

Department of Linguistics – Experimental Requirement (Spring 2016)

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 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.

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. Similarly, the videos will be on topics covered in the core linguistics curriculum.

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 are expected to fulfill this experimental requirement (earn 2 credits) *by the end of Reading Week*. We strongly recommend that you get at least one experimental credit by week 5, and both by week 9.

Instructions for Using Sona to Fulfill the Experimental Requirement

Sona is a web site that handles the scheduling of experiments and video showings for all 200-level Linguistics courses. 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 the site.

- **Step 1. Registration**

If this is your first time taking a 200-level LING course, you will receive an automated email with your login credentials, and a link to the Sona site, by the end of the first week of classes. **If you have taken a 200-level LING course before** and used Sona, you will not receive an automated email during the first week; you will continue to use your old account. If you've forgotten your login details, email your instructor/TA.

- **Step 2. Sign-up for experiments and manage your profile**

Log in to Sona 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)**.

- **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. You may reassign a credit from one class to another under the “My Schedule/Credits” option.

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.

Descriptions of Credit-Earning Opportunities

Experiments

The experiments will be run either in the Linguistics House (2016 Sheridan Road) or in the linguistics laboratories in Swift Hall (***not to be confused with Annie May Swift Hall***) and Cresap Hall. A list of available experiments with available times and instructions on where to go 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 arrive on time for the experiments you sign up for. Failure to arrive on time may result in your appointment being canceled.
- If the experimenter is more than 5 minutes late or fails to show up at all, notify your instructor immediately (via email is best). In the email include your name, the date, time and place of the appointment, and the experiment name. After the appointment has been verified with the appropriate experimenter, you will receive the credit.
- Out of respect for the time involved in arranging these appointments, **it is best that you notify the experimenter as soon as you know you will not be able to make the appointment.**

Videos

Attendance at one video showing will count as fulfillment 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. In order to receive full credit for your attendance at a video showing, you need to:

- Sign-up on the Sona web site ahead of time.
- Fill out the sign-in sheet upon entering the classroom. If you're late, don't enter the room.
- Stay at the video showing for the entire duration of the video.