IRB requested item responses

Item 1. Volunteers will be allowed to review the Consent Form and give their informed consent before entering the variable environment. There is a spacious common area in Room 312 of the Psychology building where participants will be seated for this process, before entering the adjacent laboratory. This point has been updated on the attached Synopsis.

Item2. I have attached a debriefing form, which participants will receive at the conclusion of the study. I will review each section with participants point by point.

Item3. The instructors will be given a scholarly journal article (attached as a .pdf) as the suggested extra credit alternative. As an alternative to participating in the experiment, participants will read this article and write a one page critical response paper.

Item 4. I have edited the Consent Form to include information about the blood pressure readings that will be taken over the course of the experiment. This statement will include a warning that the inflating cuff may cause minor discomfort (this also addresses the sole concern of the other IRB reviewer).

Item 5. Informing participants that their blood pressure readings are excessive will likely result in lasting distress, which this study aims to minimize rather than incite during the debriefing process. Because I am not a medical professional, nor am I qualified to determine what blood pressure readings warrant medical evaluation, I do not intend to refer participants with abnormal readings to anyone.

Item 6. I have edited the Consent Form to include a statement that a description of the amount of extra-credit and instructions for completing the alternative assignment option may be found either via the course’s online website (i.e., TRACS) *or* via electronic communication such as an e-mail from the instructor.

Item 7. In addition to the sample question that was included on the original Consent Form, I have included two additional sample questions in order to provide more complete information about the kinds of questions that will be asked.

Also attached are two additional sets of questions to be asked of participants. The first simply expands on the medication use questionnaire (attached with tracked changes), which was included in the original submission. The second asks participants about the effort that they perceived to have put into the stressor puzzle.

September 20, 2010

Wendy Brooks