

CAREERS IN PSYCHOLOGY (PSYC 200-002)

Fall 2020 – ONLINE

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Zoom Office Hrs: Wed & Fri 9-10 and by appointment <https://siue.zoom.us/j/7025301842>

BASIC CLASS INFORMATION

This is an asynchronous, online course. That means that the course does not “meet” at a certain time (with two exceptions, however, you’ll get to choose your meeting time); however, you will have deadlines for your work—the class is not self-paced.

Course Description from College Catalog

This course is designed to provide students with information and skills that will help them select and pursue a career in psychology by incorporating such activities as lectures, assignments and small group exercises. Prerequisite: A C or better in PSYC 111, major status.

Required Materials

Helms, J. L., & Rogers, D. T. (2015). *Majoring in Psychology: Achieving your educational and career goals*. West Sussex, UK: Wiley-Blackwell. (from the bookstore)

Readings posted on Blackboard.

Technical Requirements

- A reliable internet connection
- (optional, but recommended) A set of headphones or earbuds (so that those around you don’t have to listen to the lecture, too)
- A computer—***you cannot complete this class on a tablet or on your phone***
- You are encouraged to use IE or Google Chrome for Blackboard; Safari for Mac has known issues with Blackboard.

Getting Tech help:

Blackboard help pages: <http://www.siue.edu/its/bb/index.shtml>

ITS helpdesk: 618-650-5500, help@siue.edu

COURSE OBJECTIVES

After successfully completing this course, you should be able to:

- ✓ Show an awareness of your interests and skills as related to Psychology
- ✓ Locate and utilize resources for career information and job searching
- ✓ Make an informed decision regarding Psychology’s fit as a major
- ✓ Demonstrate increased knowledge about the subfields of psychology
- ✓ Identify the various career options for Psychology students
- ✓ Know more about the SIUE Psychology curriculum
- ✓ Understand the steps to take to prepare for graduate school in Psychology
- ✓ Write a resume or vita to market your skills and experiences
- ✓ Learn about job search strategies and interviewing skills
- ✓ Demonstrate increased professional skills as they relate to your career as a student and a professional
- ✓ Show increased awareness of departmental and campus resources designed to facilitate your academic and professional career

HOW TO ENJOY THIS CLASS, LEARN A LOT, AND GET AN A

This is not statistics, organic chem, or art history—it's not also not rocket science. Nonetheless, at the conclusion of this course, many students report that it's the most important course in the Psychology curriculum. To enjoy it, learn a lot, and earn an A, here are the 6 simple things you need to do:

- Engage and participate in the online discussion at least twice per week
- Be professional, friendly, and kind
- Do all of your work, do it on time, and turn it in
- Study when needed
- Even when the material is “light”, take it seriously. **Students consistently say that this is one of the most important courses they've taken at SIUE.**

THE STRUCTURE OF THIS CLASS

You will have *biweekly folders* for this course—the course is set up in 2-week modules. In each folder, you will do the following (more detailed instructions appear on Bb and/or later in the syllabus):

1. **Download the “Things to Know” List.** These items should serve as your study guide for the biweekly quiz. Thus, I strongly encourage you download the document and fill in the answers as you complete the course material so that you are prepared for the quiz.
2. **Read the associated chapter/readings.** As you do so, make sure to fill in the “Things to Know” where appropriate. Also, pay CAREFUL attention to the directions on BB, as sometimes I tell you that some portions of the chapter do not need to be read.
3. **Watch/listen to any brief lectures, interviews, or other video sources.** Again, fill in the “Things to Know”.
4. **Do any online activities.** And once again, fill in the “Things to Know”.
5. **Discuss the material.** Participation in the online discussion is vital to your understanding of course material. More detail about discussion is provided later in the syllabus and on Bb. The quality of your discussion posts will be rated each week, with a total possible of 30 points per week.
6. **Complete any assignments.** About 2/3 of the modules have a graded assignment. Brief details are found later in the syllabus, details will be found in the relevant modules.
7. **Take the bi-weekly exam.** You will take an online exam every other week.

DETAILS ABOUT GRADED WORK -- all graded work is due on the module's second Friday at 9AM

Discussion 8 discussions worth 30 points apiece = **240 points**

In a course like this, learning takes place individually through readings and activities, and collectively through discussion. **DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE VALUE OF THE DISCUSSION.** Discussion is where the critical thinking takes place, where you are forced to really flesh out your ideas and views, and understanding of the material, while using the course materials (and to a lesser extent, your personal experience) as evidence. Discussion also allows you to take a peek into the critical thinking of your classmates; in this way, you learn from each other.

As the instructor, I will facilitate student discussions in order to guide your learning. I will not, however, address every single post—the discussion will occur among students. I might share a related idea, give an example, redirect when the discussion goes off-track, ask follow-up questions on posts for which more *depth* is needed, or summarize student comments together to help deepen student learning. Remember that the primary discussion is to be *between students*.

What will we discuss?

If you've taken an online course before, you've probably contributed in an online discussion. I've taught online now for many years, and I've used discussion in many ways. I believe that the best way to use discussion is to provide prompts that have no right answer, and that allow students to “drive the bus”. Your discussion group (10ish people) will have 2-3 discussion prompts for each module.

How will discussion be graded?

- A grade of **A (27-30 points)** will be assigned when a student has posted at least 4 substantive (at least 150 word) posts that demonstrate knowledge of the course material and *advance and*

expand the knowledge of the class. Posts must be spread throughout the posting period (i.e., approx. half in week 1 and half in week 2) and address a variety of topics/prompts. Active engagement throughout the discussion period also must be demonstrated via follow-up posts (i.e., responses to your classmates).

- A grade of **B (24-26 points)** will be assigned when a student has posted at least 3 substantive (at least 150 word) posts that demonstrate knowledge of the course material and *advance and expand the knowledge of the class.* Posts must be spread throughout the posting period (i.e., approx. half in week 1 and half in week 2) and address a variety of topics/prompts. Active engagement throughout the discussion period also must be demonstrated via follow-up posts (i.e., responses to your classmates).
- A grade of **C (21-23 points)** will be assigned when a student has posted at least 3 posts, but they fail to meet at least one of the criteria above (substantive, advance/expand knowledge, spread out, on a variety of topics, active engagement).
- A grade of **D (18-20 points)** will be assigned when a student has posted at least 3 posts, but they fail to meet at least two of the criteria above (substantive, advance/expand knowledge, spread out, on a variety of topics, active engagement).

In short, you need to do these things to earn an A on a discussion:

- ✓ Engage in the discussion at least twice per week, and write substantive posts.
- ✓ Demonstrate that you did all of your work. In other words, SHOW OFF YOUR KNOWLEDGE.
- ✓ Demonstrate that you can push your knowledge further—to find examples of the material in the real-world, to make connections, to explain what you know/don't know, to learn more, to connect to yourself, etc.
- ✓ Demonstrate that you have read and thought about your classmates' posts.
- ✓ Use good grammar/spelling/punctuation (I strongly encourage you to write your posts in a word processor and then paste them into the Discussion Board so that you can spell/grammar-check)

***SPECIAL NOTE:** The first and last discussions will be LIVE with your group (on zoom), at a time that works for all of you.

Assignments 140 points

More detailed assignment descriptions will be given on Blackboard. You will always have the full 2-week period in which to do the assignment, so you don't need to work ahead.

MODULE	ASSIGNMENT	POINTS
Weeks 1-2	Skills, Interests, Goals	15
Weeks 3-4	How Prepared Are You?	15
Weeks 5-6	Article Summary and APA Style Exercise	15
Weeks 7-8	None	
Weeks 9-10	None	
Weeks 11-12	Resume or vita	15
Weeks 13-14	Group interview video	30
Weeks 15-16	Final writing assignment	50

Exams. There are 7 exams, each worth 50 points: **50 x 7 = 350 points**

Exams will be mixed format (i.e., some multiple-choice, some matching, T/F, etc., as well as some short answer). You can use ALL of your course materials (book, videos, etc.) for the exam, but you will be best served if you have available your notes from the readings and videos/lectures/activities AND your written answers to the "Things to Know" items. I also encourage you to STUDY them before you take the quiz. You will only have 60 min to complete the exam once it begins, so you won't have time to look up every answer.

FINAL GRADES

All of your grades will be recorded in terms of points (**max = 730 points**). Your grade will be assigned based upon a 90%, 80%, 70%, etc., grading system.

CLASS POLICIES

Communication If I need to contact you, I will do so via SIUE email. You are responsible for checking your SIUE email daily.

Late work / Extensions These are unprecedented times, and sometimes stuff happens. I can be flexible if needed as long as it's not a recurring issue. Also, please be professional and specific in your requests for such exceptions.

Important university dates for this term:

Consult this page for withdrawal dates for this term: <https://www.siue.edu/registrar/index.shtml>

Departmental policy on plagiarism Plagiarism includes either presenting someone else's words without quotation marks (even if you cite the source) or presenting someone else's ideas without citing that source. If you plagiarize, your instructor cannot evaluate your understanding of the topic. When paraphrasing from another source, at the very least the student should change the wording, sentence syntax, and order of ideas presented in the paper. 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>.

Statement on Disabilities Students needing accommodations because of medical diagnosis or major life impairment will need to register with **Accessible Campus Community & Equitable Student Support (ACCESS)** and complete an intake process before accommodations will be given. 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.

Academic Honesty ANY case of academic dishonesty will receive the recommended university policy: failure of the course and reporting of the case to the Provost.

Department of Psychology Policy on Incomplete Grades, P/F Credit Options 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.

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 with the grade of 0. You will have 24 hours to return the assignment in an acceptable form; if it still fails to meet the basic writing criteria, the grade of 0 will remain.

Remember that all graded work is due on the second Friday in the module (e.g., in weeks 2, 4, 6, etc.) at 9AM.

Week	Topics Covered	Assignment Due	Discussion	Exam
1 -2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Career Myths and Intro to Class/You ● Your skills/interests/goals 	SIG worksheet	Live Group	E1
3 - 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How to be prepared for anything upon graduation 	"How Prepared Are You?" worksheet	Online	E2
5 - 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is Psychology, and why is it a useful degree? ● Subfields of Psych: "Helping people"--clin/counseling and related 	Apa Style and Article Summary	Online	E3
7 - 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Subfields of Psych: "Working with kids"--School psychology and ● Subfields of Psych: "Creating Science"--Experimental Psych, Bio/Neuro, Academic jobs, and related fields 	none	Online	E4
9 - 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Subfields of Psych: "Working in Industry"--I/O and Human Factors Psych, and related fields ● Subfields of Psych: "Niche Areas"--Exercise and Sport Psych, Forensics, and related areas 	none	Online	E5
11 - 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Where to find jobs and grad programs that fit you ● How to apply (resumes and vitas, cover letters) 	Vita OR Resume	Online	E6
13 - 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Interviewing ● Offers, and the dreaded rejection 	Interviewing video	Online	E7
15 - 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Writing YOUR story 	Final Writing Assignment	Live Group	none