

INFORMED CONSENT DOCUMENT

TITLE: *Online learning modules for introductory media large lecture course*

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

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You are being asked to participate in a research study. This document gives information about the study. Please read this form carefully. You have the right to take your time to decide whether you want to be in the study. You have the right to ask all the questions you want to help you decide.

You have to be 18 years old to participate. If you are not 18, do not sign this form.

PURPOSE OF STUDY:

The goal of this research study is to assess the effectiveness of online learning modules for student learning in a large lecture format class.

RESEARCH PROCEDURES:

As a member of this class, you will be offered the opportunity to complete a number of online learning module exercises. These exercises are voluntary and will NOT be factored into your course grade. Being in this class does not mean that you are involved in a research study. Completing the online learning modules does not mean you are involved in a research study. You have the option to choose whether the information that we collect as part of this class can be analyzed as part of a research project to better understand effective learning methods. Only if you provide consent, will information about your use of the online modules be collected.

If you decide to be in the study, you should sign this form and place it in the sealed envelope. We will track your use of the online learning modules as part of our research. We will also code your quiz grades to see if there are differences between students who use the online learning modules and students who do not use the modules.

If you decide not to be in the study, you should put a blank copy of this form in the sealed envelope. You will still be allowed to complete the online learning modules, if you chose to do so, but the information you provide will only be used by me, the instructor, to make improvements to the class. It will not be used for research purposes.

OVERVIEW OF TIME COMMITMENT:

No extra time is required if you decide to participate in this research project, beyond the time it takes to read and sign this consent form.

RISK AND/OR DISCOMFORTS:

There are no known risks to participating in this study. It is not expected that you will experience any risks and/or discomforts by participating in this research study that are any greater than those normally experienced in everyday life. It is your right to use or not use the online learning modules. You have the right to withdraw from the study at any time. There will be no penalty. ***Your grade will not be affected if you choose not to participate.***

BENEFITS:

There are no known benefits to you for participating in this study. It is possible that others will benefit from you being in this study. We hope this study will help us improve our Introduction to Media class. ***Your grade will not be affected if you choose not to participate.***

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative is to not participate in this study. You will still be able to complete the online learning modules, but your use of these modules will not be included in the research.

PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY:

We will do our best to protect your privacy during this study. If you decide to participate, you will be asked to sign your name on this form and place it in a sealed envelope. The sealed envelope will be stored in a locked filing cabinet in the Principal Investigators (PI) office and will not be opened until the class is complete and grades have been submitted. In other words, your instructor will not know whether or not you participated in the class until the class is complete.

Once the envelopes are opened, the PI will assign all students who are participating in the research a code number, which will be used to identify your data. The list of names and code numbers will be stored in a locked filing cabinet in the PI's office. The participating students' quiz scores and online learning module data will be entered into a spreadsheet on a password-protected computer in a locked office and identified by code number only. No personal, individual data will be released to any of the other faculty, staff or administrators of Suffolk University.

Consistent with the guidelines that govern social science research, the data we obtain from you for this study will be destroyed 3 years after the completion of the study.

We will present statistics from the entire group of research participants. For example, we will look at the mean scores of the class. The general results of the study may be shared with faculty and administrators at Suffolk University. We may present them at an academic conference. We might publish them in an academic journal. However, these results will not contain your name. They will

not provide any of your individual responses to the questions. Only averages and totals for groups of participants will be included. We would not share the personal data of any one individual. We will only use the data we collect in this study for the purposes stated in this document. We will use them to compare the helpfulness of the online learning modules.

COMPENSATION:

You will not receive any course credit towards research hours or extra credit for participating in this study. You will not receive compensation of any kind.

VOLUNTARY NATURE OF PARTICIPATION/ RIGHT TO WITHDRAW:

Your participation in this research is voluntary. You have the right to refuse to be in this research study. You can withdraw your consent at any time. Your withdrawal will not result in any penalties or loss of benefits and/or services to which you are otherwise entitled.

Your withdrawal or refusal to participate in this research study will not adversely affect your grade or standing at Suffolk University.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

If you have any questions about this study including the purpose, procedures, risks and benefits you may ask the Research Assistant, or you may contact the principal investigator: Nina Huntemann, Ph.D. at nhuntemann@suffolk.edu or 617-573-8767.

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact Suffolk University's Institutional Review Board (IRB) at (888) 634-4387 or irb@suffolk.edu.

CONSENT:

I have read the information in this document and I am aware of the risks and benefits involved. I have been given a chance to ask questions and enough time to decide whether to participate. By signing below I am voluntarily agreeing to participate in this research study.

Signature of Participant

Date

Printed Name of Participant

Signature of Person Obtaining Consent

Date

Printed Name of Person Obtaining Consent