Syllabus for PSYC 305
Psychology of Gender and Sex
Department of Psychology
Fall 2022

Instructor: Dr. Maggie Polk  
Term: Fall 2022
Office: AH 0129  
Class Location: Founders Hall 0101
Office Hours: M/W: 10:30-11:30am  
Class Meeting time: M/W 3:00pm-4:15pm
Alternative Office Hours: M/W: 11:30-12:30pm  
E-mail: marpolk@siue.edu

Course Description: This course will introduce students to the psychological and cultural history of gender, changing sex roles, socialization, sexuality, issues related to mental health, stereotyping, cognition. This course will incorporate a lot of hot-topic discussions that will require active participation by students.

Course Objectives:
1. Examine sex and gender through the lens of psychological science, identify sources of bias, and distinguish between valid and invalid claims.
2. Understand the complexity of sex, gender, gender identity and sexual orientation, and analyze how biological and social forces interact in complex ways to shape sex and gender outcomes.
3. Demonstrate an awareness of how principles of the theories and concepts related to the aforementioned topic apply to everyday life.
4. Apply concepts and research findings to your own everyday experiences and real-world situations and events.
5. Understand the influence of psychological factors such as culture, socialization, and individual perception on gender and related topics.

Textbook:

Undergraduate students can rent textbooks from SIUE. Please visit the Textbook Service website for more information. For off-campus classes, the textbook may be shipped to you. Look for the option “Off-Campus Classes have special instructions, click here for these.” Note: shipping time may take up to two weeks.

Other course materials
Additional readings may be assigned throughout the semester and will be posted to blackboard.
**Communicating with the instructor:**
The most reliable way (and only way) to contact me is via e-mail. I respond to e-mails I receive during the week (M-F, 9-5 p.m.) within 24-48 hours. If you need to speak with me personally, I am easy to find during my office hours in my office. If you are unable to attend office hours due to a scheduling conflict, please contact me for an appointment.

**E-Mail Guidelines:**
E-mail is a wonderful tool when used properly. Please follow these simple guidelines when e-mailing me, so that I can identify you as one of my students quickly and address your concern without having to write you back to say “Who are you and what class are you in??” (This happens, often!)
1. Include class info in your subject line (PSY 305 Sec 002)
2. ALWAYS sign your e-mail. Many of you have e-mail addresses that mask your identity.
3. Please treat your e-mails as professional communications. Please use proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

**Communicating with YOU:**
I will send out many emails and announcements via Blackboard so it is your responsibility to check your SIUE email regularly, as well as Blackboard announcements.

**Course Requirements and Policies**
Assignments and supplemental readings are posted in Blackboard throughout the semester and will be due online at the scheduled date and time. The dates of each assignment can be found on Blackboard and in your course calendar at the end of your syllabus. It is your responsibility to make sure that all assignments are completed and turned in on time. Work turned in after the scheduled date and time is considered late work.

**Submitting Work**
All assignments will be submitted via Blackboard. No emailed assignments will be accepted.

**Class Activities (100 points total):**
There will be ten in-class activities conducted throughout the semester to enhance your learning of course material. These activities are listed on your course calendar. Each activity will be worth 10 points, and specific activity requirements will be shared either in class, via zoom or on Blackboard on the date they are assigned. In addition, there may be class activities that are not in the course calendar that will be extra credit assignments. **In-class activities are done in the classroom and cannot be made up once they have occurred. An alternative assignment may be completed only if the instructor is made aware prior to the absence.**

**Discussion Participation/Attendance (100 points total):**
This class will encourage a lot of discussion amongst one another. As such, all students will start off the semester with 100 discussion points. It is your responsibility to speak up at least once a week to ensure you keep your discussion points for the semester. Throughout most lectures, I will pose questions that I will ask you to think about thoughtfully and answer, and this will be your cue to participate in the discussion. Sometimes these questions may be answered using Poll Everywhere and then discussed as a small group or class, or sometimes they may just consist of
me calling on you during class. You will need to be registered with poll everywhere through your SIUE email in order to receive credit and ability to participate. Some discussion questions will serve as extra credit throughout the semester.

If you miss class it is your responsibility to obtain notes and/or handouts from your classmates. An “Excused” absence will be recorded for any student who notifies the instructor (by phone or email) prior to the class meeting time that they will not be able to attend class. A note may be required if absences become frequent or upon the instructor’s request.

It is vitally important that our classroom environment promote the respectful exchange of ideas, including being sensitive to the views and beliefs expressed during discussions. We will discuss very sensitive topics and some people may have differing opinions than you. As such, I want you to treat everyone with respect and be open to what others have to say, even if it differs from what you believe. Your success in this course will depend on your communication, consistent engagement and active participation in all course activities. Success in this course requires that you adhere to the deadlines given below as you complete assignments, discussions, and other course activities.

**Unit Essays (300 points total):** There will be two-unit essays in this course. These essays are meant for you to apply what you have learned in the corresponding units and apply it to your own life. All essays will be written in APA format including a proper title page. Please see the Unit Essay guidelines sheet for more information about these papers and grading rubric.

**Final Project (400 points total):** In lieu of a final exam, you will complete a final project for this course. Please see the final project document on Blackboard for more information about this project.

**Course Policies**

**Course Questions**
It is natural for everyone to have questions and I want you to feel comfortable asking questions. That said, in some cases, students ask questions that could be easily answered by looking in the syllabus or course materials. In order to facilitate personal responsibility, I ask that you follow the “rule of 3 then me” before asking a question. If your question is about the course requirements or some aspect of the course check in 3 places for the answer before you ask me. When you ask me, tell me where you have looked for the answer and explain your question. This helps me understand the question so I can give you a better answer. If you do have a question, you can send me an email.

**Technology**
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. It is your responsibility to regularly check this course’s Blackboard website throughout the semester. All assignments will be turned in on Blackboard (when
applicable) unless otherwise instructed to do something differently by the instructor of this course.

**Poll Everywhere** will be utilized consistently throughout the semester and as such I would like for you to bring your laptops to class so you can participate and receive credit for discussion. Please make sure you are registered with our class by using your SIUE email.

*If you need a technological device please let me know and I will make arrangements.*

While using your laptops in class, please refrain from being on non-class related websites (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Google chat, Amazon). Also, please take out headphones and earphones when in class. Such behaviors may result in me asking you to leave the classroom and will negatively affect your attendance grade.

Zoom will also be used for a few classes so please make sure you are familiar with how to use zoom. Please communicate with me ahead of time if you are unable to use zoom for whatever reason and we will set up accommodations.

**Academic integrity/plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the use of another person’s words or ideas without crediting that person. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated and may lead to failure on an assignment, in the class, or dismissal from the University, per the SIUE academic dishonesty policy. Students are responsible for complying with University policies about academic honesty as stated in the University’s Student Academic Conduct Code.

**Turnitin**

This course will utilize the Turnitin plagiarism detection software. A Turnitin link will be available anywhere written work is to be submitted in the course. Find out more about using Turnitin.

**Grading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation Points</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Activities</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Unit Essays</td>
<td>300 (2 x 150)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Assessment Project</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points Possible</strong></td>
<td><strong>900</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A letter grade of A, B, C, etc. will be assigned based on the following scale:

- A = 90% or better (810 points or higher); B = 80-89% (720 points or higher); C = 70-79% (630 points or higher); D= 60-69% (540 points or higher); F = anything lower than 59% (539 points or lower)

**Final grades are not negotiable. I do NOT round up.** There will be opportunity to receive extra credit in this course, but it is your responsibility to work for it. If you are upset about a grade on an assignment, you need to set up a meeting with me to discuss that within a week of the published grade of the assignment. After that, I will not consider a grade dispute. **I especially do not respond to end-of-semester e-mails that request unearned grade bumps.**
Grading rubric[s]
Grading rubrics will be provided in Blackboard for assignments that the instructor utilizes one for grading purposes.

Late or Missed Assignments
Any written assignment must be completed and submitted via Blackboard by their assigned time. The instructor reserves the right to determine the appropriate number of points to deduct from work turned in late. Students are responsible for anticipating that technology can often fail and should be in communication with the instructor if necessary, PRIOR to the deadline. Any assignments turned in via email past the time they are due will be considered late. You are encouraged to confirm that your assignment has been received via blackboard.

APA Format in Written Work
• Students are expected to be familiar and/or to familiarize themselves with APA standards for citations and references, per the 7th edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association.

***A lack of knowledge of appropriate citation and referencing format will not excuse you from point deductions from written assignments due to errors, or from disciplinary action in the case of plagiarism.***
• If you would like additional instruction in the use of APA format, please see me during office hours, or seek out the resources described below.
• Students who require additional assistance in writing in the areas of grammar and/or organization are strongly encouraged to seek out additional assistance. University-based services for assisting students with professional writing include the Writing Center (http://www.siue.edu/is/writing/index.shtml), which also provides workshops in APA style.

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 paper including headings, citations and references, per the 7th edition of the APA manual.

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.siue.edu/is/writing) or utilize one of the many online resources they have identified to help students (http://www.siue.edu/lss/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:** If more than three writing errors are found on any one page of a written assignment, grading will cease, and the student’s paper will be returned with a grade equal to 50% of the total point value for the assignment.

**University Policies**

**Services for Students Needing Accommodations**
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. Students who believe they have a diagnosis, but do not have documentation, should contact ACCESS for assistance and/or appropriate referral. The ACCESS office is located in the Student Success Center, Room 1203. You can also reach the office by emailing us at myaccess@siue.edu or by calling 618-650-3726. If you feel you would need additional help in the event of an emergency situation, please notify your instructor to be shown the evacuation route and discuss specific needs for assistance.

**Diversity and Inclusion**
SIUE is committed to respecting everyone’s dignity at all times. In order to learn, exchange ideas, and support one another, our virtual and physical classrooms must be places where students and teachers feel safe and supported. Systems of oppression permeate our institutions and our classrooms. All students and faculty have the responsibility to co-create a classroom that affirms inclusion, equity, and social justice, where racism, sexism, classism, ableism, heterosexism, xenophobia, and other social pathologies are not tolerated. Violations of this policy will be enforced in line with the SIUE Student Conduct Code. The Center for Student Diversity & Inclusion https://www.siue.edu/csdi is an excellent resource for students for support and community. Any person who believes they have experienced or witnessed discrimination or harassment can contact Ms. Jamie Ball, Director in the Office of Equal Opportunity, Access and Title IX Coordination at (618) 650-2333 or jball@siue.edu. There is also an online form for reporting bias incidents at https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?SIUEdwardsville&layout_id=10.

**Additional Support**

**Academic and Other Student Services**
As an enrolled SIUE student, you have a variety of support available to you, including:
- Lovejoy Library Resources
- The Writing Center
- Academic Advising
- Campus Events
- Counseling Services
If you find that you need additional support, please reach out to me and let me know.

**Cougar Care**
Dealing with the fast-paced life of a college student can be challenging, and I always support a student's decisions to prioritize mental health. Students have access to counseling services on campus (Student Success Center, 0222). Make an appointment by visiting cougarcare.siu.edu or by calling 618-650-2842.

**COVID-19 Pandemic Policies Related to Classroom Instruction (Fall 2022)**

**Health and Safety**

The measures outlined below are required and any student who does not comply may be in violation of the COVID-19 People-Focused Health and Safety Policy, as well as the University’s Student Code of Conduct.

The full text of the COVID-19 People-Focused Health and Safety Policy can be found here: https://www.siue.edu/policies/Covid.shtml

**Classrooms, Labs, Studios, and Other Academic Spaces**


Individual faculty of record may determine that masking will be required in their classrooms and are asked to communicate accordingly with students. Face masks may be required in other campus sites following guidance from governing regulatory agencies.

- Students who forget to wear a face covering when masking is required will be reminded of their obligation to comply with SIUE’s COVID-19 People-Focused Health and Safety Policy and temporarily asked to leave the class until they are able to conform to the policy. Students who forget or lose their face coverings when masking is required may be able to obtain replacements from a friend, a faculty member, or a nearby departmental office. Face coverings are also available for purchase in the Cougar Store (MUC).
- Students who refuse to wear a face covering when masking is required will be asked to leave the classroom and referred to the Dean of Students for non-compliance with community health and safety protocols. Repeated non-compliance may result in disciplinary actions, including the student being administratively dropped from an on-ground/face-to-face course or courses without refund if no alternative course format is available.
- If a student has a documented health condition which makes wearing a face covering medically intolerable, that student should contact ACCESS to explore options with the understanding that ACCESS will not grant accommodations which excuse the need for a face covering while on campus or in the classroom. ACCESS will work with qualifying
individuals to find reasonable alternatives, whenever such solutions are available. Please call or contact the ACCESS Office via email to schedule an online appointment to discuss potential alternatives. ACCESS office (Student Success Center, Room 1203, 618-650-3726, and myaccess@siue.edu).

**General Health Measures**

Students and employees are expected to review the siue.edu/coronavirus website (https://www.siue.edu/about/announcements/coronavirus/) to better understand prevention strategies and safety expectations.

- Students and employees are expected to maintain healthy hygiene practices.
- Students and employees are expected to follow COVID-related guidelines and directions.
- Students and employees are expected to conduct a daily health self-assessment and isolate themselves if COVID-related symptoms are present. COVID-related symptoms include:
  - Fever (100.4 degrees or above) or chills
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Fatigue
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Headache
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Sore throat
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Diarrhea

**Academic Integrity**

Students are reminded that the expectations and academic standards outlined in the Student Academic Code (3C2) apply to all courses, field experiences and educational experiences at the University, regardless of modality or location. The full text of the policy can be found here: https://www.siue.edu/policies/3c2.shtml.

**Recordings of Class Content**

Faculty recordings of lectures and/or other course materials are meant to facilitate student learning and to help facilitate a student catching up who has missed class due to illness or quarantine. As such, students are reminded that the recording, as well as replicating or sharing of any course content and/or course materials without the express permission of the instructor of record, is not permitted, and may be considered a violation of the University’s Student Conduct Code (3C1), linked here: https://www.siue.edu/policies/3c1.shtml.
Potential for Changes in Course Schedule or Modality

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, there remains a possibility that planned classroom activities will need to be adjusted. Depending on circumstances and following state-issued recommendations, potential changes include alterations to distancing requirements, course modality (e.g., transition from face-to-face to online, hybrid, or hy-flex, mask wearing, in-course activities, etc). These changes would be implemented to ensure the successful completion of the course while preserving health and safety. In these cases, students may be provided with an addendum to the class syllabus that will supersede the original version. If the course schedule or modifications significantly alter expectations, a new syllabus will be issued.
## Course Calendar:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Activity/Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>8/22</td>
<td>Course Introduction/Syllabus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>8/24</td>
<td>Chapter 1: Introduction to Sex &amp; Gender</td>
<td>Course Activity 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>8/29</td>
<td>Chapter 2: Studying Sex and Gender</td>
<td>Course Activity 2 – Syllabus Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>8/31</td>
<td>Chapter 2: Studying Sex and Gender</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>9/5</td>
<td>Labor Day – NO CLASS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>9/7</td>
<td>Chapter 3: Nature and Nurture of Sex and Gender</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>9/12</td>
<td>Chapter 4: Gender Development</td>
<td>Course Activity 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>9/14</td>
<td>Chapter 4: Gender Development</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>9/19</td>
<td>Chapter 5: Gender Stereotypes</td>
<td>Course Activity 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>9/21</td>
<td>Chapter 5: Gender Stereotypes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>9/26</td>
<td>Chapter 6: Power, Sexism and Discrimination</td>
<td>Course Activity 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>9/28</td>
<td>Chapter 6: Power, Sexism and Discrimination</td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>10/3</td>
<td>Chapter 7: Cognitive Abilities and Aptitudes</td>
<td>Course Activity 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>10/5</td>
<td>Chapter 7: Cognitive Abilities and Aptitudes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>10/10</td>
<td>Zoom Class – Go over Unit essays</td>
<td>Course Activity 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>10/12</td>
<td>Unit Essay Workday – No Class Meeting</td>
<td>Unit Essay 1 due at 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>10/17</td>
<td>Chapter 8: Language, Communication and Emotion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>10/19</td>
<td>Chapter 9: Sexual Orientation and Sexuality</td>
<td>Course Activity 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>10/24</td>
<td>Chapter 10: Interpersonal Relationships</td>
<td>Course Activity 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>10/26</td>
<td>Chapter 10: Interpersonal Relationships</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>10/31</td>
<td>Chapter 11: Work and Home</td>
<td>Course Activity 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>11/2</td>
<td>Chapter 11: Work and Home</td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>11/7</td>
<td>Chapter 12: Gender and Physical Health</td>
<td>Course Activity 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>11/9</td>
<td>Chapter 13: Gender and Psychological health</td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>11/14</td>
<td>Chapter 14: Aggression</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>11/16</td>
<td>Unit Essay Workday – No class Meeting</td>
<td>Unit Essay 2 due at 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>11/21</td>
<td>NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>11/23</td>
<td>NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>11/28</td>
<td>Summary/Review of Course</td>
<td>Course Activity 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>11/30</td>
<td>Summary/Review of Course</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>12/5</td>
<td>Workshop Week – Final Project Workdays</td>
<td>Course Activity - BONUS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>12/7</td>
<td>Workshop Week – Final Project Workdays</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>12/12</td>
<td>FINALS WEEK</td>
<td>Final Project due at 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Subject to change notice

All material, assignments, and deadlines are subject to change with prior notice. It is your responsibility to stay in touch with your instructor, review the course site regularly, or communicate with other students, to adjust as needed if assignments or due dates change.