

Implied Consent Text – Course outline that requires research

Note: *When research involves the collection of anonymous data (e.g., via a survey, observation), it is not necessary to obtain written consent. Completion and return of the questionnaire by the participant implies consent. The researcher, however, must provide the participant with the information on the study. The ``implied consent text`` herein is merely a template with some suggested wording and phraseology. It should be adapted to accurately reflect your research project. For ease of reading, please use titles for each paragraph and avoid using abbreviations and acronyms. The italicized text is instructional and should be removed in the final version.*

The final version should be printed on official University letterhead.

Professor:

Contact information:

Student researcher:

Contact information *(If applicable. NB: Students should not indicate their home addresses or phone numbers.):*

Invitation to Participate: You are invited to participate in the above mentioned research study conducted by *(name of student)* for the course *(code and title of the course)*.

Purpose of the Study: From this research we wish to learn *[clearly indicate why the research is being done. Explain what hypothesis is being tested and what the research is supposed to demonstrate].*

Participation: If you wish to participate in this study, please complete the appended survey. The survey should take you approximately *[indicate how length of time for completion of the survey]* to complete. You do not have to answer any questions that you do not want to answer. Once you have completed the survey, please return it in the stamped self-addressed envelope provided *(or other means, if applicable)*. We would appreciate receiving it before *[date.]* If we do not receive it by said date, we will send you a notice of reminder.

Risks: *[If the questions are of a sensitive nature and may cause emotional or psychological discomfort, this must be mentioned. Reiterate that the participant is free to refuse to answer any questions that may cause such discomfort.]* NB: In the case of course projects, the risks should be minimal. It may therefore not be necessary to include this section.

Confidentiality and anonymity: The information you share will remain strictly confidential and anonymous *(if applicable)*. *(In cases where data collection is done via email / Internet, and particularly where the topic is personal or involves risk, please include the following sentence (or a similar one, as it applies to your project) “In order to minimize the risk of security breaches and to help ensure your confidentiality we*

recommend that you use standard safety measures such as signing out of your account, closing your browser and locking your screen or device when you are no longer using them / when you have completed the study.”

Anonymity will be protected in the following manner (*describe how anonymity will be guaranteed. If anonymity cannot be protected, state this expressly, explain the reason why and explain the risks involved for the participant, the organization, etc.; also, explain whether or not the identity of the participants will be revealed in publications*). The contents will be used only for the course ____ and will be conserved in the supervisor’s locked office for __ years.

Compensation: (*Mention if there is compensation, whether it be money, a token gift, a cab chit etc.; remember that compensation is not an inducement and must not be coercive; if a participant withdraws from the study, they should still receive the compensation: “If I choose to withdraw from the study, I will still receive this compensation”. This paragraph can be removed if no compensation is offered.*)

Voluntary Participation: You are under no obligation to participate and if you choose to participate, you may refuse to answer questions that you do not want to answer. Completion and return of the questionnaire by you implies consent.

If you have any questions or require more information about the study itself, you may contact the professor or the student at the numbers mentioned above.

If you have any questions with regards to the ethical conduct of this study, you may contact the Protocol Officer for Ethics in Research, University of Ottawa, Tabaret Hall, 550 Cumberland Street, Room 154, Ottawa, ON K1N 6N5, tel.: (613) 562-5387 or ethics@uottawa.ca.

Please keep this form for your records.

Thank you for your time and consideration.