



**Syllabus for PSYC 111
Foundations of Psychology
Department of Psychology
Fall 2023**

Instructor: Dr. Maggie Polk

Office: AH 0129

Office Hours: Virtual office hours: Th:12-1pm

Zoom link provided on Blackboard

Term: Fall 2023 (Aug 21 – Oct 14)

Class Location: Online, Asynchronous

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Welcome

Welcome to Foundations of Psychology! This course is fully asynchronous online.

Whether you are a psychology major, non-major, or undecided, this course is for you! As you will see over the following weeks, psychology is a very diverse field that covers a variety of different areas. Have you ever wondered why people are less likely to help someone with a large gathering? Or how to break habits such as biting your nails? Or how someone is classified as having a psychological disorder? Over the course of this semester, you will answer questions like these and be exposed to a breadth of topics in psychological science including neuroscience, lifespan development, learning, memory, emotion, personality, psychological disorders, psychotherapy, and social psychology. If you are interested in learning more about these topics than what we cover in the short span in this class, consider taking more psychology courses at SIUE.

Course Objectives:

1. Examine the origins, evolution, and current state of the field of psychology.
2. Identify various subfields within the broader discipline of psychology.
3. Evaluate the role of research in psychology.
4. Articulate knowledge of the field of psychology in writing.
5. Demonstrate retention and understanding of key psychological concepts.

Textbook

Pomerantz, A.M. (2019). *My Psychology* (2nd ed). New York: Worth Publishers.

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 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. I STRONGLY encourage you to check your email and/or Blackboard at least once every business day to stay up to date.

Communicating with the instructor:

The most reliable 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 I receive an email outside of those business hours, please understand that that timeline may be even longer in response. If you are unable to attend office hours due to a scheduling conflict, please contact me for an appointment to meet via zoom.

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 111).
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.

Note: If you do not respect these guidelines I will not respond to your email. It is IMPERATIVE that you are professional in your email communication to me.

Course Requirements and Policies

Assignments 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.

Exams (100 points each; 400 points total)

You will complete four exams consisting of multiple-choice questions on scheduled date ranges during the semester (see Course Schedule). Each exam will only cover what is happening in that unit, including your final exam. Questions will focus on material presented during lecture videos and textbook readings. Your exams are not cumulative. Your exams will open Friday morning at 12am and close Sundays at 11:59 p.m. of their respective weeks (see Course Schedule for official dates). Your exam will be open for 75 minutes and you can take the exam anytime during the time frame. Once the exam deadline has passed, the exam cannot be made up. Your exams will be open readings and notes; however, the exam is to be taken individually, without help from anyone else. Once started, the exam must be completed in one sitting (i.e., it cannot be paused and resumed at a later time).

Please ensure that you have a reliable computer and Internet access when you choose to begin the exam. **If an exam “reset” is required for any reason, please email me while the exam is open. If the exam is reset, your final grade will be reduced by 10 percent of the exam value.** The reduction is because 1) a reset extends the time of a timed exam and 2) students are responsible for ensuring their computer and Internet access are reliable. I can’t guarantee I will see your email in time to reset an exam (especially if you email over the weekend), so please do everything you can to ensure your computer and Internet access are reliable. **Email exam reset requests at least 24 hours before an exam is due; requests sent less than 24 hours before a deadline may not be seen in time for a reset. Once the exam deadline has passed, the exam cannot be made up or reset.**

Chapter Quizzes (10 points each; 150 points total)

Chapter quizzes reinforce key topics from lecture and are similar to questions that may appear on exams. Chapter quizzes will open at the beginning of each respective unit and can be completed as you complete a chapter. They will serve as ways to apply what you learned through the chapter. You will have unlimited tries to take these quizzes until their due date, but you will see new questions each time you re-take the quiz. Deadlines are listed in the Course Schedule. Missed quizzes cannot be made up. Students may use any resources while completing quizzes.

Course Activities (50 points each; 200 points total)

In each unit you will have a course activity assigned to you. Each activity will have its own unique instructions so please check blackboard for what to expect. A rubric will be provided along with the instructions. These activities will serve as creative sources to demonstrate the information you learned in each unit.

Discussions (20 points each; 80 points total)

Each unit, you will be asked to answer a discussion thread. Each thread will be due by the end of the unit (see course calendar for specific dates). In each thread, one question will come from your textbook or lecture videos specific to that unit where you will need to have a detailed response based on what you learned to answer that question. In addition, you will also be asked in each thread what is a topic that stood out to you and why. Your reply will include answers to both of these questions. After you have your initial answer, you will need to reply to at least two of your classmates’ posts. For each discussion thread, you will have 3 posts – 1 initial post and 2 reply posts. Your answer to the unit specific question is going to be worth 8 points, and the answer to what stood out to you in that unit will be worth 7 points. In order to receive full credit for the first half of your initial reply, your unit specific question needs to have an answer of at least 100 words and respond fully to the question on hand with references to the book or lecture video. For the second half of the initial reply, the topic that surprised you with your explanation of why should be at least 50 words and be clear as to **why** it stood out to you. **PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU LEAVE A SPACE IN BETWEEN YOUR TWO ANSWERS.** Your reply posts will be worth 2.5 points each and need to be substantial replies, meaning they need to say more than “I agree” or “disagree”. You need to point out what exactly you agree or disagree on and why. You can reply to anything discussed in the initial reply.

The point of these discussions is to dive in deeper to the topics in the book and have a chance to reflect on topics that stood out to you or surprised you.

Point breakdown: 8 points initial question; 7 points topic that surprised you; 2.5 points each reply

Extra credit opportunities:

In addition to your weekly discussion posts, there will be a discussion forum in each unit that is labeled “Research Question” and will be open for the entire unit. This thread in each unit will serve as a chance for extra credit. As you go through each chapter, you may find a topic interesting and think of a research question. I want you to share that research question because you may not be the only one who has this question, there may already have an answer, or this could be the start of a great line of research. Here you can post those interesting thoughts or research questions you have from your readings with a little blur. I want this to be a forum where you can think like scientists and pose questions that interest you. An example could be: “After reading about adolescent development and knowing about how important social media are to these teens, I am curious if teens prioritize their online friendships and interactions more than their in-person ones?” In your short blurb I want you to provide some context of what made you think about this research question. For each question you can earn up to 1 bonus point. You can max out to 5 bonus points per unit. You cannot retroactively go back and post in earlier chapters, you have to post with the current unit in order to receive credit.

There will be a welcome discussion that you can answer and post 2 replies for a chance to get an additional 5 extra credit points. Please note that it will close the first week of class.

Syllabus Quiz (20 points)

All students will need to complete a syllabus quiz at the start of the semester. The syllabus quiz will be completed online through blackboard. You will have 30 minutes to take the quiz. Half of the quiz will consist of questions found in course calendar and the other half will be pre-course questions to test where your knowledge is. The content questions will not count for points. Please check the course calendar for the date of the quiz.

Participation in Research or Research Article Summaries 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 **4 hours** of research experience of each student enrolled in PSYC 111, unless the participant pool coordinator determines otherwise. This requirement may be completed by active participation in a department-approved study, by writing article summaries on select research articles, or a combination of these two in accord with guidelines set by the instructor. Each accepted article summary (must score 70% 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 website \(https://siue.sona-systems.com\)](https://siue.sona-systems.com) for research participation.

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 complete 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 requirement well before the end of the semester.

Again, failure to meet the requirement at the end of the semester will lead to a reduction of one letter grade. Even if you have 3.5 credits, it will still result in a letter grade drop.

Those students who do not wish to participate in research may substitute research article summary for research participation. You are allowed to complete one article summary per unit, and each summary will be due at the time your unit closes. Late summaries will not be accepted. For each article summary you will be asked to summarize the purpose of the article, experimental design (i.e., did they split participants into groups? What measures did they use? Were questions self-report? Observations of behaviors? Etc.), who the participants were, and a brief description of the results. The articles will be posted in the unit folder. You must earn a 70% or greater to receive credit. Each quiz counts for 1 hour of research time. **Please watch the Research Experience Overview Video in About this Course Information Folder.**

You can also earn extra credit for participating in more research studies and/or completing article summaries. For each credit above 4, those additional points will count toward your final exam grade. For instance, if you complete 4 credit hours of research studies and 2 article summaries at their appropriate times, you'll get an additional 2 points on your final exam.

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, lecture videos, assignments, 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.

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.

Use of an AI Generator such as ChatGPT, iA Writer, MidJourney, DALL-E, etc. is **explicitly prohibited** unless otherwise noted by the instructor. The information derived from these tools is based on previously published materials. Therefore, using these tools without proper citation constitutes plagiarism. Additionally, be aware that the information derived from these tools is often inaccurate or incomplete. It's imperative that all work submitted should be your own. Any assignment that is found to have been plagiarized or to have used unauthorized AI tools may receive a zero and / or be reported for academic misconduct. By submitting assignments in this class, you pledge to affirm that they are your own work and you attribute use of any tools and sources.

Grading

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Percentage Breakdown</u>
Syllabus Quiz	20
Discussion (4 x 20)	80
Course Activities (4 x 50)	200
Chapter Quizzes (10 x 15)	150
Exams (4 x 100)	400
Total	850

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

A = 90% or better (760 points or higher); B = 80-89% (675 points or higher); C = 70-79% (590 points or higher); D= 60-69% (505 points or higher); F = anything lower than 59% (504 points or lower).

If you notice an error in your grade, you have ONE WEEK after the grade is posted to inquire with the professor. Grades will not be modified if more than one week has passed.

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.***

Feedback and grading timeline

Discussion board grades will be posted within one week of the discussion due date. Course Activities will be posted within 1.5 weeks of the due date. Quiz and exam grades will be available upon their completion. You can find your grades for assignments by clicking the My Grades link on the left menu of the Blackboard course. If feedback is provided, you can find it by clicking your score.

Late or Missed Assignments

Any **written assignment** must be completed and submitted via Blackboard by their assigned time. **NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED. 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 and not accepted. You are encouraged to confirm that your assignment has been received via blackboard. Please do not request to make up missed assignments.

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.**

Technical Support

Since this is an online course, you are expected to have reliable Internet access on a regular basis. It is your responsibility to address any computer problems that might occur. Such problems are not an excuse for delays in meeting expectations or for missing course deadlines.

Contact ITS at [618-650-5500](tel:618-650-5500) or at help@siue.edu with any technical concerns. You can also check the functionality of University systems, including Blackboard, at the [ITS System Status page](#), or search the [ITS Knowledge Base](#) for various how-to and troubleshooting guides.

Tips for taking online assessments:

- Set up a wired (Ethernet) Internet connection on your computer
- Do not use a mobile device, such as a phone or tablet
- Read the instructions and directions carefully
- Be prepared to complete the assessment in the allotted time

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](tel:618-650-2842).

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.siu.edu/policies/3c2.shtml>.

Course Schedule

Units/Week/Dates	Topics/Readings <i>Note: All readings and videos for each unit will be available at the start of the two weeks. Each unit will open the weekend before it is set to begin. Below is a suggested break-down of how to split up topics.</i>	Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m.
Unit 1: Week 1 8/21- 8/27	Syllabus & Welcome Video The Science of Psychology (Ch. 1)	8/27 Syllabus Quiz Welcome Discussion (extra credit) Sign up for SONA Quiz 1- Ch. 1 Course Activity 1
Unit 1: Week 2 Exam Week 8/28 – 9/3	Brain and Behavior (Ch. 2) Sensation and Perception (Ch. 3) <i>Watch Videos</i> Optional Article summary 1	9/5 Discussion 1 Quiz 2 – Ch. 2 Quiz 3 – Ch. 3 Exam 1 **Due to labor day holiday, your assignments will stay open until <u>noon on Tuesday (9/5)</u> including your exam 1
Unit 2: Week 3 9/5-9/10	Consciousness (Ch. 4) Memory (Ch. 5) <i>Watch Videos</i>	9/10 Quiz 4 – Ch. 4 Quiz 5 – Ch. 5 Course Activity 2
Unit 2: Week 4 Exam Week 9/11-9/17	Learning (Ch. 6) Cognition: Thinking, Language and Intelligence (Ch. 7) <i>Watch Videos</i> Optional Article summary 2	9/17 Discussion 2 Quiz 6 - Ch. 6 Quiz 7 – Ch. 7 Exam 2
Unit 3: Week 5 9/18-9/24	Development Across the Lifespan (Ch. 9) Motivation and Emotion (Ch. 8) <i>Watch Videos</i>	9/24 Quiz 8 – Ch. 9 Quiz 9 – Ch. 8 Course Activity 3
Unit 3: Week 6 Exam Week 9/25-10/1	Diversity in Psychology (Ch. 10) Social Psychology (Ch. 13) <i>Watch Videos</i> Optional Article summary 3 due	10/1 Quiz 10 – Ch. 10 Quiz 11 – Ch. 13 Discussion 3 Exam 3
Unit 4: Week 7 10/2-10/8	Stress and Health (Ch. 11) Personality (Ch. 12)	10/8 Quiz 12 – Ch. 11 Quiz 13 – Ch. 12 Course Activity
Unit 4: Week 8 Final Exam Week 10/9-10/13 <i>Note: due date will be Friday 10/13</i>	Psychological Disorders (Ch. 14) Therapy (Ch. 15) <i>Watch Videos</i> Optional Article summary 4 due	Quiz 14 – Ch. 14 Quiz 15 – Ch. 15 Discussion 4 SONA Credit due Final Exam PLEASE NOTE THESE ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE FRIDAY OCTOBER 13 AT 11:59 P.M. NOT SUNDAY!

