

***THE PSYCHOLOGY OF HUMOR  
SENIOR CAPSTONE, PSYC 494-001  
SPRING 2022***

**PROFESSOR**

Dan Segrist, Ph.D.  
0125 Alumni Hall  
(618) 650-3159  
[dsegris@siue.edu](mailto:dsegris@siue.edu)

**OFFICE HOURS FOR DR. SEGRIST**

I am happy to meet with you via Zoom whenever you have questions or would like to discuss course material. My regular Zoom office hours are Thursdays 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. But if you'd like to meet at a different time, just email me to let me know what days/times work for you and we can set up a time to meet. The link for my Zoom office hours is:

<https://siue.zoom.us/j/92835958259>

**CLASS MEETINGS**

Tuesday & Thursday, 8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m., AH 0302

**REQUIRED AND OPTIONAL READINGS**

All readings for this course are posted on Blackboard.

**PREREQUISITES**

- Grade of "C" or better in PSYC 220 and PSYC 221
- Senior standing in Psychology

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Students will explore research, theories, and individual differences regarding humor. Students will work in teams to develop, conduct and present a research study focused on humor.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students who are successful in meeting the objectives of this course will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge related to theories of and research about humor
- Perform a literature review to facilitate the development of a research project related to humor
- Talk knowledgeably about the formulation, execution, results and implications of a group research project related to humor
- Demonstrate the skills and judgment needed to work with human participants
- Create an SPSS data base
- Run SPSS analyses and interpret results
- Demonstrate professionalism in discussing a research project in a publicly held poster session
- Work with fellow group members to create a poster summarizing their group's research project
- Write a paper summarizing their group's research project
- Demonstrate professionalism in actively working as a member of a team

## IMPORTANT RESOURCES

- Your notes from PSYC 220 and PSYC 221 will be helpful during this course
- You will need to create your group's survey in Qualtrics. Below are some resources for accessing and using Qualtrics.
  - Link to access Qualtrics: <https://www.siu.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>
- Later in the semester you will need access to SPSS: There are several ways for you to access SPSS:
  - Remote access to SPSS through SIUE's V-Lab and using your SIUE login:
    - V-Lab login: <https://www.siu.edu/its/labsclassrooms/vlab/index.shtml>
    - Windows instructions: <https://kb.siu.edu/71294>
    - Mac instructions: <https://kb.siu.edu/96570>
    - How to save files to your computer in V-Lab: <https://kb.siu.edu/71215>
    - How to open files on your computer in V-Lab: <https://kb.siu.edu/71221>
  - Download SPSS using SIUE ITS instructions:
    - <https://www.siu.edu/its/labsclassrooms/vlab/spss.shtml>
  - Download a free trial of SPSS directly from IBM. This trial lasts for **30 days**, so I recommend downloading it **around Week 9**:
    - <https://www.ibm.com/analytics/spss-trials>

## **COURSE GRADE**

### **Individual Assignments**

Syllabus Quiz	10 points
Student Introduction	5 points
Copy of IRB/Citi Training Certificate	5 points
Rate a Poster	10 points
Pop Quiz #1	10 points
Pop Quiz #2	10 points
Key Articles for Discussion/Review	30 points (15 points each)
Attendance at Group Meetings*	65 points (5 points each)
Participation (from Peer Ratings)**	30 points
Participation (from Faculty Ratings)	20 points
Individual Paper	40 points

### **Team Assignments**

Project Proposal	30 points
Draft of Lit Review and Hypotheses	20 points
Draft of Method	10 points
Draft of Results	15 points
Draft of Discussion	15 points
Team Poster Ratings from Poster Day	55 points

### **Final Grade**

A: 342 – 380 points
B: 304 – 341 points
C: 266 – 303 points
D: 228 – 265 points
F: < 228 points

\*your course grade will drop by one letter grade if you miss more than two meetings with your group (except in cases in which health-related issues or emergencies caused the absences); your course grade will drop by two letter grades if you miss more than four meetings with your group (except in cases in which health-related issues or emergencies caused the absences)

\*\*If the mean participation rating from your fellow group members is 6 – 8 your course grade will be dropped one letter grade; If the mean participation rating from your fellow group members is < 6 your course grade will be dropped two letter grades.

## EXPECTATIONS & POLICIES

- Your attendance is expected; however, please make your health and the health of others a priority. If you or your significant others are dealing with health-related issues that interfere with your ability to perform in this course, please let me know.
- This is a demanding class - you should only take this class this semester if, in addition to class time, you are able to meet with your group outside of class on at least a weekly basis.
- Participation is expected. Your group is counting on you. If you don't contribute your fair share to your group's work, you cause your colleagues to have to work harder. A lack of adequate participation could cause you to fail this course.
- Attend group meetings. Except when emergencies or health-related issues arise, you are expected to meet with your group at least once per week outside of class.
- Read assigned material. In order to discuss material with your group members and instructor as well as to generate project ideas and ask informed questions you are expected to keep up with the reading. If it becomes apparent to me that your group members have not read the assigned material, I will postpone meeting with your group until all group members have done so.
- Check your email regularly. I will frequently send emails to you during the semester and these emails will contain important information about the course and/or your group's project.
- Only in extreme circumstances and with my prior approval can late assignments be considered. Unless otherwise noted, if a late assignment is approved, it will automatically be docked one letter grade and then an additional letter grade for each day it is late.
- The timeline from project development to project completion is very tight. You and your fellow group members will need to be active and take initiative to maintain progress on your project--there is no time to waste.
- Collegiality, Professionalism, and Ethics. You are expected to conduct your data collection as well as your interactions with group members and research participants professionally. Your group is relying on you—you are expected to be dependable, reliable, and follow-through on the commitments you make. It is understandable that there may be times that you have conflict within your group; however, you are expected to deal with this in a mature and collegial way.
- Academic Honesty. Making up data, falsifying results, and plagiarizing are serious infractions that will be reported to the Provost's office and will at minimum result in an "F" in this course. For the individual paper you are required to write you may NOT work with other group members, nor can you read their papers.
- Initiative. While I am available and happy to assist you with your research, ultimately the project is yours. Consequently, it is up to you and your group members to keep your project moving forward.
- Final Grades are Not Negotiable. I do not "round" point totals on final grades. Letter grades for the course are not negotiable and will be assigned based on the Final Grade scale above.

- Fun! Enjoy this experience. My hope is that you'll find that it's exciting to put together a study, collect the data, collaborate with your peers, and take pride in your accomplishments. Look at this as a unique opportunity to use and enhance your critical thinking, research, teamwork, and presentation skills!

### **PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT SENIOR ASSIGNMENT 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:

- pass your Capstone course with a grade of C or better
- present a poster based on the project you completed in the Capstone class at the Department of Psychology's Senior Assignment Poster Session
- have your poster deemed acceptable by the faculty (i.e., a mean rating of 3 or above on the faculty evaluation form)
- 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 (Danielle Vaughn and Madelyn Jenkins).

This semester's Senior Assignment Poster Session will take place on **Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 from 3:00 – 4:15, with a pinning ceremony to follow from 4:15 to 4:45, in the Morris University Center (MUC) Conference Center on the 2nd floor. 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.

Below are important dates and deadlines for you to remember before the SRA day.

1. There will be a mandatory in-class meeting with the SRA graduate assistants during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of classes (please check your syllabus for the date). 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.
2. ONE member of your group should email the SRA GAs ([psychsra@yahoo.com](mailto:psychsra@yahoo.com)) by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of March (i.e., the week of March 14<sup>th</sup>) the following information.
  - a. Your Capstone professor's name
  - b. The title of your poster
  - c. The names of all other members of your group (PLEASE check spelling!)

Finally, you can reach Dr. Ro, the Senior Assignment Coordinator, at [ero@siue.edu](mailto:ero@siue.edu) or during her office hours (Tuesdays 1pm-2pm and Wednesdays 11am-12pm).

## **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 1270. You can also reach the office by e-mail at [myaccess@siue.edu](mailto:myaccess@siue.edu) or by calling 618.650.3726. For more information on policies, procedures, or necessary forms, please visit the ACCESS website at [www.siue.edu/access](http://www.siue.edu/access).

## **PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT POLICY ON WITHDRAWALS 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 <https://www.siue.edu/registrar/class/dropping.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.

## **PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT POLICY ON PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism includes either presenting someone else's words without quotation marks (even if you cite the source) or presenting someone else's ideas without citing that source. If you plagiarize, your instructor cannot evaluate your understanding of the topic. When paraphrasing from another source, at the very least the student should change the wording, sentence syntax, and order of ideas presented in the paper. 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.siue.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.siue.edu/policies/1i6.shtml>). The University policy discusses additional academic sanctions including suspension and expulsion from the University.

## **PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT 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 (<https://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).

## **UNIVERSITY COVID-19 POLICIES**

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

#### **Health and Safety**

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

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

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

Under current University policy, whether in the classroom, lab, studio, or other academic spaces, students (regardless of vaccination status) shall wear face coverings that fully cover the nose and mouth and practice physical distancing measures to the extent practicable based on the specific classroom capacity and pedagogy. Classroom furniture should not be rearranged, and furniture that has been taped off or covered should not be used.

Students who forget to wear a face covering will be reminded of their obligation to comply with SIUE's *COVID-19 People-Focused Health and Safety Policy* and temporarily asked to leave the class until they are able to conform to the policy. Students who forget or lose their face

coverings may be able to obtain replacements from a friend, a faculty member, or a nearby departmental office. Face coverings are also available for purchase in the Cougar Store (MUC). Students who refuse to wear a face covering will be asked to leave the classroom and referred to the Dean of Students for non-compliance with community health and safety protocols. Repeated non-compliance may result in disciplinary actions, including the student being administratively dropped from an on-ground/face-to-face course or courses without refund if no alternative course format is available.

If a student has a documented health condition which makes wearing a face covering medically intolerable, that student should contact ACCESS to explore options with the understanding that ACCESS will not grant accommodations which excuse the need for a face covering while on campus or in the classroom. ACCESS will work with qualifying individuals to find reasonable alternatives, whenever such solutions are available. Please call or contact the ACCESS Office via email to schedule an online appointment to discuss potential alternatives. ACCESS office (Student Success Center, Room 1203, 618-650-3726, and [myaccess@siue.edu](mailto:myaccess@siue.edu)).

### **General Health Measures**

At all times, students should engage in recommended health and safety measures, which include:

- Conducting a daily health assessment. If you have [COVID-19 symptoms](#), but not yet tested positive, have had COVID-19 close contact exposure, or are COVID-19 diagnosed as presumptive or confirmed positive, contact your health provider or SIUE Health Service at [cougarcare@siue.edu](mailto:cougarcare@siue.edu) or 618-650-2842. More information on reporting procedures is available [here](#).
- Frequent washing or disinfecting of hands.
- Adhere fully to the current face mask and physical distancing rules as articulated in policy: <https://www.siue.edu/about/announcements/coronavirus/safety-guidelines-support/face-mask-pick-up.shtml>
- If present, adhere to directional signs and traffic flow patterns in buildings and offices. In many spaces, doors for entering and exiting buildings are designated.

### **Academic Integrity**

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

### **Recordings of Class Content**

Faculty recordings of lectures and/or other course materials are meant to facilitate student learning and to help facilitate a student catching up who has missed class due to illness or quarantine. As such, students are reminded that the recording, as well as replicating or sharing of any course content and/or course materials without the express permission of the instructor

of record, is not permitted, and may be considered a violation of the University's Student Conduct Code (3C1), linked here: <https://www.siu.edu/policies/3c1.shtml>.

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

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

### **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).

### **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).

## TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

### January 11

- Review syllabus
- **DUE:**
  - *Student Introduction* by 11:59 p.m. on 1/11/22
  - Complete *Syllabus Quiz* by 11:59 p.m. on 1/12/22 (you may use your syllabus while taking the quiz)

### January 13

- Assignment to groups
- **DUE:**
  - Meet virtually with your group by 11:59 p.m. on 1/16/22
  - One member of your group should upload a screenshot of your group's Week #1 meeting by 11:59 p.m. on 1/16/22
  - One member of your group should email me your group's responses to items #2 and #3 on the *Capstone Group Members Questionnaire* by 11:59 p.m. on 1/16/22

### January 18

- Humor Lecture
- **READ (readings are in Required Readings folder on Blackboard):**
  - *Sense of Humor* (Martin, 2003, pp. 313-316)
  - *Personality Psychology* (Gibson, 2019, pp. 58-78)

### January 20

- Humor Lecture
- **READ (articles are in Required Readings folder on Blackboard):**
  - *Humor, Laughter, Learning, and Health*
  - *Finding Comfort in a Joke*
  - *Humor Styles and the Big Five Meta-analysis*
  - *Humor and Pathological Personality Traits*
  - *Humor Styles Predict Emotional and Behavioral Responses to COVID-19*
  - *Instructor Humor and Student Engagement*
  - *Use of Humor in the Workplace*
- **DUE:**
  - *Proof of IRB Training* – upload a copy of the certificate you IRB Training Certificate (e.g., CITI) you received during PSYC 220/221 by 8:00 a.m. on 1/20/22
  - One member of your group should upload a screenshot of your group's Week #2 meeting by 11:59 p.m. on 1/23/22

### January 25

- Group work: Brainstorming

### January 27

- Group work: Brainstorming
- **DUE:**
  - *Rate a Poster* - submit your poster ratings for the poster you were assigned by 8:00 a.m. on 1/27/22
  - One member of your group should upload a screenshot of your group's Week #3 meeting by 11:59 p.m. on 1/30/22

### February 1

- Conducting a Literature Review

### February 3

- Discuss key articles in your group
- **DUE:**
  - Key articles assignment – submit by 8:00 a.m. on 2/3/22
  - One member of your group should upload a screenshot of your group's Week #4 meeting by 11:59 p.m. on 2/6/22

### February 8

- Group work

### February 10

- Group work
- **DUE:**
  - Participation check-in (link to survey will be sent to you)
  - One member of your group should upload a screenshot of your group's Week #5 meeting by 11:59 p.m. on 2/13/22

### February 15

- Telling the class about your project
- **DUE:**
  - Submit Project proposal by 8:00 a.m. on 2/15/22

### February 17

- Lecture on Literature Review and Hypotheses sections
- **DUE:**
  - Meet virtually with your group
  - One member of your group should upload a screenshot of your group's Week #6 meeting by 11:59 p.m. on 2/20/22

### February 22

- Group work

### **February 24**

- Group work
- **DUE:**
  - Draft of Literature Review and Hypotheses due by 8:00 a.m. on 2/24/22
  - Your Qualtrics survey should be ready by 8:00 a.m. on 2/24/22
  - One member of your group should upload a screenshot of your group's Week #7 meeting by 11:59 p.m. on 2/27/22

### **March 1**

- Lecture on Method section
- Data Collection

### **March 3**

- Group Work
- Data Collection
- **DUE:**
  - One member of your group should upload a screenshot of your group's Week #8 meeting 11:59 p.m. on 3/6/22

### **March 8**

- No class – Spring Break

### **March 10**

- No class – Spring Break

### **March 15**

- Preparing your database
- Group work

### **March 17**

- Lecture on Correlation and Regression
- **DUE:**
  - Method Draft by 8:00 a.m. on 3/17/22
  - One member of your group should upload a screenshot of your group's Week #9 meeting by 11:59 p.m. on 3/20/22

### **March 22**

- Group work

### **March 24**

- **DUE:**
  - Draft of Results section by 8:00 a.m. on 3/24/22

- Participation check-in (link to survey will be sent to you)
- One member of your group should email the Senior Assignment Graduate Assistants ([psychsra@yahoo.com](mailto:psychsra@yahoo.com)) with the following information by March 26<sup>th</sup> (Friday): your Capstone professor's name, the title of your poster, and the names of all other members of your group.
- Meet virtually with your group
- One member of your group should upload a screenshot of your group's Week #10 meeting by 11:59 p.m. on 3/27/22

### March 29

- Group work
- Draft of Discussion due by 8:00 a.m. on 3/29/22

### March 31

- Group work
- **DUE:**
  - One member of your group should upload a screenshot of your group's Week #11 meeting by 11:59 p.m. on 4/3/22

### April 5

- Group work

### April 7

- Group work
- **DUE:**
  - Complete Poster Draft due by 8:00 a.m. on 4/7/22
  - One member of your group should upload a screenshot of your group's Week #12 meeting by 11:59 p.m. on 4/10/22
  - Meet virtually with Dr. Segrist and your group

### April 12

- Practice Q & A

### April 14

- Practice Q & A
- **DUE:**
  - Final draft of poster due by noon p.m. on 4/14/22
  - One member of your group should upload a screenshot of your group's Week #13 meeting by 11:59 p.m. on 4/17/22
  - Meet virtually with Dr. Segrist and your group

### April 19

- Practice Q & A

**April 20**

**SENIOR ASSIGNMENT POSTER DAY 3:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. MUC**

**April 21**

**April 26**

- **DUE:**
  - Individual Paper due by 8:00 a.m. on 4/26/22

**April 28**

- **DUE:**
  - Take Capstone Assessment Test by 11:59 p.m. on 4/28/22