

INFORMED CONSENT DOCUMENT

TITLE: *A Comparison of Methods Aimed at Enhancing Student Engagement in an ECR 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. If you decide to participate in this research study, please complete the packet of questionnaires. We will give you a copy of this form for you to keep.

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 helpfulness of two different ways of teaching Psych 350 Psychology Internship. Some classes will be taught in the traditional way this course is taught. Others will have some traditional assignments be replaced with newly designed ones. We are comparing the two ways of teaching the class to see which improve students' sense of community and their professional development.

The curriculum you receive will depend on your section of Psych 350. One section will be taught with the traditional curriculum and the other will include the new assignments. The version you get will depend on the class in which you are enrolled. You are invited to participate in this study because you are student at Suffolk University enrolled in Psy 350.

RESEARCH PROCEDURES:

As a member of this class, you will be asked to complete a number of assignments. You will also be asked to complete a questionnaire at the end of the semester that asks about your sense of classroom community. Being in this class does not mean that you are involved in a research study. You have the option to choose whether information that we collect as part of this class can be analyzed as part of a research project to better understand the most effective methods of treatment.

If you decide to be in the study, you should sign this form and place it in the sealed envelope. We will use your answers on the questionnaire as part of our research. We will also code some of your writing assignments to see if there are differences in the types of writing across the two sections of the class.

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 complete the writing assignments and questionnaire, but 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 refuse to answer any or all questions. 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 Psychology Internship 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 complete all of the class assignments including the questionnaire at the end of the study. But, your answers 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) research lab 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 research lab. The answers to your questionnaire will be entered into a spreadsheet on a password-protected computer in a locked office and identified by code number only. A research assistant will code a sample of your writing assignments. However, the PI will remove your name from the writing assignments and identify them by code 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 research conducted by a psychologist, 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 community in each class. The general results of the study may be shared with faculty and administrators at Suffolk University. We may present them at a scientific conference. We might publish them in a scientific 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 these two classes.

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, or you may contact the principal investigator: Susan M. Orsillo, Ph.D. at sorsillo@suffolk.edu or 617-305-1924.

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