

**PSYC-494-001: Capstone in Psychology**  
Alumni Hall 0302  
M & W 12:00pm –1:15pm

**Instructor Information**

Professor: Dr. Eunyoe Ro

Office: Alumni Hall Room 0131

Email: [ero@siue.edu](mailto:ero@siue.edu)

Office Hours: Wednesdays & Thursdays 11am-12pm; or by appointment

**Useful Material:**

- American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). American Psychological Association.
  - Check out <https://apastyle.apa.org/> for APA style guides
  - I also have a bare bone guide posted on Blackboard.
- Search the Internet for “Laerd” and a statistical test (e.g., “Laerd multiple regression”) for decent SPSS tutorials
- Notes from PSYC 220 and PSYC 221
- **SPSS:** There are several ways for you to access SPSS at home if needed:
  - Computers with SPSS on campus (e.g., computer labs, library, etc.)
  - Remote access to SPSS through SIUE’s V-Lab:
    - V-Lab login: <https://www.siue.edu/its/labsclassrooms/vlab/index.shtml>
    - Windows instructions: <https://kb.siue.edu/71294>
    - Mac instructions: <https://kb.siue.edu/96570>
    - How to save files to your computer in V-Lab: <https://kb.siue.edu/71215>
    - How to open files on your computer in V-Lab: <https://kb.siue.edu/71221>
  - Download a free trial using SIUE ITS instructions:
    - <https://www.siue.edu/its/labsclassrooms/vlab/spss.shtml>
    - Check when the free trial expires. You will need the software throughout the semester.
  - Download a free trial directly from IBM:
    - <https://www.ibm.com/analytics/spss-trials>
    - Check when the free trial expires. You will need the software throughout the semester.
- **Qualtrics**
  - Link to access Qualtrics: <https://www.siue.edu/its/qualtrics/>
  - You will use Qualtrics for data collection. If you are not familiar with Qualtrics, watch this introduction video: <https://youtu.be/hWM1z4uBP1U>

**Course Description:**

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

### **Course Objectives:**

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

- Formulate testable research questions based on up-to-date scientific literature.
- Design and conduct a methodologically sound empirical study using reliable and valid measures.
- Understand data analytic methods and use a statistical package to analyze, interpret results, and understand study's strengths and limitations.
- Produce a research manuscript in an APA style.
- Create a presentable research poster and communicate poster findings professionally.
- Practice working as a meaningful research team member.

### **Expectations:**

- You are expected to attend all classes. I will take attendance. If you miss 3 or more classes, your final grade will be dropped one letter grade (i.e., A becomes a B, B becomes a C).
- You should expect to work 2 hours outside class for each hour inside class (approximately 6 hours per week outside of class). It is necessary that some of the time you spend outside of class must be spent here at SIUE (either in a computer lab or working with your teammates). You should take this class this semester only if:
  - a. you are able to be present for all class meetings, and
  - b. you are able to come to campus *outside of class time* to meet with your group members and use the computer lab.
- You have to be self-motivated in this course, seek feedback from the instructor or group members, and be a conscientious group member.
- Your notes from 220/221 will be helpful. I assume that you have basic knowledge of SPSS, and that you have the statistical and methodological knowledge you gained in 220/221.
- If you have difficulty with any of the content of the class or the assignments, please feel free to visit with me during office hours. I am happy to meet with you on an appointment basis as well.
- If you need to be absent due to medical reasons (yours or your immediate family's) on a day that an assignment is due, please provide a physician's note and notify me PRIOR to class.

### **Points in this Class**

(1) Individual Grades (250 points total)

CITI Certificate Submission (10 points): Please submit a pdf of your CITI certificate via Blackboard Assignment Folder (Check class schedule for the due date).

Paper Drafts (10 points x 4 sections = 40 points total): At two separate points during the semester, you will upload drafts of your paper to Blackboard (Introduction & Methods, Results & Discussion). It is expected that your drafts will be complete and this will be your **ONLY** chance to get written feedback on your paper from the instructor. No late drafts will be accepted. For specific grading criteria, please see a separate document on Blackboard. **Please submit a WORD file (not PDF). Also, please include YOUR full name in the file name (e.g., Eunyoe Ro intro method draft.docx).**

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

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

(2) Group Grades (130 points total)

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

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

(3) Final Grade

You can earn a maximum of 380 points in this class. Your grade will be assigned based upon a 90% (A), 80% (B), etc., grading system. **I will not curve or round in grading.**

## Course Policies and University Policies

### Academic integrity/plagiarism

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.

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](#).

Unless expressly allowed by the instructor, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools and applications (including ChatGPT, DALL-E, and others) to produce content for course assignments and assessments is a violation of SIUE's academic policy and is prohibited.

### 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 Hub <https://www.siu.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).

### Pregnancy and Newly Parenting Policy

This policy and procedure are established to ensure the protection and equal treatment of pregnant students, students with pregnancy-related medical conditions including as a result of the termination of pregnancy, and students who become new parents including parents adopting or fostering to adopt for the first 12 weeks a child is in the home, in accordance with Federal and State guidelines and regulations. "New Parents" refers to a parent who has recently welcomed a newborn or adopted a child or is fostering to adopt a child and needs support to mitigate the disruption in academic progress within the first 12 weeks of parenting or a parent that needs support due to medical necessity attributed to pregnancy or delivery of a child; care of newborn; or lactation within the first year of child's life or legal adoption/fostering. Visit [Policies & Procedures - Student Rights and Conduct - Newly Parenting Policy - 3C15](#) to view the full policy and learn how to request accommodations through the Office of Equal Opportunity, Access, and Title IX Coordination (EOA).

### Technology Privacy Information

According to [OSCQR Standard #14](#), the course should include links to privacy policies for technology tools to let students know what data may be collected and if their data is secure. If you are using Blackboard, keep the privacy statement below. Add links to privacy statements for any other technology tools you are using in the course.

We will be using Blackboard in this course. View the [Anthology Blackboard Privacy Statement](#) to review how your data is being used and stored.

### Additional Support

#### 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](tel: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.

#### Academic and Other Student Services

As an enrolled SIUE student, you have a variety of support available to you, including:

- [Lovejoy Library Resources](#)
- [Academic Success Sessions](#)
- [Tutoring Resource Center](#)
- [The Writing Center](#)
- [Academic Advising](#)
- [Financial Aid](#)
- [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](tel:618-650-2842).

#### Student Success Coaches

[Student success coaches](#) work across campus to serve the SIUE student population with the tools and resources to adjust to and meet the demands of the college experience. Success coaches provide direct services such as time management support and referrals to campus resources. If you find yourself in need of academic or personal support, or in a situation that is preventing you from being successful in the classroom, please utilize [Starfish](#) to connect with a coach as soon as possible. The sooner you engage, the sooner you can access the information or tools you need that may help you get back on track.

#### Technical Support

Contact ITS at [618-650-5500](tel:618-650-5500) or at [help@siue.edu](mailto: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.

#### 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.

#### OTHER CLASS-SPECIFIC POLICIES:

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

\*\* Department of Psychology Policy on Withdrawal and Incomplete Grades

All withdrawals must be completed by the end of the 13th week of classes during fall and spring, and by a similarly late date (i.e., before 82% of class meetings have occurred) in any summer term. Grades that apply to students who initiate a withdrawal and grades that apply when a student fails to officially withdraw within established deadlines are determined by university policy (see <http://www.siu.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 SRA Policy

All students at SIUE are required to do a Senior Assignment in order to graduate. This is the class in which you will work on this project. In order to pass the Senior Assignment requirement, you must 1) pass your Capstone course with a grade of C or better, 2) present a poster based on the project you completed in the Capstone class at the Department of Psychology's Senior Assignment Poster Session, 3) have your poster deemed acceptable by the faculty (i.e., a mean rating of 3 or above on the

faculty evaluation form), and 4) fulfill any other senior assignment requirements stipulated by your professor. In the event that you do not fulfill all four requirements in a given semester, you will need to retake the Capstone course and complete all four requirements in a subsequent semester. For example, if you receive below a C in the Capstone course, even if your poster presentation is deemed acceptable by the faculty, you will fail to complete the senior assignment requirement and must retake Capstone in its entirety with a new project. If you receive a C or better in the Capstone course, but your poster presentation is deemed unacceptable by the faculty, this in most circumstances will result in having to retake Capstone in its entirety, unless the Capstone professor presents evidence to the contrary. In order to help you with this endeavor, you have several resources: your Capstone professor, the Senior Assignment Coordinator (Dr. Ro), and two Senior Assignment Graduate Assistants (Katelyn Scott and Parker Light).

This semester's Senior Assignment Poster Session will take place on **Thursday, November 30, 2023 from 3:30 – 4:45 (with a pinning ceremony to follow from 4:45 to 5:15) in the basement of Alumni Hall in the Research Hallway (back hallway by the Resource Center)**. Your attendance at this event is mandatory in order to pass Senior Assignment – please plan your schedule accordingly! In the event that a medical emergency or other extenuating circumstance (e.g., jury duty, death in the family, religious obligation) might prevent you from attending the Senior Assignment poster session you must seek approval from your capstone instructor immediately and provide documentation. Should you miss the poster session for this reason you may be required to complete an individual makeup assignment equivalent to the poster session.

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

**The SRA GAs will need to be e-mailed by ONE member of your group by November 10 (Friday) with the following information: your Capstone professor's name, the title of your poster, and the names of all other members of your group.**

Finally, students who take their capstone class in the fall may consider applying to present their research at the Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA) annual meeting in Chicago the following spring (typically late April). Having your research accepted for presentation here is extremely prestigious and will look great on your vita/resume. If your capstone work is accepted, the Department of Psychology may be able to fund part of your trip's costs, although not guaranteed. The application is typically due toward the end of October. If you are interested in this option, you need to let your capstone professor know and he/she will provide guidance with the application process. Once you commit to this presentation mode, and are accepted, at least one member of your group must attend the conference.

Once again, if you have any questions related to Senior Assignment, please email Dr. Ro ([ero@siue.edu](mailto:ero@siue.edu)) or the Graduate Assistants ([psychsra@yahoo.com](mailto:psychsra@yahoo.com)).

## \*\* Department of Psychology Writing Policy

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

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

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

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

## \*\* Writing Center Information

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

|         | Date  | Tentative Schedule   |
|---------|-------|--|
| Week 1  | 8/21  | Welcome. Arrange group. Syllabus review. Topic lecture   |
|         | 8/23  | Topic lecture  |
| Week 2  | 8/28  | In-class group time; Set proposal meetings for 9/18 & 9/20   |
|         | 8/30  | In-class group time; Senior Assignment Presentation.   |
| Week 3  | 9/4   | No class – Labor Day   |
|         | 9/6   | In-class group time<br><b>DUE:</b> CITI Certificate submission via Blackboard Assignment folder  |
| Week 4  | 9/11  | APA Style + SONA system  |
|         | 9/13  | In-class group time to finalize proposal<br><b>DUE:</b> Upload project proposal to BB by <b>Thursday 9/15 noon</b>   |
| Week 5  | 9/18  | Individually Set Proposal Meetings   |
|         | 9/20  | Individually Set Proposal Meetings   |
| Week 6  | 9/25  | Qualtrics survey finalize and get approved   |
|         | 9/27  | Qualtrics survey finalize and get approved / Start data collection   |
| Week 7  | 10/2  | Data collection  |
|         | 10/4  | Data collection  |
| Week 8  | 10/9  | Data collection  |
|         | 10/11 | Data collection<br><b>DUE:</b> Upload Introduction and Methods to BB by <b>10/12 end of day</b>  |
| Week 9  | 10/16 | Location TBD LAB-analysis  |
|         | 10/18 | Location TBD LAB-analysis  |
| Week 10 | 10/23 | Location TBD LAB-analysis<br><b>DUE:</b> All groups should let me know their measures' reliability alphas and get a pass from me!  |
|         | 10/25 | Location TBD LAB-analysis  |
| Week 11 | 10/30 | Location TBD LAB-analysis  |
|         | 11/1  | Location TBD LAB-analysis<br><b>DUE:</b> Upload Results and Discussion to BB by <b>11/2 end of day</b>   |
| Week 12 | 11/6  | Location TBD LAB-poster making<br>Set group exam times for 11/27   |
|         | 11/8  | Location TBD LAB-poster making<br><b>DUE 11/10:</b> <b>One</b> member of the group email GA ( <a href="mailto:psychsra@yahoo.com">psychsra@yahoo.com</a> ) the following information: Capstone professor's name, the title of your poster, and the names of all other members of your group.<br><b>DUE 11/10:</b> Sample posters to Dr. Ro (ONE member of your group should email your group poster's pdf) |
| Week 13 | 11/13 | poster feedback (classroom)  |
|         | 11/15 | poster feedback (classroom)  |
| Week 14 | 11/20 | Thanksgiving Week  |
|         | 11/22 |  |
| Week 15 | 11/27 | Individually arranged group exam on your research project (Mon, 11/27; some groups outside of class time)  |

|            |       |   |
|------------|-------|---|
|            | 11/29 | In-class poster session – bring posters (Each group will give a <b>5-6 minute</b> overview of their poster. Everyone must speak. There will be a 5-minute discussion period after each overview.) |
|            | 11/30 | <b>SRA Poster Session Alumni Hall 3:30 – 5:15 MANDATORY ATTENDANCE</b>  |
| Week<br>16 | 12/4  | <b>DUE:</b> Assessment Test (online, on your own); take questions about final paper   |
|            | 12/6  | <b>DUE:</b> Final Paper   |