

Department of Linguistics – Experimental Requirement (Fall 2020)

Overview

This course has an experimental requirement. Students fulfill this requirement by completing 2 experimental credits during the quarter in which they are enrolled in the linguistics class. This may be done by:

- participating in two experiments of 1 hour each
- attending two video presentations of 1 hour each
- participating in one experiment of 2 hours in total
- participating in one experiment of 1 hour and one video of 1 hour. **NOTE:** If you are under the age of 18, please inform your instructor/TA.

IMPORTANT: As a for-credit participant, you are permitted to participate in any experiment listed in Sona (see below) as long as you are 18+. If any study is listed with any other requirement (e.g. “must be a native speaker of x”), please inform your instructor, TA, or the subject pool coordinator, as there should be no such requirements for for-credit participation. Also, please note that you can participate in any study you see on Sona even if the studies have similar names.

The experiments will be part of ongoing research in the department and will illustrate features of language structure and use that are relevant to topics covered in the core linguistics curriculum. The same applies to videos shown.

If this requirement is not met, course grades will be lowered by one “notch” on the letter grade scale (e.g., A to A-, A- to B+, B+ to B, etc.)

Don't leave this requirement to the end of the quarter! You must fulfill this experiment requirement (earn 2 credits) by the end of WCAS Reading Period (11:59 PM on Tuesday, December 1st). This deadline is final.

Instructions for Using Sona to Fulfill the Experimental Requirement

Sona is a web application that handles the scheduling of experiments and video. It keeps track of which experiments you have participated in and/or videos you have attended, and how many credits you have earned. Below are the basic instructions for using Sona.

- **Step 1: Wait to be enrolled in Sona. You will be able to access Sona beginning 5 PM on Wednesday, September 23rd (but not before this date). You will log in to Sona using your netID (username) and the default password chomsky1957. If you add the class after Week 1, you will need to speak with your instructor about being enrolled in Sona. If you add this course after Tuesday, September 22nd, or if you are unable to log in, email your instructor/TA.**
- **Step 2: Sign-up for experiments and manage your profile.** Log in to Sona with your NU netID and the password chomsky1957 at <https://northwestern-linguistics.sona-systems.com>. Here, you can sign up for experiments, edit your profile, keep track of past participation and future appointments, and assign earned experiment credits to your courses. Be sure to verify that you have been assigned to the correct course(s). **NOTE: If you have used Sona for a previous class, your password will NOT be reset to chomsky1957, but will remain whatever you used in the past.**
- **Step 3: Assign credits to classes.** Once you have participated in an experiment, check the website to make sure that you have been given credit for your participation. Then, assign your

credit towards the fulfillment of your requirement in your selected class(es). If you are only enrolled in one class with the experimental requirement, this credit should be assigned automatically. You will need to earn 2 credits for every 200-level LING course you are enrolled in.

IMPORTANT

- Sometimes researchers forget to assign credit after experiments. It is your responsibility to log in to Sona following an experiment to verify that credit was assigned. If it was not, contact your instructor/TA, and let them know the name of the experiment you participated in.

Descriptions of Credit-Earning Opportunities/Experiments

Experiments: Due to current circumstances, all experiments for this quarter will be run via online platforms. Some experiments may have hardware requirements, or may need to be run on a desktop computer. Please carefully read the experiment descriptions prior to signing up, and if you are unable to find a study that you can participate in please email linguistics-studies@northwestern.edu. A list of available experiments with times and instructions on how to participate will be posted on the Sona website. Please note:

- Failure to complete this requirement will result in a lowered course grade.
- You can do each experiment only once. You may not sign up for more than 1 slot in any individual experiment.
- Please complete the experiment in a timely manner. Failure to complete an experiment by the listed time and date may result in failure to earn a credit.
- If you fail to earn a credit after completing an online experiment, or if you experience difficulties with the experiment platform/interface, please notify the researcher if possible, or email linguistics-studies@northwestern.edu. Please include the experiment name in your email. After your information has been verified a credit will be granted.
- If for some reason you are unable to complete the experiment, please notify the researcher.

Videos: Online attendance of one video showing will count toward fulfilling of one of the two hours of experiment participation required for this course. Information about the video showings will be available on the Sona web site, and a link to a Zoom meeting will be given after sign-up. In order to receive full credit for your online attendance at a video showing, you need to:

- Sign-up on Sona ahead of time.
- Be present in the Zoom video showing for the entirety of the video (~ 1 hour)
- Answer short questions during the presentation of the video. The content of these answers will not impact credit granting.

Video screening schedule for Fall 2020 (may be subject to change). Timeslots for signing up to attend video showings will appear one week before the scheduled screening date.

- **Thursday, October 1: 7:00 - 8:00 am**
- **Thursday, October 22: 5:00 - 6:00 pm**
- **Monday, November 16: 5:00 - 6:00 pm**

These showings are strictly capped at 60 seats per showing. Students cannot be added if no participation slots remain.