchase the one with the LCD display (below on left). The recommended one costs only $5 more than the one without an LCD display.
### Tentative Lecture and Reading Schedule for Exam 1 (Wells)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Lecture and Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JAN 13</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Introduction to the course: Why you should be interested in social psychology (Ch. 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAN 15</td>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>Primary theses of social psychology and the empirical versus the intuitive (Ch. 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAN 20</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Methods of research: Measurement, sampling, correlation [Plus &quot;clicker tutorial&quot; and 1st of 25 in-class quizzes] (Ch. 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAN 22</td>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>Methods and statistics: Causality, confoundings, interactions (Ch. 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAN 27</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>The limited processor and rule-of-thumb thinking <em>First essay date</em> (Ch. 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAN 29</td>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>Mental heuristics (continued); rational attribution and attributional error (Ch. 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 3</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>A/O differences; confusion about one’s own behavior <em>Essay date</em> (Ch. 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 5</td>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>EXAM #1 Location TBA 6:45 PM --- No regular class</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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* Applicable only to students who choose the essays option instead of the research participation option

### Tentative Lecture and Reading Schedule for Exam 2 (Wells)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Lecture and Reading</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FEB 10</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>The inescapable self ; Culture and self; <em>Essay date</em> (Ch. 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 12</td>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>Illusions of the self; Consistency, balance, (Ch. 5 - 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 17</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Dissonance; Attitudes; <em>Essay date</em> (Ch. 6 - 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 19</td>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>Do attitudes predict behavior? Mindless persuasion (Ch. 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 3</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Special topic: Gender differences <em>Essay date</em> (no chapter)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 5</td>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>Social psychology and law (cont’d) <em>Essay date</em> (SPA 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 5</td>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>EXAM #2 Location TBA 6:45 PM --- No regular class</td>
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* Applicable only to students who choose the essays option instead of the research participation option

### Tentative Lecture and Reading Schedule for Exam 3 (Hessling)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Lecture and Reading</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAR 10</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Conformity <em>Essay date</em> (Ch. 8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 12</td>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>Conformity (Ch. 8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 16-20</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK*************</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 24</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Group processes <em>Essay date</em> (Ch. 9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 26</td>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>Group processes (Ch. 9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 31</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Interpersonal attraction <em>Essay date</em> (Ch. 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 2</td>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>Interpersonal attraction (Ch. 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 7</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Social psychology and health <em>Essay date</em> (SPA 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 9</td>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>Exam #3 Location TBA--- No regular class</td>
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* Applicable only to students who choose the essays option instead of the research participation option

### Tentative Lecture and Reading Schedule for Exam 4 (Hessling)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Lecture and Reading</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 14</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Prosocial behavior <em>Essay date</em> (Ch. 11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 16</td>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>Prosocial behavior (Ch. 11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 21</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Aggression <em>Essay date</em> (Ch. 12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 23</td>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>Aggression (Ch. 12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 28</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Prejudice <em>Last essay date</em> (Ch. 13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 30</td>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>Prejudice (Ch. 13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 4-8</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>Final exam week (day and time set later by Registrar)</td>
</tr>
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* Applicable only to students who choose the essays option instead of the research participation option
Procedures for Research Credits for Students in PSYCHOLOGY 280

There are two ways to obtain the 10 required research credits (1 credit = 3 points) and the additional 8 extra credits (If you choose to do extra credit: Option 1 is participation in research studies. Option 2 is writing essays on selected readings. You can do a mix of the two options if you prefer. If you choose to do the Research Participation method and you are under the age of 18, you must have written parental consent. Written parental consent forms are available in the Course Information Office (Lago W004) or can be downloaded from the Psychology Home Page (http://www.psychology.iastate.edu ). Students can participate in research studies through the last day of class, but are strongly encouraged to start early to ensure sufficient availability of studies. Essays are to be submitted as e-mail attachments sent to psy280@iastate.edu only on Tuesdays beginning on January 27th and ending on April 28th.

Option 1) Research Participation

NOTE: One “credit” is worth three points in this course.

NOTE: A one-credit study will last 30 minutes or less; a two-credit study will last 60 minutes or less, etc.

NOTE: You can participate in only five online studies (the remainder must be in-person participation).

Scientific studies are conducted each semester in the Department of Psychology. The professors in this course encourage participation in these studies because participating in psychological research can be an educational experience facilitating your understanding of social psychology. Participation is totally voluntary.

How do I sign-up for a research study?

All Psychology studies for Psych 101, 230, and 280 are listed on the Psychology Research Participation Website (SONA), located at: https://isupsych.sona-systems.com. Your logon password for the website will be automatically created based on the class roster. Shortly after the start of the semester, you should receive an email in your university email address with your logon password information. Then, after you log onto the webpage, you can click the “my profile” option and change your password.

All approved studies are posted in the online registration system. Approved studies are conducted on the University campus locations other than dormitories between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.; some studies might involve completing online surveys. No deviations from these rules are authorized.

SONA provides the study name and number, a brief description of the study including time, place, and length of time required for participation, credit earned, and the name(s) and phone number(s) of the researcher(s). When you sign up on SONA, you will automatically receive a confirmation email with this information; some other studies might also send you a reminder email the day before your appointment.

What if I do not receive the email with my password?

If you do not receive an email with your Research Participation Logon Password by the beginning of the third week of classes, you should send an email to psychres@iastate.edu so that an account can be created for you. When you send the email, please include your first and last name, university student ID number, and university email address (NetID).

What can I do if I forget my password to the online research sign-up system?

To retrieve your lost or forgotten password, go to SONA at https://isupsych.sona-systems.com/. Underneath “Lost your password?” Click “Click here to retrieve it” link, which will take you to: https://isupsych.sonasystems.com/lost_password.asp. Enter your NetID (i.e., NetID@iastate.edu), then click ‘Email Password’ button. SONA will resend an email to your iastate.edu email account within the next hour that contains your password. For further information, please refer to: http://www.psychology.iastate.edu/index.php?id=151

If you receive a message saying, “System Message: Password could not be sent. No user was found matching the specified user ID.” You will need to send your first and last name, course type (psychology 101, 230, or 280), and your Net ID to psychres@iastate.edu so an account can be created for you. Once your SONA account has been established you will receive an email to your iastate.edu account containing your password.

Can I sign up for a study more than once?

Typically, you are allowed to participate in each study only once. If you are allowed to participate more than once, the researcher will let you know.

What are my responsibilities once I sign up for a study?

Both you and the researcher are contracting to show up at the appointed time and place. BE ON TIME. By signing up, you are indicating that you plan to participate in that specific study given the information that is available on the posting form. If you are unable to make your appointment, cancel your participation on SONA or call the researcher or the Psychology Office (294-1743) at least two hours beforehand. Prompt cancellation of an appointment will allow another student to sign up for the study.

What happens if I miss a scheduled research appointment?

If you do not show up for a scheduled research appointment, your failure to attend the session will be recorded in SONA, and you will receive an e-mail message indicating that you have missed the appointment. After three missed appointments, your access to SONA will be suspended and you will have to pursue the other credit options listed in this syllabus. Be sure to check for deadlines associated with these alternative options.

If you know that you will be unable to attend a scheduled research appointment, you can cancel the appointment in the online sign-up system up to two hours before the scheduled time of the appointment. If you cancel an appointment at least two
hours ahead of time, this will not be counted as a missed appointment in the system, and will not lead to a suspension of your account.

**What can I do if my SONA account is suspended?**

If you believe that an error has been made and your account was suspended accidentally, please contact the SONA administrator (psychres@iastate.edu). If your failure to appear was beyond your control, send an explanation to the administrator, who might reinstate your account. Alternatively, you might want to consider the other credit options listed in the syllabus to complete this assignment. Be sure to check for deadlines associated with these alternative options.

**What should I do if a researcher does not show up for an appointment I scheduled?**

If the researcher is unable to make a scheduled appointment, he or she should post a message telling you what you need to do to get your credit. If the researcher does not show and there is no note, wait for 10 minutes past the scheduled time and then immediately check SONA or your email confirmation, to see whether you have the correct date, time, and location. If all the information is correct, go IMMEDIATELY to the Psychology Main Office in Lago W112 with this information, and complete a Researcher No Show Form. If the study is in the evening or on the weekend, then go to the main office the NEXT WORK DAY to complete the form. The form will be used to verify that there was a researcher no show and, once this is verified, you will receive credit for the study. The verification process requires that the form be completed as soon as possible after the no show occurs. Researcher No-Show Forms WILL NOT be accepted more than 7 days after the scheduled appointment.

**How long does a research appointment take?**

The minimum appointment time for research studies is 30 minutes, although in some cases you might finish the study in less time. The maximum length of time for each study is noted for each study listen on SONA. You earn 1 SONA credit for studies that require 30 minutes or less, 2 SONA credits for studies that require between 30 and 60 minutes, and so on. Some studies might require multiple sessions that are spread across different days. Each SONA credit is equal to two three points in this class. Accordingly, to earn all of your required research credits, do 10 SONA credits. To earn all of the additional extra credits, do another 8 SONA credits. Do not do more than 18 SONA credits!

**What types of research studies are done?**

There are many types of studies conducted in our department. For example, you might be asked to complete questionnaires, to view slides or videos, to listen to music or conversations, to interact with others in a group, or to make judgments on a computer. All studies are reviewed in advance by the Iowa State University Institutional Review Board.

**How does a study get approved?**

The study is first approved by the Department of Psychology Human Research Ethics Review Committee to determine that no physical or psychological harm will result from the research and that the research is meaningful. After departmental approval, the study is reviewed by the ISU Institutional Review Board. Most studies are open to all Psych 280 students, but some might exclude students in Psych 280 or restrict participation to subsets of students (e.g., females only or left-handed persons only).

**What should I do if I have a question about a specific study that I signed up for, such as its location, etc.?**

If you signed up for the study on SONA, recheck SONA for that information. If you have questions not addressed on the SONA website, you should get in touch with the contact person listed on the webpage. If you do not get a response from the contact person, contact Ann Schmidt in the Psychology Department Office, W112 Lago, 294-1743.

If you were recruited for the study by telephone or e-mail, you should get in touch with the contact person. This person's name, the study number, and a description of the study should also be on SONA.

**What if I am contacted by someone in the Psychology Department who wants me to be in their study?**

**ONLY** students who complete mass-testing questionnaires and indicate their willingness to be contacted might be called or e-mailed and invited to participate in a study. The caller will provide his or her full name and phone number, the study number, the experimenter's name, and the date, time, and location of the study. (This is important information, be sure to keep it.) You are under no obligation to participate in a study just because you are contacted by phone. If you agree to participate, check that an approved posting form with the same experimenter, study number, and location is posted on SONA before going to the appointment.

If the study is not listed on SONA, do not keep the appointment and immediately notify the staff in the Psychology Office (W112 or 294-1743). If you receive a call or get an email recruiting you for a study, and you did NOT participate in mass-testing, you should immediately notify the staff in the Psychology Office (W112 or 294-1743).

**What is the last day that I can earn research credits?**

The last day to participate in research studies (Option 1) is the Friday of dead week.

**How is research credit recorded?**

All credit (except essay credits) will usually be posted on SONA by the researchers within 72 hours after the study. You can click the “My Schedule and Credits” option to see your credits. After each study, researchers will give you a Research Credit Receipt. If you do NOT receive credit within 72 hours after participation in a study, you should contact the researcher directly to find out why. You might be asked to show your Receipt. You must keep the receipts in case there are any discrepancies at the end of the semester with the number of credits assigned to you on SONA.

**MASS TESTING:** Early in the semester, you will be given an option of participating in a Mass Testing questionnaire that will last approximately 1-1.5 hour(s) and be worth 2-3 research credits. The date of the Mass Testing session will be announced in class. The Mass Testing Session is worth participating in because the information you provide will be used to qualify you for other studies. For example, some studies are only appropriate for participants with specific characteristics (e.g., being left handed), and students who indicate that they have these characteristics may be contacted and asked to participate in specific studies. That is, students who participate in Mass Testing may be contacted by e-mail or telephone and invited to
participate in additional studies. If contacted in this way, you may decide then whether or not to participate. You are under no obligation to participate in a study just because you are contacted as a result of Mass Testing.

What if I have other questions about research participation?
Please ask the course information office.

Option 2) Essays
NOTE: Each essay is worth two credits (2 credits = 6 points)
NOTE: Only one essay can be turned in per week
NOTE: Essays can be written only for the 9 readings listed below.

How do I complete the essay method?
Below is a list of 9 articles from Part 2 of the textbook that can be used for essays. As a substitute to participating in research studies, you can write essays to any of these 9 articles. Your essay should briefly summarize the reading and then address one of the critical thinking questions that appear at the end of the reading. Each essay must be typed and double-spaced. You can print on both sides of a page. Use either Times New Roman (12 point) or Arial (11 point) font. Margins must be 1 inch all around. Each essay must be between 550-600 words in length (approximately 2 pages). Each essay is equivalent to one SONA credit (i.e., two research points in this class). E-mail your essay as an attachment to psy280@iastate.edu.

You must e-mail your essay on one of the Tuesdays (no later than 11:59PM) as marked on the reading and lecture schedule. Only one essay can be submitted on any given Tuesday.

You can choose to write some essays and participate in some experiments to obtain all of your required research participation and/or extra credit points. If you choose to obtain all the 10 required research participation credits through these essays, then you will need to turn in 5 essays. If you choose to also obtain all of the 8 extra credits through these essays, then you will need to turn in an additional 4 essays. Essays will only count as extra credit after the 10 required research credits have been completed (either through research participation or essays or a combination). Do not turn in more than 9 essays. Please note that the essays are due on specific dates (see Question 2 below).

When are the essays to be turned in?
Essays can be turned in only on certain dates as indicated in the Tentative Lecture and Reading Schedule. The first day for e-mailing an essay is January 27th, a Tuesday. Essays must be e-mailed (as an attachment) to psy280@iastate.edu by 11:59 PM on one of these Tuesdays. Another essay can be turned in on the following Tuesday. As can be seen in the lecture schedule, beginning on January 27th, one essay can be turned in every Tuesday through April 28th. Students can only turn in ONE essay on a due date. These deadlines are instituted to allow us to be thorough in our grading of these assignments.

How are the essays graded?
Your score will be based on an all-or-nothing scale (you either get the 2 credits for each essay or you get no credits). Your score will eventually appear on Blackboard, but it can take a few weeks for any score to appear. A score of 0 points might be awarded if a student did not reach the assigned word length, failed to meaningfully answer the question, or is suspected of plagiarism. If you receive a score of zero on an essay, you will be notified of this via e-mail. Otherwise, you can assume that you received the two credits.

List of Part 2 textbook readings permitted for the Essay Method
1. Contingencies of Self Worth, pp. 548-553
2. The Spotlight Effect and …, pp. 554-558
4. The Psychology and Power of False Confessions, pp. 613-617
5. The Emerging Field of Adolescent Romantic Relationships, pp. 636-641
7. Terrorism Between Syndrome and Tool, pp. 653-658
9. Comfortably Numb… pp. 665-672
Helpful Hints on How to Get the Most Out of This Course

ATTEND CLASS. Bright, highly motivated students who have superior study skills can learn alone most of what the book presents to you -- enough to do quite well on exam questions that cover the textbook material. However, a considerable amount of material that is not in the textbook will be presented during classes and a number of exam questions will come from material presented exclusively in lectures. Research has shown that one of the best predictors of grades in courses is class attendance, and even the brightest students gain more insight by attending classes regularly.

STUDY CHAPTERS EARLY. Some lectures overlap with information in the book, but even for lecture material that is not redundant with the book, you will learn best by reading/studying the assigned chapters by the date on which they are indicated on the syllabus. Students who read the chapters prior to class will find it rewarding when the quiz questions occur. We will assume in lectures that you have covered the assigned chapters, and hence will not focus unnecessarily on terms/concepts that are well defined in the book. There will be exceptions to this because in some lectures we choose to emphasize particular concepts that are covered in the book or we believe that the book does not cover that material particularly well. However, lack of emphasis or coverage during lectures does not mean lack of importance of material in the book. You should strive to complete assigned chapters on time and several days before an exam. Studying early leaves much more time for resolving difficulties and reviewing the material -- repetition is a fundamental principle of learning.

READ, STUDY, AND TAKE NOTES "ACTIVELY." Research shows that many individuals read and write passively, that is, without thinking about the meaning of what they are covering. In reading and studying textbook material, everyone (professors included) must read actively and as a result somewhat slowly. You must try to understand what you are trying to learn within the framework of what you have already learned. Research shows that learning is much more effective if new information is related to old information. Not only must you work on textbook material actively, but you must also stay mentally active during class. Passively writing down what is on the overhead screen or what we say in class without thinking about it -- about how it fits with previous material in earlier classes or earlier in that lecture -- will not help you learn or understand the material. Rewrite your notes as soon after class as possible.

BEFORE BEGINNING A CHAPTER, ACTIVELY STUDY THE SUMMARY FIRST. Also, you should page through the chapter reading headings and illustrations actively to gain a good general understanding of major themes and ideas. These major ideas serve as part of the framework for you to organize the more detailed information if you are to gain a good overall understanding.

OUTLINE EACH CHAPTER. By outline, we mean that you should take organized notes on the chapter as you go through it the first time, just as though you were taking notes on a lecture. Research shows that taking good notes requires active thinking and is much superior to helping you learn any material to underlining or highlighting textbook material. If you take good notes on chapters, you should be able to study primarily from these notes without having to reread textbook material. In the long run, that will save you time, particularly as you become more and more skilled (through practice) at taking quality notes on text material. These notes and your lecture notes should be reviewed as many times as feasible in preparation for each exam. Your textbook notes will also give you a manageable amount of material that you can review in preparation for the comprehensive exam that covers the entire course in the event that you need to take it.

ALTER YOUR EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDYING. Research consistently shows that college students greatly underestimate the effort and time it takes to do a quality job of learning the new and complex material that is a part of most of your courses. Academic experts generally agree that, for a typical three-semester hour course, spending about 9 hours per week outside of class working on learning is the norm for reasonable achievement. However, if the course is particularly difficult or if your skills are not as great as the typical students', you will likely need to spend even more than 9 hours per week to do well in the course.

KEEP THE BIG PICTURE IN MIND. Not only must you learn quite an amount of information that you might consider rather detailed, but you should also strive to understand the broader themes and context at all times. Keep in mind what you have learned in previous chapters and lectures. Themes work best when understood together rather than in isolation. In fact, individuals who, after a course is completed, have gone back and reread the textbook, report considerably greater understanding of material partly because the context has changed (e.g., they perceive chap. 2 differently after having studied chapters 3 and 4).

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, ASK THEM. Class time is not the appropriate time for individual specific questions about textbook material that you are unclear about, although good questions that extend or broaden what you have learned in the book or heard in lectures are strongly encouraged during classes. Such questions enrich class in general and are strongly encouraged. For more detailed questions, seek us out after class, during office hours, or make an appointment.

IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS, SEEK SOLUTIONS EARLY. For example, if you do poorly on an exam, see one of us at that time (instead of later in the course). In addition, the Student Counseling Service (294-4357) exists to help students, whether the source of a problem is personal or academic. The Office of Information Service (294-4777) and the Student Assistance Center (294-4357) are also important resources for students. If we can help you or point you in the right direction, we certainly will, but you must ask for help first.