



**Syllabus for PSYC 205-002  
Lifespan Development  
Department of Psychology  
Fall 2023  
E-mail: marpolk@siue.edu**

**Instructor:** Dr. Maggie Polk  
**Office:** AH 0129  
**Office Hours:** T/TR: 11am-12pm.

**Term:** Fall 2023  
**Class Location:** Founders Hall 0308  
**Class Meeting time:** T/TR 9:30am-10:45am

**Teaching Assistant:** Alexie Rose  
**E-mail:** [aleroose@siue.edu](mailto:aleroose@siue.edu)  
**Office Hours:** By appointment only. These will be held via zoom unless otherwise discussed.

**Course Description and Objectives:** This semester we will explore both classic and contemporary research and theory in developmental psychology, from conception through adulthood.

**Textbook:**  
Santrock, J.W. (2022). *A topical approach to lifespan development* (11<sup>th</sup> Ed.) McGraw-Hill

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 (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 I receive an email outside of those business hours, please understand that that timeline may be even longer in response. 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.

### **Communicating with the TA:**

Communication with the TA should remain via e-mail. The TA will respond to emails within a 48-72 hour window (M-F, 9-5 p.m.) All communication is subject to be shared with the professor. As such, any communication with the TA should be held to the same standard as emailing the professor.

Grades will not be discussed via email. If you have a question about a grade, please discuss with us in person.

### **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 205 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.

## **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.

### **Journal Entries (140)**

After completing a chapter, you will write a journal entry to reflect on the developmental topic we just covered. You will have a total of **14** journal topics. For each topic you will need to complete **three entries** for each topic– one as a child (ages 4-7), one as an adolescent (12-16), and one as your current age. Each entry should be one paragraph, and should highlight key parts of the topic you are covering for each age. Each entry should be written in first person as that age. Meaning, if you are discussing puberty, you should write it from the perspective of the adolescent going through it, not the child hearing about it from the older sibling. The point of these journal entries is for you to apply what you learned in this chapter across different age groups to see how they are similar or different.

Journal entries will be posted directly on Blackboard under the Journal Page. **Entries should NOT be posted as an uploaded document. If they are not posted directly on the Journal page, they will not be graded.** For each chapter, you will create ONE entry that include a

heading for each age period you are writing about. An example of a full journal entry is included in the journal entry rubric page. **Each full journal entry is worth 10 points.** Blackboard has a full grading rubric for you to see the grade breakdown. It is in your best interest to keep up with these weekly as we finish each chapter, but they will be due at the end of each unit (see course calendar).

While these journal entries are meant to be creative and personal, proper writing is still expected, even for the “child”. Please look at the **Department of Psychology Writing Policy** for more information about what is expected in your writing. For more information and examples of journal entries, please look at the Journal Entries Guidelines on Blackboard.

*Note: Chapters 1, 2 and 14 will have different instructions for journal entries.*

### **Reaction Papers (100)**

There are 4 short written assignments called Reaction Papers in this class. There will be one for each unit that will be due before the unit exam. You will write a 1-2 page (double-spaced) reaction paper to 4 research articles that are relevant to the topics we discuss in class. The articles are posted as PDF files on our Blackboard class page. You will turn in your responses via Blackboard. All grades and feedback will be posted on Blackboard. Assignments are graded on a 25-point scale. **Please see the reaction paper guidelines sheet posted on Blackboard for grading rules and tips on how to write the papers.**

*A question or two on each exam may include questions from these articles so it is important you read it carefully.*

**Exams (300 + 200).** There will be a total of 5 exams in this class: 3 mid-term exams that cover the first three units of the course, a final exam during Final Exam Week that covers the last unit of the course, and an *optional* comprehensive make-up exam on the last day of class that includes material from all four units. **ALL EXAMS WILL BE TAKEN ONLINE.** Exams will be open starting at 12am Thursday and close at 11:59 p.m. on Friday (see course calendar for specific dates; please note the special dates for the final exam). We will not have class on the day when an exam is open. You will have **90 minutes** to take the exams. Once the timer starts, you cannot leave the exam. All exams will also be open note and open book. Any material presented in lecture, your textbook, or the articles you will read for your written assignments are fair game for an exam. Exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short-answer questions. Exams will be graded on a 100-point scale.

How the comprehensive make-up exam works: I do not schedule individual make-up exams for students who miss a test except in very exceptional circumstances up to my discretion (with necessary documentation and at least 24 hours notice). If you miss an exam and wish to make it up, you may take the comprehensive make-up on the last day of class. You may also use the make-up exam to replace a low grade on one of the first three mid-terms. **You may not take the comprehensive make-up in place of the Final Exam!** The make-up includes questions from the entire semester.

You are welcome to view your graded exams with me during office hours. **I strongly encourage you to view your graded exams, especially if your grade was lower than you expected. You may not scan, copy, photograph, or in any way reproduce the exam questions.**

*Your final exam will be open Monday at 12am and close Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. of finals week. It will be just like your unit exams format. There will be no make-ups scheduled for the Final Exam except in very exceptional circumstances (and with documentation for why a make-up is needed). These must be approved as far in advance as possible. It is the responsibility of the student to set up a time and place for the make-up exam, either in my office or in the Resource Center.*

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.**

### **Discussion Participation (100 points).**

While I do not take attendance in this course, I will pose questions that I will ask you to think about thoughtfully and answer. Some of these questions may have you break up into small groups and discuss amongst yourselves, or some may be answered individually. Up to my discretion, I will have you write your answers down on a piece of paper for credit to count towards your participation. At the end of each unit, I will tally up how many participation chances there were and give you points accordingly. It will be simple, if you have all participation opportunities, you will get all participation points for that unit (25). For each participation you are missing, there will be 5 points deducted. score will be decided by how many are missing divided by the total of participations for that unit. Throughout the semester, some questions may serve as extra credit too with a chance to receive 5 bonus points per question. Since there will be extra credit opportunities, I will not allow for make-up participation opportunities. If you are absent that day, you do not get credit for participation happening that day. Only in the case if you have an excused absence, you will be allowed to make this up, but it needs to be properly documented and properly communicated with me in advance.

If you miss class, it is your responsibility to obtain notes and/or handouts from your classmates. A note may be required if absences become frequent or upon the instructor's request.

**Syllabus Quiz (10 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. Please check the course calendar for the due date of the quiz. The quiz will be timed.

## 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.

### **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.

### **Turnitin**

This course will utilize the Turnitin plagiarism detection software. Turnitin can also detect chatGPT or other AI sources of writing. A Turnitin link will be available anywhere written work is to be submitted in the course. Find out more about using Turnitin.

## **Grading**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Percentage Breakdown</b>
Syllabus Quiz	10
Discussion Points	100
Reaction Papers	100
Journal Entries	140
Mid-Term exams	300 (3)
Final Exam	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>800</b>

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

A = 90% or better (716 points or higher); B = 80-89% (636 points or higher); C = 70-79% (556 points or higher); D= 60-69% (476 points or higher); F = anything lower than 59% (475 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.***

## **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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.siu.edu/is/writing>) or utilize one of the many online resources they have identified to help students (<http://www.siu.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.**

### **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.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:jball@siue.edu). There is also an online form for reporting bias incidents at [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?SIUEdwardsville&layout\\_id=10](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](http://cougarcare.siu.edu) or by calling 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>.

### **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.siu.edu/policies/3c1.shtml>.

### **Potential for Changes in Course Schedule or Modality**

As seen during the COVID-19 pandemic, there could be circumstances that may require us to change our course schedule or modality. 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:

*Note: All assignments will be due at 11:59pm on their assigned date through Blackboard.*

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Assignments due at 11:59p.m.</b>
T	8/22	Syllabus	Syllabus	
TH	8/24	Introduction to Development	Chapter 1	<i>Syllabus Quiz due Friday 8/25 by 11:59pm</i>
T	8/29	Biological Beginnings	Chapter 2	
TH	8/31	Biological Beginnings		
T	9/5	Physical Development & Biological Aging	Chapter 3	
TH	9/7	Physical Development & Biological Aging		<b>Reaction Paper 1 due 9/7</b>
T	9/12	Motor, Sensory and Perceptual Development	Chapter 5	
<i>TH-F</i>	<i>9/14-9/15</i>	<b><i>ONLINE EXAM 1 due by 9/15 at 11:59pm No Class Meeting</i></b>		<b><i>Journal Entries Unit 1 Due 9/15</i></b>
T	9/19	Cognitive Developmental Approaches	Chapter 6	
TH	9/21	Cognitive Developmental Approaches	Chapter 6	
T	9/26	Information Processing	Chapter 7	
TH	9/28	Information Processing	Chapter 7	<b>Reaction Paper 2 Due 9/28</b>
T	10/3	Intelligence	Chapter 8	
TH	10/5	Language Development	Chapter 9	
T	10/10	Language Development	Chapter 9	
<i>TH-F</i>	<i>10/12-10/13</i>	<b><i>ONLINE EXAM 2 due by 10/13 at 11:59pm No Class Meeting</i></b>		<b><i>Journal Entries Unit 2 Due 10/12</i></b>
<i>T</i>	<i>10/17</i>	Emotional Development and Attachment	Chapter 10	
TH	10/19	Emotional Development and Attachment	Chapter 10	<b>Reaction Paper 3 due 10/19</b>
T	10/24	Self, Identity, & Personality	Chapter 11	
TH	10/26	Gender & Sexuality	Chapter 12	
T	10/31	Gender & Sexuality	Chapter 12	
<i>TH-F</i>	<b><i>11/2-11/3</i></b>	<b><i>ONLINE EXAM 3 due by 11/3 at 11:59 pm No Class Meeting</i></b>		<b><i>Journal Entries Unit 3 Due 11/3</i></b>
<i>T</i>	<b><i>11/7</i></b>	Moral Development	Chapter 13	
TH	11/9	Moral Development	Chapter 13	

T	11/14	Family, Lifestyles and Parenting	Chapter 14	
TH	11/16	Family, Lifestyles and Parenting	Chapter 14	<b>Reaction Paper 4 due 11/16</b>
T & TH	<b>11/21 &amp; 11/23</b>	<b>NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING</b>		
T	11/28	Peer Relations	Chapter 15	
TH	11/30	Peer Relations	Chapter 15	
T	12/5	Catch up Day/Review Day– Subject to Cancel if not needed		
TH-F	12/7-12/8	<b>COMPREHENSIVE MAKEUP EXAM</b>  <b>No Class meeting</b>		<b>Journal Entries Unit 4 Due 12/8</b>
<i>Finals Week</i>	<b>12/11—12/13</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>		<b>FINAL EXAM due 12/13</b>

### **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.