

Information about Research Requirement in POLI 100 Courses

This course has a research requirement designed to provide all students taking their first course in political science some knowledge about the procedures and conduct of political science research. A principal aim of the requirement is for students to gain an appreciation of how political science research works, while simultaneously acquiring new knowledge about areas of the discipline that they may not encounter in their POLI 100 course. You will not be graded on how well you perform in the research study. However, in order to receive your grade for this course, every student must satisfy this research requirement, which involves completing **3** hours of research work during the semester. This requirement can be fulfilled by participating in actual political science research studies (Option 1) or by writing a five-page research paper (Option 2).

For Questions and Problems: If you have questions or concerns about the research requirement, please email the Participant Pool Director (Professor Anna Bassi) at anna.bassi@unc.edu or the Assistant Director (Tyler Steelman) at steelman@unc.edu. **Your POLI 100 professor is not involved with the credit requirement for participating in a study, and she/he will only receive the participation record at the end of the semester.** You are welcome to visit the Participant Pool Director or Assistant Director in their office (251 and 303 Hamilton Hall, respectively), but the preferred method of communication is by email. If you have specific questions about any particular study, you should contact the researcher. If that fails, you should contact the Director or Assistant Director.

Option 1: Participating in Research: To satisfy this requirement, you can participate in actual ongoing political research studies. These studies are being conducted by political science professors and graduate students and, much less frequently, by undergraduate students writing honor's theses. All studies that you will participate in have been reviewed by UNC Institutional Review Board (IRB). The researcher will contact you via email with a link to where you can complete the study.

Before you participate in a study, you will be asked by the researcher to give consent. By clicking on the link to the survey, you are consenting to participate in the study even though you are not being asked to sign any form. You will be asked to provide your PID and course section as part of the consent process. This allows the researcher to keep track of who is participating in the study and give credit to those fulfilling the POLI 100 research requirement. This information will be deleted once the study is finished at the end of the semester or after all grades have been submitted.

You may **not** participate in a research study that is being conducted by your POLI 100 professor or TA and you may participate **only once** in each study (you can always check with the administrator to see which studies you have participated in).

Note that you can participate in studies for up to three hours in order to receive a grade in the course so long as IRB-approved studies are available. If the number of approved studies is insufficient to exhaust the required three hours of study time, no student will be penalized. Instead, students who participate in studies will receive the total three hours participation credit regardless of how much time they actually spend on studies. For example, if for the entire semester, only one study was approved by IRB and the study requires only 30 minutes to complete, all students who participated in the study will receive full credit and they will be able to obtain their grade for POLI 100. Also, if there were no approved studies during the semester, all students will get their grades as well. If there were studies available but, for some reason, you were not able to participate in enough studies amounting to three hours at the end of semester, you will be given an IN (incomplete) grade for the course. You will have until the 8th week of the following regular semester to participate in other approved studies in order to obtain your course grade. In the event that not study is available the following semester, you will have your IN grade changed to the course grade you earned in POLI 100.

In general, most research does not require participants to reveal personal information that would be considered an invasion of privacy. Please note that you do not have to participate in any research in which you do not wish to participate; furthermore, if at any time you feel uncomfortable or unable or unwilling to continue in a research study session, you are free to stop participating in the study without penalty. You are also free to leave questions blank or answer "don't know" without any penalty.

Also, be assured that any information you provide will be kept strictly confidential. In most cases the information you provide will be numerically coded to maintain your anonymity.

At the end of the session, the researcher is expected to give you a detailed account of the study's main hypothesis and your part in it via email. This procedure is called "debriefing." We ask that you keep this email as proof of your participation in the study. The debriefing will be written. During this debriefing, you should email the researcher any questions and make any comments you wish about the study. Keep in mind that this is an educational opportunity for you, and that during the debriefing stage, researchers especially welcome your additional questions and comments. Often this dialogue can help researchers in thinking about the research hypothesis and how to best test it.

The participant pool Director or Assistant Director will receive information about your participation and will enter your credit into the Participant Pool records of the research session. The consent form is also proof that you participated in that particular study session. **It is vital that you keep all consent forms as well until the end of the semester.** Should there be a discrepancy between the number of studies you have participated in or the number of credit hours, bring your confirmation email and consent forms to the Assistant Director's

office or Director's office to correct any errors. It is imperative that you hold onto those until you are certain your record is correct - usually at the end of the semester - in case there are any problems.

Option 2: Writing a research paper: For this option, you must pick a research topic in consultation with your professor or TA and address an important political science question on that topic. The paper should be thoughtful, well-researched and properly documented. It should be five pages long with double spacing, 12-point font, and paginated. You must provide a list of references at the end of your paper. The paper is graded pass/fail by the subject pool administrator. It should take no more than 3 hours to complete.

*******Please note that there is no cap on the number of "on-line" research studies you can complete in for up to three hours of credit.**

Deadline: You must complete the research requirement before the last week of classes. Both Options 1 and 2 are governed by this deadline. Failure to meet this deadline constitutes a failure to meet the requirements of the course and will result in an incomplete for the course. Students have until week 8 of the next semester to meet the course requirement and receive a grade.

Failure to Complete the Requirement: Should you fail to complete the research requirement by this specified deadline, **you will receive an INCOMPLETE**. This incomplete can be removed by completing the research requirement the following semester. This **must** be done during the first 8 weeks of the next regular semester or your incomplete will be automatically changed to an "F".

Problems and Questions: Any questions or problems that may arise during the semester can be brought to the attention of the Participant Pool Director at: anna.bassi@unc.edu or Hamilton Hall Room 251.