UCSB Geography Research Pool

Students in Geography 20 may earn extra-credit by participating in the Geography Research Pool. The pool provides a source of research participants for faculty and graduate student researchers in the Department of Geography. In addition to an opportunity to get some extra-credit points, participation in the pool provides you with an opportunity to get firsthand experience with the conduct of human geography research and to learn more about some of the research in human geography being conducted in this department. Participation in the Pool is voluntary; you are not required to do this and will not be adversely affected if you choose not to participate.

Participation
The Pool is managed by the ExperimenTrak web system: http://ucsb.experimenttrak.net/. To participate in the Pool, you will need to register there (further instructions are posted on the site). When a study is being conducted, the researcher will list it on the system, including a short description and time-date slots for signing up. You can cancel or reschedule on the system as well. Please show up if you have signed up. You may participate in a particular study only once!

For each hour of research in which you participate, you will earn extra-credit points equal to 1% of the total points in the class. For example, if your class has a total of 300 points possible for all exams and assignments, you would get 3 class points for one hour of research participation. Although studies may vary in their length and points awarded, all studies will be worth at least 1% point, even if they are shorter than one hour. You may not participate for more than 3% of credit during the quarter (totaled over all classes that offer the Pool and in which you are enrolled). However, opportunities to sign up and participate depend on the research demand at that time – at times when no studies are being conducted, there will be no sign-up opportunities. Your last chance to sign up for a study will be the end of the 9th week of the quarter – the system will not accept sign-ups after that.

Alternative to Participation
If you cannot or do not want to participate in the Pool, you may get the equivalent amount of extra credit through an alternative that does not require research participation. The Geography Pool offers an Annotated Bibliography as an alternative to participation. A Bibliography of five references (a journal article or book chapter) will be worth 1% of extra credit (equivalent to 1 hour of research participation). Each reference must include the author(s), year, title, journal or book title, page numbers, and a short description of the contents and relevance of the article or chapter. All five references must concern a single topic within any area of geography. The number of opportunities to do Bibliographies each quarter will equal the number of research participation slots that are made available. To do a Bibliography as an alternative to research participation, you must register and sign up on the ExperimenTrak system. Each study that is posted will have a parallel “alternative study” posted for you to sign up to do a Bibliography.

Both research participation and the Alternative Bibliographies are first-come/first-serve, and you may not “double dip” by taking advantage of both options for credit on the same study (i.e., you cannot do Study A and the Study A Alternative Bibliography). Turn in Bibliographies to the main office of Geography (Ellison 3611); the Coordinator will check them for completion and record them for credit (which will be posted on the system). Bibliographies will not be returned. No Bibliographies can be turned in later than the last date for research sign-up – the end of the 9th week of the quarter.

Pool Coordinator
If you have problems at any time with the pool or with any of the studies, please contact the Pool Coordinator, who is currently Dr. Dan Montello, at pool@geog.ucsb.edu. Information about the UCSB Human Subjects Committee and the rights of human research participants may be found at http://research.ucsb.edu/connect/pro/prs1.shtml or you can contact the Human Subjects Committee at 893-3807 or graham@omni.ucsb.edu