

# Syllabus Psychology 390

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Member \_\_\_\_\_

Call # \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Hours \_\_\_\_\_

Prerequisite: Psychology 226 & permission

## PSYCHOLOGY 390 RESEARCH POLICY

Psychology research (PSY 390) should be structured so that it is beneficial for both researchers and students. This should not be looked upon purely as a service in return for credit by the researcher, or as easy credit by the student. Instead, it should be viewed as a mutual learning experience with each having an ethical obligation to the other. As a general rule, students are expected to work three (3) hours per week per credit hour of 390.

### Research Assistant's Responsibilities

- A. Assistants have an obligation to learn from the experimental situation instead of simply performing their responsibilities. They should try to understand the experiment as thoroughly as possible and should take the initiative to explore previous research in the area.
- B. Assistants should seek clarification of anything in the procedure of the experiment that they do not completely understand.
- C. Assistants must behave professionally at all times. They should be on time and aware of the influence they possess due to their position of authority.
- D. Assistants should work diligently to keep the experiment as cleanly controlled as possible and follow the experimental procedure precisely. They should not carelessly carry out the experiment because they feel no personal involvement in it.
- E. Assistants will keep a log of any out-of-the-ordinary occurrences with subjects. This is in order to inform the researcher of any circumstances that may influence end results.
- F. Assistants will not cover up mistakes or results that may be questionable or unwanted, since nondisclosed mistakes may inappropriately bias the end result. The questionable data may be dropped at the time of analysis.
- G. Assistants have a responsibility for the comfort and well-being of their subjects. They should inform the experimenter of any unnecessary discomfort to the subjects due to the design.
- H. Assistants do not have the right to change the procedure without notifying the experimenter.
- I. Assistants may not discontinue service in the middle of the agreed upon duration without a sound reason.
- J. Assistants must read the A.P.A.'s ethical considerations for research with humans and animals and sign it.

### Researcher's Responsibilities

- A. Researchers have an obligation to make the experimental atmosphere a potential learning experience for students. This applies even if the research assistant's responsibilities are minimal.
- B. Experimenters must explain all aspects of the experiment to their assistants. The assistants should grasp the purpose, the expected results, and the practical applications of the experiment. They should have an understanding of the assessment techniques used. Further understanding of the present research may be promoted by making available previous studies done in the area and discussing these implications.
- C. If complete disclosure to the assistants is not possible at the onset of the experiment due to control considerations, it should take place as soon as possible.
- D. Researchers should encourage the assistants to ask questions and should answer these questions thoroughly in order to promote the assistant's understanding.
- E. Experimenters should consider students' proposed revisions of the experimental procedure since only the assistants implementing the experiment are aware of the problems encountered in doing so.
- F. The researchers should clarify the responsibilities of the research assistant ahead of time and give the option to decide against working with the researcher. If the researcher assistant will be needed for longer than one quarter, this should be made clear ahead of time.
- G. Researchers should not discourage assistants from working with different researchers during subsequent terms if it does not violate principle I of the research assistant's responsibilities. The research assistant should not be made to feel guilty for attempting to broaden his or her experience in this way.
- H. The researcher should be supportive if a research assistant wishes to vary their responsibilities, assuming the change does not interfere with the research and this is a possibility.
- I. The researcher will give appropriate recognition to the assistant in publications.

Other:

Graduate Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Member Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## APA Ethical Principles for Human and Animal Research

### Principle 9 Research with Human Participants

The decision to undertake research rests upon a considered judgment by the individual psychologist about how best to contribute to psychological science and human welfare. Having made the decision to conduct research, the psychologist considers alternative directions in which research energies and resources might be invested. On the basis of this consideration, the psychologist carries out the investigation with respect and concern for the dignity and welfare of the people who participate and with cognizance of federal and state regulations and professional standards governing the conduct of research with human participants.

- a. In planning a study, the investigator has the responsibility to make a careful evaluation of its ethical acceptability. To the extent that the weighing of scientific and human values suggests a compromise of any principle, the investigator incurs a correspondingly serious obligation to seek ethical advice and to observe stringent safeguards to protect the rights of human participants.
- b. Considering whether a participant in a planned study will be “subject at risk” or a “subject at minimal risk,” according to recognized standards, is of primary ethical concern to the investigator.
- c. The investigator always retains the responsibility for ensuring ethical practice in research. The investigator is also responsible for the ethical treatment of research participants by collaborators, assistants, students, and employees, all of whom, however, incur similar obligations.
- d. Except in minimal-risk research, the investigator establishes a clear and fair agreement with research participants, prior to their participation, that clarifies the obligations and responsibilities, of each. The investigator has the obligation to honor all promises and commitments included in that agreement. This investigator informs the participants of all aspects of the research that might reasonably be expected to influence willingness to participate and explain all other aspects of the research about which the participants inquire. Failure to make full disclosure prior to obtaining informed consent requires additional safeguards to protect the welfare and dignity of the research participants who have impairments that would limit understanding and/or communication requires special safeguarding procedures.
- e. Methodological requirement of a study may make the use of concealment or deception necessary. Before conducting such a study, the investigator has a special responsibility to (i) determine whether the use of such techniques be justified by the study’s prospective scientific, educational, or applied value; (ii) determine whether alternative procedures are available that do not use concealment or deception; and (iii) ensure that the participants are provided with sufficient explanation as soon as possible.
- f. The investigator respects the individual’s freedom to decline to participate in or to withdraw from the research at any time. The obligation to protect this freedom requires careful thought and consideration when the investigator is in a position of authority or influence over the participant. Such positions of authority include, but are not limited to, situations in which research participation is required as part of employment or in which the participant is a student, client, or employee of the investigator.
- g. The investigator protects the participant from physical and mental discomfort, harm, or danger that may arise from research procedures. If risks of such consequences exist, the investigator informs the participant of that fact. Research procedures likely to cause serious or lasting harm to a

participant are not used unless the failure to use these procedures might expose the participant to risk of greater harm, or unless the research has great potential benefit and fully informed and voluntary consent is obtained from each participant. The participant should be informed of procedures for contacting the investigator within a reasonable time period following participation should stress, potential harm, or related questions or concerns arise.

- h. After the data are collected, the investigator provides the participant with information about the nature of the study and attempts to remove any misconceptions that may have arisen. Where scientific or humane values justify delaying or withholding this information, the investigator incurs a special responsibility to monitor the research and to ensure that there are no damaging consequences for the participant.
- i. Where research procedures result in undesirable consequences for the individual participant, the investigator has the responsibility to detect and remove or correct these consequences, including long-term effects.
- j. Information obtained about a research participant during the course of an investigation is confidential unless otherwise agreed upon in advance. When the possibility exists that others may obtain access to such information, this possibility, together with the plans for protecting confidentially, is explained to the participant as part of the procedure for obtaining informed consent.

\_\_Principle 10  
Care and Use of Animals

An investigator of animal behavior strives to advance understating of basic behavioral principles and/or to contribute to the improvement of human health and welfare. In seeking these ends, the investigator strives for the welfare of animals and treats the humanely. Laws and regulations notwithstanding, and animal's immediate protection depends upon the scientist's own conscience.

- a. The acquisition, care, use, and disposal of all animals are in compliance with current federal, state or provincial, and local laws and regulations.
- b. A psychologist trained in research methods and experienced in the care of laboratory animals closely supervises all procedures involving animals and is responsible for ensuring appropriate consideration of their comfort, health, and humane treatment.
- c. Psychologists ensure that all individuals using animals under their supervision have received explicit instruction in experimental methods and in the care, maintenance, and handling of the species being used. Responsibilities and activities of individuals participating in a research project are consistent with their respective competencies.
- d. Psychologists make every effort to minimize discomfort, illness, and pain of animals. A procedure subjecting animals to pain, stress, or privation is used only when an alternative procedure is unavailable and the goal is justified by its prospective scientific, educational, or applied value. Surgical procedures are performed under appropriate anesthesia; techniques to avoid infection and minimize pain are followed during and after surgery.
- e. When it is appropriate that the animal's life be terminated, it is done rapidly and painlessly.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

Date \_\_\_\_\_