

PSYCHOLOGY 493-001

FIELD STUDY IN PSYCHOLOGY

Fall 2026

Field Study Instructor:

Dr. Jonathan Pettibone
Psychology Department
Office: AH 0127

Phone: (618) 650-3346
e-mail: jpettib@siue.edu

Prerequisites: Must have completed at least 18 hours of psychology at SIUE, have a cumulative GPA above 2.5, and/or have consent of instructor.

Site Selection: Students may select a clinic, organization, or other professional setting in which to do their Field Study (FS). The instructor must approve the selection. Generally, the FS must be Psychology-related, and the student must be supervised by someone with at least a Master's degree or other appropriate terminal degree (in Psychology or a related field). The student should then complete a **FS Interest form** once they decide that they wish to find a site. Once approved, students may contact sites and should submit a **FS application** once a commitment from a site is obtained. Once approved, the instructor will work with the student to have them registered for the class.

Welcome to Field Study in Psychology! My hope is that your experience this semester will be a meaningful one to you personally, professionally, and academically. The objectives for this course are to:

- provide you with an opportunity to become familiar with the application of the content, principles, and techniques of Psychology in a setting outside of the classroom
- think critically and write about how what you have learned about Psychology in the classroom compares with and/or applies to what you are experiencing at your FS site
- further your academic and career goals by reflecting upon and writing about your FS experience and how it has influenced your future academic and career plans
- provide opportunities for you to demonstrate professionalism and learn/enhance other relevant skills/characteristics (i.e., collegiality)

Online Resources:

Blackboard (BB.SIUE.EDU)

Once registered for field study, all assignments, progress updates and grading will be completed using blackboard. No assignments can be submitted using e-mail. It is the student's responsibility to monitor blackboard for due dates for all assignments and progress reports. Work or reports submitted late to BB will count against your grade.

Microsoft Teams (office365.siue.edu)

While Teams is mostly used for students looking for sites, you should continue to use the chat function to communicate with me. I will also make a chat channel that all students will be added to so that you can connect with both myself and your fellow students.

Course Requirements:

- 1) Responsiveness to periodic check-up emails from Dr. Pettibone. If you receive an email or Teams message regarding your Field Study, **you should respond within 24 hours.**
- 2) Complete a syllabus quiz by **Wednesday, August 26th** that demonstrates you understand the requirements of the class and our expectations for your behavior.
- 3) Schedule a meeting with your supervisor for the 1st week of classes so that you can set expectations, create a work schedule, and review the evaluation instruments that we will use for the student and for the site (these can be found on BB). The first day you can earn hours this weekend is Monday, August 18th.
- 4) Bi-Weekly progress updates (8 in total) starting on week 2 (**Friday, September 4th**) and ending on the last week of class (**Friday, December 11th**). Note: If you complete your hours prior to the final report, you do not need to complete the remaining reports. Simply note that your hours are completed and this will serve as your final report. It is still your responsibility to complete the remainder of the assignments. Your points will be adjusted based on the number of reports you needed to complete (i.e. each report may be worth more if you only needed to make 10 instead of 14 reports). It is still your responsibility to complete the remainder of the assignments, however, on the scheduled due dates.
- 5) Hours at the site. 1 credit hour = 40 hours on site. 2 credit hours = 80 hours on site. 3 credit hours = 120 hours on site. The student and site supervisor may arrange a schedule that is mutually agreeable that does not conform to a set number of hours per week. The site supervisor and student are responsible for making sure that the total time spent totals at least the minimum number for the desired credit. All required hours must be completed by the end of the last week of classes (**Friday, December 11th**). **Students will report completed hours bi-weekly during their activity reports.** Supervisors will be contacted at the end of the semester to verify that hours were completed as indicated. If all hours are not completed by the end of the semester, except in cases in which it is the fault of the agency and Dr. Pettibone has been kept informed of the situation throughout the semester, the student's final grade will be lowered by at least one letter grade (the amount depends upon the % of hours completed).
- 6) **Evaluation of site.** Toward the end of the semester I will post a link to a site evaluation (on Blackboard). This evaluation will give me information about the quality of your experience at the site. **This evaluation is due as an assignment on Blackboard on the last day of classes.**
- 7) **Paper detailing how the Field Study experience compares to what you've learned in your Psychology classes.** This paper must be turned in as an assignment on Blackboard and is due by **Wednesday, December 16th** (finals week). A full paper description is included at the end of the syllabus.
- 8) **Evaluation by site supervisor.** The site supervisor will be asked to provide a written evaluation of the student's activities at the end of the term. I will send a link to an evaluation form to your supervisor approximately **two weeks** before the end of the semester. **I will ask the supervisors to complete these evaluations by Thursday, December 17th.**

9) Final Grade Calculations:

- Syllabus Quiz: **3 possible points** (3% of grade)
- Supervisor Evaluation: **40 possible points** (40% of final grade)
 - If your supervisor assigns you an A: 40 points
 - If your supervisor assigns you a B: 30 points
 - If your supervisor assigns you a C: 20 points
 - If your supervisor assigns you a D: 10 points
 - If your supervisor assigns you an F: 0 points
- Site Evaluation: **5 possible points** (5 % of final grade)
 - Points for the Site Evaluation are based only on whether or not you completed the evaluation in a timely way, NOT on the content of your evaluation (e.g., how positively or negatively you felt about your experience). If you complete the site evaluation in a timely way and provide a decent level of detail you will receive the full amount of credit.
- Reflection Paper: **20 possible points** (20 % of final grade)
- Progress Updates: **32 points** (4 points each; 32% of final grade)
 - These reports are mainly graded upon the effort you put into them and their timeliness. Low effort reports may be penalized, so please do your best to describe in some detail what you are working on at the site. You are required to indicate the number of hours you have completed as of each report and the total hours you have completed. Late reports will be penalized 1 point per 24-hour period past the due date.

Final Grade Scale:

A: 90 – 100 points

B: 80 – 89 points

C: 70 – 79 points

D: 60 – 69 points

F: < 60 points

- Note that **20% of your course grade is based on your final paper**. This paper will be graded based on the thoroughness and thoughtfulness of the content. Your paper grade will drop a letter for each day late, including weekends. Points are also deducted for failing to follow the paper guidelines provided on the syllabus (below) and for improper grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
- Grades will also be lowered for failure to complete required hours by the end of semester (as reported by your site supervisor in their evaluation at the end of the semester) and for failure to respond to my emails in a timely manner.

Departmental Policy on Incomplete Grades, Pass-No Pass Option, and Withdrawal.

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

Field Study Attendance / Drop Policy

Our field study program relies upon firmly established relationships with our sites. If any student compromises our relationship with a site by acting inappropriately, including, but not limited to, failure to communicate properly with site supervisor, failure to complete site hours in a timely manner, poor early reviews from site supervisor, or failure to respond to feedback at site, that student will be pulled from the field study site and dropped from the course and given a failing grade.

The Psychology Department's Policy on Plagiarism.

Plagiarism includes presenting someone else's words without quotation marks (even if you cite the source), presenting someone else's ideas without citing that source, or presenting one's own previous work as though it were new. When paraphrasing from another source or your own work, at the very least, the student should change the wording, sentence syntax, and order of ideas presented in the paper. Additionally, you should not submit a paper, or parts of a paper, written to fulfill the requirements of one class for the requirements in another class without prior approval of the current instructor and appropriate citation. Ideally, the student will integrate ideas from multiple sources while providing critical commentary on the topic in a way that clearly identifies whether words and ideas are those of the student or are from another source. Plagiarism is one type of academic misconduct described in SIUE's Student Academic Code (<http://www.siu.edu/policies/3c2.shtml>). University policy states that "Normally a student who plagiarizes shall receive a grade of F in the course in which the act occurs. The offense shall also be reported to the Provost." (<http://www.siu.edu/policies/1i6.shtml>). The University policy discusses additional academic sanctions including suspension and expulsion from the University. To insure that you understand how to avoid plagiarism, we encourage you to review the information on plagiarism provided on the Department of Psychology web page at <http://www.siu.edu/education/psychology/plagiarism.shtml>.

The Psychology Department's Policy on Writing.

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 includes a loss of points on the corresponding assignment as well as the possibility of a failing grade for that assignment.

Students with Special Needs.

If you have special physical or educational needs, I am ready to accommodate you. You will need to speak with one of us during the first week of class, provide documentation of your need, and work with the Office of the Coordinator of Disability Support Services, Student Success Center, Room 1270. According to SIUE safety and procedures policies, students with disabilities have the option of developing a written plan for evacuation in the unlikely event of an emergency that requires evacuation. If any student with a disability would like to develop a written evacuation plan for this class, please contact the instructor.

Field Study Reflection Paper Guidelines

The paper you will write is a reflection paper, not a research paper, and therefore does not need an Abstract, Introduction, Method, Results, or Discussion subsection, but otherwise should be written in APA style.

Plagiarism Policy. Note that you do not need sources for this paper, but if you use them, you must cite properly. You are responsible for being familiar with the APA Style for citations, and for how to properly cite and quote articles to avoid plagiarism. You are responsible for knowing the SIUE Psychology department plagiarism policy, located at <http://www.siu.edu/education/psychology/plagiarism.shtml>

If you have ANY questions about plagiarism after reviewing these materials, you should talk to Dr. Pettibone BEFORE turning in a paper that is potentially plagiarized. A student who plagiarizes in a Field Study will receive a grade of F and the offense shall be reported to the Provost. **"I didn't know"** is not an excuse—you should see Dr. Pettibone if you have any questions BEFORE you turn in your paper.

AI Usage Policy. You are expected to write this paper on your own, without the use of AI or LLMs. If I suspect that you have utilized AI to write your paper, you may receive a 0 for the assignment.

Paper Content. Length requirements: 3-5 double-spaced pages, not including title page or references (if you use any). The goal of this paper is to demonstrate how what you've seen at your site relates to things you have learned in your Psychology classes and to reflect on your experience. This can be a two-way street- how has your academic study prepared you for your experience in the field, and how did your field experience influence your understanding of what you've been taught. Overall, you need three of these reflections for full credit. The paper will have the following structure:

I: **Opening paragraph(s)**: describe an overview of your experience by:

- briefly summarizing the type of agency/department where you did your Field Study and what the goals/mission of that organization/department are
- briefly describe why chose that site and what you hoped to learn from it
- briefly describe your duties during your Field Study

II: **Heading that is a Psychology-related fact/finding you learned in a class at SIUE, and the class in which you learned it.** This heading will be followed by at least a paragraph detailing whether what you saw or experienced at your site is consistent with this statement, and why or why not. The headings/facts should be SPECIFIC, but not just vocabulary words. For instance, the following are appropriate facts: "The Myers-Briggs Personality Type Indicator (MBTI) is one of the most common measurements of personality. (SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY)" "During a counseling situation, the counselor acts as a listener, not as an advice-giver. (CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY)" "Antipsychotic drugs can cause side effects, specifically tardive dyskinesia (PSYCHOPATHOLOGY)". Think broadly...you can even include information you learned in your *Careers in Psychology* course, for example. NOTE: the facts/statements will ideally come from more than one course, but each does not have to come from a different course.

III-IV: **Two more Fact/Finding statements** followed by a comparison with your site experience

V: **A paragraph that wraps up** what you had hoped to gain from your Field Study experience before you started, what feel you've learned through your Field Study experience, and how this experience has influenced your academic/career goals.