

PSYC-494-002: Capstone in Psychology

Founders Hall 0306
M & W 12:00pm –1:15pm

Instructor Information

Professor: Dr. Eunyoe Ro
Office: Alumni Hall Room 0130
Email: ero@siue.edu
Office Hours: Wednesdays & Thursdays 11am-12pm; or by appointment

Graduate Teaching Assistant: Michele Robinson (michelr@siue.edu)

Useful Material:

- For help with APA style, you can go to:
 - <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

Course Description:

Welcome to Capstone in Psychology! In this course, you will use your knowledge in psychology (e.g., psychological constructs, statistical analysis, research design, critical thinking) and produce research outcomes (i.e., group poster, research paper). At the end of the course, you will have a better understanding of how psychological research is conducted and will be presenting a poster to the psychology faculty.

Course Objectives:

After successfully completing this course and the Senior Assignment, you should be able to:

- Formulate testable research questions based on relevant scientific literature
- Conduct a methodologically sound study using reliable and valid measures
- Select appropriate statistical analyses for a study, use SPSS database, interpret results, and understand study's strengths and limitations
- Write a research manuscript in an APA style
- Construct a presentable research poster
- Orally communicate poster findings to a professional
- Learn how to work as a research team member

Expectations:

- You are expected to attend all classes. I will take attendance. If you miss 3 or more classes, your final grade will be dropped one letter grade (i.e., A becomes a B, B becomes a C).
- You should expect to work 2 hours outside class for each hour inside class (approximately 6 hours per week outside of class). It is necessary that some of the time you spend outside of class must be spent here at SIUE (either in a computer lab or working with your teammates). You should take this class this semester only if:
 - a. you are able to be present for all class meetings, and
 - b. you are able to come to campus *outside of class time* to meet with your group members and use the computer lab
- You have to be self-motivated in this course, seek feedback from the instructor or group members, and be a conscientious group member.
- Your notes from 220/221 will be helpful. I assume that you have basic knowledge of SPSS, and that you have the statistical and methodological knowledge you gained in 220/221.

- If you have difficulty with any of the content of the class or the assignments, please feel free to visit with me during office hours. I am happy to meet with you on an appointment basis as well.
- If you need to be absent due to medical reasons (yours or your immediate family's) on a day that an assignment is due, please provide a physician's note and notify me PRIOR to class.

Points in this Class

(1) Individual Grades (270 points total)

Presentation (Individual Performance: 10 points): Three class periods are reserved for your group to present on your research topic. Your individual performance during this presentation will be graded. For specific grading criteria, please see a separate document on Blackboard.

APA Style Quiz (20 points): There will be an in-class quiz on APA style (e.g., citation, references).

Paper Drafts (10 points x 4 sections = 40 points total). At two separate points during the semester, you will upload drafts of your paper to Blackboard (Introduction & Methods, Results & Discussion). It is expected that your drafts will be complete and this will be your **ONLY** chance to get written feedback on your paper from the instructor. No late drafts will be accepted. For specific grading criteria, please see a separate document on Blackboard.

Project Oral Exam (50 points). Your team will complete 35-40 min oral exam about your project prior to the SRA day to ensure that you are prepared for the poster session. Your grade will reflect your own performance on this exam. Preparation ideas can be found on Blackboard. **NO** make-up exams.

Final Paper (150 points). A final research paper should be submitted **INDIVIDUALLY** (not as a group). Although the project is a group effort, this final paper should be your work, and your work **ONLY**.

(2) Group Grades (180 points total)

Presentation (project idea & paper writing tips: 50 points). Your group will present project idea and research paper writing tips. This will be a group presentation meaning that everyone has to contribute. Please see Blackboard handout for specific grading criteria.

Project Proposal (30 points). One person from your group should upload to Blackboard your group's project proposal. For more information, please see a separate document on Blackboard.

Final Poster Presentation (100 points). You will be graded on your final poster based on two things: (1) ratings from Psychology faculty at the Senior Research Assignment Poster Session and (2) your relative contribution to your project provided anonymously by all of your group members. For more information, please see a separate document on Blackboard.

(3) Final Grade

You can earn a maximum of 450 points in this class. Your grade will be assigned based upon a 90% (A), 80% (B), etc., grading system. **I will not curve or round in grading.**

CLASS POLICIES:

**** If you miss the Senior Assignment Poster Session, you will receive a failing grade for the poster presentation (i.e., 0 points).**

** Class Environment

It is important to recognize that the classroom is an environment that requires respect for all participants. Therefore, students are expected to conduct themselves in a considerate manner. This means: being on time, turning off cell phones, pagers, iPods, and headphones, avoiding extraneous talking and chat, refraining from reading non-class materials and eating in class.

** Students Needing Accommodations

It is the policy and practice of the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or to accurate assessment of achievement—such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos—please notify the instructor as soon as possible. Students are also encouraged to contact office for Accessible Campus Community and Equitable Student Support (ACCESS). The ACCESS office is located in the Student Success Center, Room 1270. You can also reach the office by e-mail at myaccess@siue.edu or by calling 618.650.3726. For more information on policies, procedures, or necessary forms, please visit the ACCESS website at www.siue.edu/access.

** Department of Psychology Policy on Withdrawal and Incomplete Grades

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.

** Statement 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>

** Department of Psychology SRA Policy

All students at SIUE are required to do a Senior Assignment in order to graduate. This is the class in which you will work on this project. In order to pass the Senior Assignment requirement, you must 1) pass your Capstone course with a grade of C or better, 2) present a poster based on the project you completed in the Capstone class at the Department of Psychology’s Senior Assignment Poster Session, 3) have your poster deemed acceptable by the faculty (i.e., a mean rating of 3 or above on the faculty evaluation form), and 4) fulfill any other senior assignment requirements stipulated by your professor. In the event that you do not fulfill all four requirements in a given semester, you will need to retake the Capstone course and complete all four requirements in a subsequent semester. For example, if you receive below a C in the Capstone course, even if your poster presentation is deemed acceptable by the faculty, you will fail to complete the senior assignment requirement and must retake Capstone in its entirety with a new project. If you receive a C or better in the Capstone course, but your poster presentation is deemed unacceptable by the faculty, this in most circumstances will result in having to retake Capstone in its entirety, unless the Capstone professor presents evidence to the contrary. In order to help you with this endeavor, you have several resources: your Capstone professor, the Senior Assignment Coordinator (Dr. Ro), and two Senior Assignment Graduate Assistants (Rachael Huck and Gabriel Alfaro).

This semester’s Senior Assignment Poster Session will take place on **Thursday, November 29th, 2018 from 3:30 – 4:45 (with a pinning ceremony to follow from 4:45 to 5:15) in the basement of Alumni Hall in the Research Hallway (back hallway by the Resource Center)**. Your attendance at this event is mandatory in order to pass Senior Assignment – please plan your schedule accordingly! In the event that a medical emergency or other extenuating circumstance (e.g., jury duty, death in the family, religious obligation) might prevent you from attending the Senior Assignment poster session you must seek approval from your capstone instructor immediately and provide documentation. Should you miss the poster session for this reason you may be required to complete an individual makeup assignment equivalent to the poster session.

We will have a mandatory in-class meeting with the SRA graduate assistants during the 2nd week of classes where specific procedures relating to SRA will be discussed. Please make every attempt to be in class on that day! Should you be absent, you MUST contact the SRA graduate assistants as soon as possible for an individual appointment with them to hear this information. The SRA GAs’ office is AH 0348 (Resource Center) and their office hours are Mondays 12-2 (Gabe) and Wednesdays 8:30-12 (Rachael). You can stop by during their office hours or e-mail them at psychsra@yahoo.com for an appointment. You can also reach Dr. Ro, the Senior Assignment Coordinator, at ero@siue.edu or during her office hours on Wednesdays and Thursdays 11-12.

The SRA GAs will need to be e-mailed by ONE member of your group by November 7th (Wed) with the following information: your Capstone professor’s name, the title of your poster, and the names of all other members of your group.

Finally, students who take their capstone class in the fall may consider applying to present their research at the Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA) annual meeting in Chicago the following

spring (typically late April or early May). Having your research accepted for presentation here is extremely prestigious and will look great on your vita/resume. If your capstone work is accepted, the Department of Psychology may be able to fund part of your trip's costs, although not guaranteed. The application is typically due toward the end of October. If you are interested in this option, you need to let your capstone professor know and he/she will provide guidance with the application process. Once you commit to this presentation mode, and are accepted, at least one member of your group must attend the conference.

** Department of Psychology Writing Policy

As a student in this course, you will be expected to display university-level writing, which includes completing course assignments that meet the following basic writing criteria. Specifically, all written assignments completed for this course should include:

- clear transitions from sentence to sentence and idea to idea (e.g., paper is organized/flows well);
- verb tense consistency;
- clear and unambiguous sentences and ideas;
- writing that is free of typos, spelling errors, and major grammatical errors;
- properly formatted citations and references (if relevant).

This is by no means an exhaustive list of basic writing skills, but will give you an idea of what we are looking for in our papers. If you feel you need help with your writing, you are encouraged to seek assistance from the writing center on campus (<http://www.siu.edu/is/writing>) or utilize one of the many online resources they have identified to help students (<http://www.siu.edu/is/writing/resources.shtml>). If your graded written assignments fail to meet the basic writing requirements listed above (and any others found to be appropriate by your instructor), the instructor will stop the grading process and return the paper to you (see below for the specific policy for this class).

The penalty for unacceptable writing in this class is as follows: You will receive **no points** for your assignment.

** Writing Center Information

The SIUE Writing Center assists students and faculty/staff across the curriculum, and at all levels, to further develop their writing skills in order to become confident and independent writers and thinkers. Through individual consultations the Writing Center will help students to: brainstorm on a topic, organize thoughts, outline an assignment, develop support, integrate research, learn a "style" of writing, identify and fix errors, and much more. Please keep in mind that the Writing Center will not simply fix mistakes or write a paper for a student; instead, the consultants will teach students how to improve their work. For more information, or to schedule a 30 minute consultation, please call our front desk (650-2045), visit our website (siue.edu/lss/writing), or stop by our main location – SSC 1254 (inside the Academic Advancement Center).

	Date	Tentative Schedule
Week 1	8/20	Welcome. Arrange group. Set presentation date (9/10, 9/12, 9/17)
	8/22	Topic Lecture
Week 2	8/27	In-class Group Time; Set proposal meetings for 9/24 & 9/25
	8/29	Senior Assignment Presentation. DUE: CITI Certificate hard copy.
Week 3	9/3	No class – Labor Day
	9/5	In-class Group Time
Week 4	9/10	Presentation (2 groups) – Introduction, Methods
	9/12	Presentation (2 groups) – Results, Discussion
Week 5	9/17	Presentation (2 groups) – APA style on References & Other APA style, Abstract & Citation
	9/19	APA Style Quiz; In-class Group Time to finalize proposal DUE: Upload project proposal to BB by Thursday 9/20 midnight
Week 6	9/24	Individually Set Proposal Meetings (Mon, 9/24 & Tues, 9/25)
	9/26	Complete surveys/Data Collection
Week 7	10/1	Data collection
	10/3	Data collection
Week 8	10/8	Data collection
	10/10	Data collection DUE: Upload Introduction and Methods to BB by 10/10 midnight
Week 9	10/15	EB1160 LAB-analysis
	10/17	EB1160 LAB-analysis
Week 10	10/22	EB1160 LAB-analysis; DUE: All groups should let me know their measures' reliability alphas and get a pass from me!
	10/24	EB1160 LAB-analysis
Week 11	10/29	EB1160 LAB-analysis
	10/31	EB1160 LAB-analysis DUE: Upload Results and Discussion to BB by 11/1 midnight
Week 12	11/5	EB1160 LAB-poster making Set group exam times for 11/26 & 11/27
	11/7	EB1160 LAB-poster making DUE 11/7: One member of the group email GA (psychsra@yahoo.com) the following information: Capstone professor's name, the title of your poster, and the names of all other members of your group. DUE 11/9: Sample posters to Dr. Ro (email your pdf)
Week 13	11/12	poster feedback (classroom)
	11/14	poster feedback (classroom)
Week 14	11/19	Thanksgiving Week
	11/21	
Week 15	11/26	Individually arranged group exams on projects (Mon, 11/26 & Tues, 11/27)
	11/28	In-class poster session – bring posters (Each group will give a 5-6 minute overview of their poster. Everyone must speak. There will be a 5-minute discussion period after each overview.)
	11/29	SRA Poster Session Alumni Hall 3:30 – 5:15 MANDATORY ATTENDANCE
Week 16	12/3	In-class peer review of paper
	12/5	DUE: Assessment Test; DUE: Final Paper