

**FOUNDATIONS OF PSYCHOLOGY**  
**PSYC 111-001 (3 credit hours) – Fall 2018**  
**Mondays & Wednesdays, 12:00 – 1:15 p.m., Peck Hall 2304**

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**Please Read:** Students, I look forward to working with you this semester! To establish a framework in which both productivity and your academic experience in this course can be maximized, your first assignment in this course is to read this syllabus and the Email Policy and FAQs document. If you have any questions about the content of the syllabus or the Email Policy and FAQs document, please ask for clarification during the first two class meetings of the semester. Your continued enrollment in this course signifies your acceptance of and agreement to adhere to the policies detailed in these documents.

## **I. TEXTBOOK/READINGS**

### **A. Required Textbook/Readings**

- Pomerantz, A. M. (2018). *My Psychology*. New York: Worth Publishers.
- Readings posted on Blackboard

## **II. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Welcome to Foundations of Psychology! Pomerantz (2018) defines psychology as “the scientific study of behavior and mental processes” (p. 2). This deceptively simple definition encompasses numerous areas of study. Over the course of this semester, you will be exposed to a breadth of topics in psychological science including neuroscience, lifespan development, learning, memory, emotion, personality, psychological disorders, psychotherapy, and social psychology. Deeper, more thorough examinations of these topics are available in individual upper-level courses. By the end of this course, you will have gained foundational knowledge about many fields of study within psychology.

## **III. COURSE OBJECTIVES FOR STUDENTS**

1. Understand the origins, evolution, and current state of the field of psychology
2. Be introduced to various subfields within the broader discipline of psychology
3. Appreciate the role of research in the psychological disciplines by participating in psychological research studies and/or completing research article quizzes
4. Effectively communicate knowledge of the field of psychology in writing

## **IV. COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

### **A. Blackboard**

This course will use Blackboard (<https://bb.siue.edu>) as the primary vehicle for disseminating class materials. Announcements, updates, grades, and other important course information will be posted to Blackboard. Lecture notes may be posted; if class attention or attendance dwindles, notes will no longer be posted. It is your responsibility to regularly check this course’s Blackboard website throughout the semester.

## **B. Class Attendance and Expectations**

Formal attendance will not be recorded for this course. However, to maximize your learning – and your performance on exams – you are strongly encouraged to attend all class sessions. I believe hard work and dedication should be rewarded, and I want all students to succeed. As such, I occasionally provide helpful study hints during lectures. In addition, my exams are written to emphasize material discussed in class. While the textbook may provide helpful alternate explanations to main topics, the terminology, explanations, and examples I use in class will be the focus of exams.

**You are required to attend the class session in which the Department of Psychology Research Requirement is presented; this date is noted on the course schedule (see Section VI). You are also required to attend all class sessions in which an exam is administered; exam dates are noted on the course schedule (see Section VI).**

I expect you to come to class ready to learn and participate. A student who is ready to learn has turned off cell phones and other electronic devices (with the exception of a laptop exclusively for note taking) and is awake, alert, and focused (i.e., not sleeping and not engaging in conversation with classmates during lecture). A student can participate by answering questions, asking for clarification, and asking related questions, among other activities. Participation also includes utilizing office hours to ask questions or clarify concepts. During exams, students should put away all materials/items except a pencil for writing and a blank Scantron form, unless instructed otherwise. Video and/or audio recording of lectures is prohibited.

I expect you to demonstrate respect and professionalism toward me and your fellow students. In turn, you should expect that I will treat you with respect and act professionally in our interactions.

## **C. Participation in Research or Research Article Quizzes by Psychology 111 Students**

Research is the basis of knowledge in psychology and provides the content in all areas of the discipline. The Department of Psychology requires a minimum of **6 hours** of research experience of each student enrolled in PSYC 111, unless the participant pool coordinator has dictated otherwise. This requirement may be completed by active participation in a department-approved study, by taking quizzes on select research articles, or a combination of these two in accord with guidelines set by the instructor. Each accepted quiz (must score 80% or above to be accepted) receives one hour of research credit, and active participation in ongoing studies receives credit according to the length of time spent in the study, which can vary from half an hour to multiple hours.

Details of the research participation will be provided early in your class. Attendance on the day research participation is described is mandatory and you will receive in-depth instructions on how to use the [SONA web site \(https://siue.sona-systems.com\)](https://siue.sona-systems.com) for research participation. You will also participate in an initial screening process which may allow you to participate in future studies.

Failure to fully complete the research experience requirement results in a one-letter grade drop. For example, if a student earned a B in PSYC 111 at the end of the semester but failed to fulfill the research experience requirement, the student would receive a C. Students who make an appointment for research participation, as do the investigators conducting the study, make a commitment to be at the designated place at the designated time for their appointment. If an emergency arises to prevent participants from being able to be at the appointed time and place, they must notify the investigator no later than one hour prior to the study time. If students fail to come to the study on time or fail to cancel with sufficient notice, they will not receive credit for that study and be marked as a “no-show.” If you have more than two no-shows, you will no longer be able to register for experiments and will only have

the option to register for the research article quizzes. Moreover, it is up to the investigator to decide whether and when such a participant can make an additional appointment for that particular study. Students should be aware that making a large number of appointments at the end of the semester (at the same time that hundreds of other students are trying to do so) can be difficult. It is best to fulfill the 6-hour requirement well before the end of the semester.

Again, failure to meet the 6-hour requirement at the end of the semester will lead to a reduction of one letter grade.

Those students who do not wish to participate in research may substitute research article quizzes for research participation. The article quizzes will give you some exposure to psychological research and acquaint you with some of the rich sources of materials where psychological studies are reported. The article quizzes will be posted on the SONA website after the midterm. You will sign up for the quiz, read a pre-approved research article, and take a quiz on said article. You must receive an 80% or greater to receive credit. Each quiz counts for 1 HOUR of research time.

#### **D. Department of Psychology Policy on Incomplete Grades and Withdrawal**

All withdrawals must be completed by the end of the 13th week of classes during fall and spring, and by a similarly late date (i.e., before 82% of class meetings have occurred) in any summer term. Grades that apply to students who initiate a withdrawal and grades that apply when a student fails to officially withdraw within established deadlines are determined by university policy (see <http://www.siue.edu/policies/1j1.shtml>). The granting of a grade of I (Incomplete) is not automatic. It is available only in cases when a student has completed most of the work required for a class but is prevented by a medical or similar emergency from completing a small portion of the coursework before the deadline for grade submission. An I must be approved by the instructor with appropriate documentation provided by the student. If an instructor agrees to give a student an I, the instructor will fill out a Memorandum of Incomplete Grade to be kept with the student's records. If the work is not completed by the time specified on the Memorandum, the student's grade will be changed from I to F.

#### **E. The Psychology Department's Policy on Plagiarism**

Plagiarism includes presenting someone else's words without quotation marks (even if you cite the source), presenting someone else's ideas without citing that source, or presenting one's own previous work as though it were new. When paraphrasing from another source or your own work, at the very least, the student should change the wording, sentence syntax, and order of ideas presented in the paper. Additionally, you should not submit a paper, or parts of a paper, written to fulfill the requirements of one class for the requirements in another class without prior approval of the current instructor and appropriate citation. Ideally, the student will integrate ideas from multiple sources while providing critical commentary on the topic in a way that clearly identifies whether words and ideas are those of the student or are from another source. Plagiarism is one type of academic misconduct described in SIUE's Student Academic Code (<http://www.siue.edu/policies/3c2.shtml>). University policy states that "Normally a student who plagiarizes shall receive a grade of F in the course in which the act occurs. The offense shall also be reported to the Provost." (<http://www.siue.edu/policies/1i6.shtml>). The University policy discusses additional academic sanctions including suspension and expulsion from the University. To insure that you understand how to avoid plagiarism, we encourage you to review the information on plagiarism provided on the Department of Psychology web page at <http://www.siue.edu/education/psychology/plagiarism.shtml>.

#### **F. Statement on Disabilities**

Students with documented disabilities should notify the instructor regarding any needed accommodations at the beginning of the course. To request accommodations, please contact Accessible

Campus Community & Equitable Student Support (ACCESS), Student Success Center, Room 1270 (phone: 618-650-3726, website: <http://www.siu.edu/access/>).

## **V. ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMS, AND GRADING**

### **A. Exam and Make-Up Exam Policy**

You will be administered four exams consisting of multiple choice questions on scheduled dates during the semester (see Section VI). Each exam will cover all new material presented since the previous exam (or, for the first exam, since the beginning of the semester). Exam questions will focus on material presented during lecture, which may or may not be included in textbook readings. Regular class attendance and good note taking will be critical for success on exams.

**Please purchase four green, half-sheet Scantron forms from the University Bookstore. Scantrons will be used to record your answers for exams. Only responses on half-sheet Scantrons will be graded.**

You may request a make-up exam if you present valid documentation prior to the exam date (for serious pre-scheduled commitments) or within a reasonable timeframe following the exam (for emergencies). A “reasonable timeframe” is determined by the instructor, and all requests are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Examples of valid documentation include a funeral notice identifying your relationship to the deceased, a physician’s note listing the specific dates you were unable to attend class due to illness, hospital admissions and discharge paperwork, documentation of military service, a notice of jury duty, a subpoena ordering a court appearance, or a police report for automobile accidents. If your absence is approved, you will schedule a time to take the exam during my office hours (or an alternate time may be scheduled for a graduate student to proctor the exam either in his/her office or the Resource Center in Alumni Hall 0348). The make-up exam will cover the same material as the original exam; however, it may contain alternate items and/or be in a format that differs from the original exam.

### **B. Assignment Policy**

The **term paper** is due at the beginning of class on the date specified in the syllabus (see Section VI). To turn in your term paper, you will upload a digital copy in Word document format (.doc or .docx) to Blackboard. Other document formats (e.g., .pdf, .rtf, .gdoc) and emailed papers will not be accepted, and these submissions will receive an automatic grade of zero (0) points. Documents that cannot be opened (e.g., that produce an error or corrupt document message) will receive an automatic grade of zero (0) points. You may only upload your document once, so please carefully review your work before submitting. If you are unsure of how to save work in Word document format and/or upload a document to Blackboard, please contact ITS for assistance (<https://www.siu.edu/its/>). Late papers will not be accepted for any reason. You are encouraged to upload your term paper to Blackboard well before it is due.

**Web quizzes** will be used to reinforce topics discussed in class and help familiarize you with the type and style of questions you may encounter on exams. Web quiz openings will generally be announced in class. You will have seven days to complete each web quiz once it is announced. Absent students are responsible for checking Blackboard and with peers for quiz announcements. Web quizzes not completed by the beginning of the class period that they are due will receive zero (0) points. There are no exceptions for late web quizzes, even in the event of an emergency. You are encouraged to complete quizzes as soon as possible. You may reference your textbook, notes, and peers while completing the web quizzes.

### **C. Grading**

Your grade is based on the total number of points you earn during the semester while completing the following course requirements:

- 1. Exams (50 points each):** Four exams will be administered. Each exam will consist of multiple choice questions. Each exam will cover all new material presented since the previous exam (or, for the first exam, since the beginning of the course); in other words, exams will not be cumulative.
- 2. Term Paper (40 points):** A description of the term paper assignment is posted on Blackboard.
- 3. Web Quizzes (5 points each):** Web quiz openings will generally be announced in class. You will have seven days to complete each web quiz once it opens. (Absent students are responsible for regularly checking Blackboard.)

Grades will be determined by the following point allocations; percentages are listed only for reference. Grades will not be rounded up or curved.

Your course grade will be reduced by one letter grade if you do not meet the 6 hours requirement specified in Section IV-C by participating in research studies and/or completing research article quizzes.

		<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Points</u>
Exam 1	50 points		
Exam 2	50 points	A	100-90
Exam 3	50 points	B	89-80
Exam 4	50 points	C	79-70
Term Paper	40 points	D	69-60
Web Quizzes*	50 points	F	59-0
Total Points	290 points		

\*12 web quizzes, each worth 5 points; best 10 scores will count toward final grade

Students are responsible for regularly monitoring their grades via Blackboard. If a student has questions about a grade, believes a grade is incorrect, or discovers that a grade is missing in the Blackboard grade book, he or she should contact the instructor or graduate TA as soon as possible. In these instances, the student is responsible for providing proof of an error that is satisfactory to the instructor. If more than one week has passed since grades for the assignment/exam were posted to Blackboard, no modifications to the grade book entry in question will be made.

## VI. COURSE SCHEDULE

The following course schedule is a good faith estimate of topics to be covered during the semester. The schedule may be changed at the discretion of the instructor. Any changes will be announced in class and/or posted on Blackboard.

**Note:** POM = Pomerantz (2018); not all sections of all assigned chapters may be discussed during lecture

(Course schedule on next page)

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Assignments/Exams</b>
8/20	Syllabus Email Policy and FAQs	Syllabus Email Policy and FAQs	
8/22	Term Paper The Science of Psychology	POM Ch. 1	
8/27	The Science of Psychology (cont.)		
8/29	Research Requirement/SONA Brain and Behavior	POM Ch. 2	<b>Attendance Required on 8/29 for Research Presentation</b>
9/3	Labor Day – No Class		
9/5	Brain and Behavior (cont.)		
9/10	Development Across the Life Span	POM Ch. 9	
9/12	Development Across the Life Span (cont.)		
9/17	<b>Exam 1</b>		<b>Exam 1 (Remember Scantron)</b>
9/19	Learning	POM Ch. 6	
9/24	Learning (cont.)		
9/26	Memory	POM Ch. 5	
10/1	Memory (cont.)		
10/3	Intelligence	POM Ch. 7 (p. 235-243)	
10/8	Intelligence (cont.)		
10/10	<b>Exam 2</b>		<b>Exam 2 (Remember Scantron)</b>
10/15	Psychology at Work	Reading posted on Blackboard	
10/17	Psychology at Work (cont.)		
10/22	Emotions, Stress, and Health	POM Ch. 8 (p. 268-277), 11 (p. 366-379, 392-395)	
10/24	Emotions, Stress, and Health (cont.)		
10/29	Social Psychology	POM Ch. 13 (p. 436-451)	
10/31	Social Psychology (cont.)		
11/5	Personality	POM Ch. 12	<b>Term Paper Due on Blackboard by Start of Class on 11/5</b>
11/7	Personality (cont.)		
11/12	<b>Exam 3</b>		<b>Exam 3 (Remember Scantron)</b>

11/14	Psychological Disorders	POM Ch. 14
11/19	Thanksgiving Break – No Class	
11/21	Thanksgiving Break – No Class	
11/26	Psychological Disorders (cont.)	
11/28	Psychological Disorders (cont.)	
12/3	Therapy	POM Ch. 15
12/5	Therapy (cont.) Semester wrap-up	

**Exam 4 on Wednesday, December 12, 10:00 – 11:40 a.m.  
(remember Scantron)**

### VII. COURSE PROGRESS TRACKING

If you'd like, you can use the table below to track your progress in the course throughout the semester.

Exam 1	___/50	<b>Research Experience Tracking</b>	
Exam 2	___/50	Track dates and credits from participation in research and/or completing research quizzes.	
Exam 3	___/50	Date: _____	Credit: _____
Exam 4	___/50	Date: _____	Credit: _____
Term Paper	___/40	Date: _____	Credit: _____
Web Quiz 1 – The Science of Psychology	___/5	Date: _____	Credit: _____
Web Quiz 2 – Brain and Behavior	___/5		Credit: _____
Web Quiz 3 – Development Across the Lifespan	___/5		Credit: _____
Web Quiz 4 – Learning	___/5		Credit: _____
Web Quiz 5 – Memory	___/5		Credit: _____
Web Quiz 6 – Intelligence	___/5		Credit: _____
Web Quiz 7 – Psychology at Work	___/5		Credit: _____
Web Quiz 8 – Emotions, Stress, and Health	___/5		Credit: _____
Web Quiz 9 – Social Psychology	___/5		Credit: _____
Web Quiz 10 – Personality	___/5		Credit: _____
Web Quiz 11 – Psychological Disorders	___/5		Credit: _____
Web Quiz 12 – Therapy	___/5		Credit: _____
<b>Web Quiz Total Score</b>			
*Add the top 10 web quiz scores (i.e., drop the lowest two of the 12 scores)			
<b>Course Total</b>			
(Exam 1 + Exam 2 + Exam 3 + Exam 4 + Term Paper + Web Quiz Total Score)			

Reminder: Failure to earn at least **6 credits** results in a one letter grade drop.