

## Communication Studies Subject Pool FAQ Document

Scholarly discovery and innovation depend, in large part, on the research methods used to obtain them. Thus, an exposure to research and research methods is an experience that is valuable to understanding the discipline of Communication Studies. The Communication Studies Department (CMS) encourages each student enrolled in our courses to gain familiarity with and an appreciation of the aims, methods, problems, and results of research. To support students in gaining this research knowledge, many Communication Studies courses offer extra credit to students who participate in research conducted by CMS students and faculty. However, no student is required to participate in a research project and not all instructors offer extra credit. Students should first refer to the syllabus and contact instructors to determine each instructor's policy on extra credit.

If your instructor offers extra credit to students enrolled in the course, there are typically two options the student has for completing the extra credit:

- \* a research paper option or
- \* the research participation option.

If the instructor offers extra credit, it will be listed in the syllabus.

Data collected by CMS researchers is studied without personal identity attached to it. Any identifying information needed to give instructors' information about a student's participation in a study will in no way and at no time be associated with any student responses recorded during the study.

### **How many points of extra credit do I get for each research study?**

Each instructor determines how much extra credit one student can earn and how much for each study. Refer to the course syllabus or contact your instructor for the amount of extra credit you can earn.

### **Where do I sign up for research studies?**

You can sign up for studies and find a list of the current semester's research project online at <http://commstudies.utexas.edu/undergraduate/extra-credit-opportunities> using our online research participation system. Sometimes studies are also posted on the bulletin boards on the west wall in the hallway between CMA 7.112 and CMA 7.108.

### **When can I start to participate in research studies?**

You may begin participating in research studies as soon as one is available in the research participation system.

**What is the last day I can participate in research studies?**

Each research study has its own particular starting and completion date for student participation. However, no studies in the department will have completion dates later than the last day of classes.

**How long does it take for my extra credit to be reported to my instructor?**

Researchers are required to report extra credit in the research participation system by the last regular day of classes; however, typically extra credit participation is recorded within one week of your participation. The research participation system administrator will then report the extra credit participation to instructors before final exams begin.

**What do I do if there is a mistake in the reporting of extra credit?**

A research participant should keep the contact information of the researcher until the instructor has recorded the extra credit. If a mistake has been made you, please contact the researcher *before the last regular day of classes* to determine how the error has occurred and remedy the problem. Let your instructor know that you have contacted the researcher.

**What if the researcher cancels the research project?**

Researchers make every effort to contact participants if a research project is cancelled. If you have not been notified and you appear at the site of the research project, contact the researcher to determine the next step.

**How can I prove that I participated in an online study?**

Always print out and save the confirmation page at the end of an online survey or keep a copy of your schedule participation time.

**I am unable to attend a study that I registered for. What should I do?**

Use the research participation system (<http://commstudies.utexas.edu> > Undergraduate Program > Extra Credit) to contact the researcher to determine whether or not your session can be rescheduled. You cannot get credit for a study in which you did not participate. Just signing up for a study will not earn you extra credit.

**What if the weather was too bad for me to come to campus for my experiment?**

If the University is still the operating, normal rules for canceling sessions still apply. The status of the University can be verified on the following Emergency Preparedness website: <http://www.utexas.edu/emergency/> or you can call the university's general information number, 512-232-9999.