

Senior Capstone – Honors Thesis

PSYC 494-HO2 Fall 2024

Instructor	Dr. Carlee Beth Hawkins	Email	carhawk@siue.edu
Office	AH 0132 or zoom (link on BB)	Phone	618-650-2253
Office Hours	Mon & Wed 11:50-12:30pm	Class Info	MW 1:30-2:45 AH0333
TA	Alyssa Cerna	TA Email	acerna@siue.edu

Course Description

Psychology is a science. The honors thesis is a year-long independent scientific project. This course will help you complete your honors thesis for the psychology major. We also explore career interests related to psychology and prepare for the graduate school and/or job application process. **Prerequisite: high performance in PSYC111, PSYC220, and PSYC221**

Course Materials (textbook required and must be purchased)

Seligman, R., & Mitchell, L. (2022). *A student guide to writing an undergraduate psychology honors thesis* (1st ed.). New York: Routledge.

SPSS software: Version 26 <https://www.siue.edu/its/labsclassrooms/vlab/spss.shtml>

7th edition APA resource: Reliable online source or physical manual (happy to advise)

SPSS resource: Reliable and cited online source or physical manual

PSYC 220/221: Your notes and any course materials from PSYC 220/221

Course Truths

- Completing a thesis is both incredibly rewarding AND incredibly challenging
- You must work hard in this class and PUSH yourself out of your comfort zone
- You WILL need help in this class from your committee, classmates, and professor
- You CAN do this!! How do you climb a mountain?

Course Objectives

This course has two primary objectives:

1. Complete a thesis from start to finish, including:
 - Understand what a thesis is and why the honors thesis is unique
 - Work independently, including motivating and disciplining yourself
 - Seek out help from committee chair, classmates, and professors
2. Practice and improve on the following skills:
 - Time management
 - Research competence and savvy
 - Oral presentation
 - Interpersonal communication
 - Self-care
 - Multicultural competence

Course Requirements and Grading

<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Point Total</u>	<u>Percent of Grade</u>	<u>Grade Breakdown</u>
Progress Reports (10*10)	100	20%	90% – 100% = A
Article Summary	25	5%	80% – 89% = B
Career Project	25	5%	70% – 79% = C

Peer Review	25	5%	60% – 69% = D
Introduction Project	50	10%	below 60% = F
Practice Proposal	50	10%	
Thesis Proposal	100	20%	
Thesis Defense	100	20%	
Final Paper	25	5%	
Total points	500 pts	100%	

Course Calendar **This calendar is a draft and subject to change**

Date	Topic	Review	Assignment (due BEFORE class)
Aug 19	What have I got myself into?	Text Ch1	
Aug 21	What is a study, really?	Text Ch3 OL Steps of Research	
Aug 26	Can I do that? How?	Text Ch2	Progress Report #1
Aug 28	Ideas discussion	Text Ch4&Ch5 OL HOMER	
Sept 2	NO CLASS – LABOR DAY		
Sept 4	Journal articles and lit searches	Text Ch5 OL Reading and Summarizing Articles	Progress Report #2
Sept 9	Article discussion	CLASS article	
Sept 11	Writing article summaries		Progress Report #3
Sept 16	Literature reviews	Text Ch7	Article Summary
Sept 18	Introductions		Progress Report #4
Sept 23	Careers & grad school discussion		Reverse Outline
Sept 25	Revising writing		
Sept 30	Project updates and IRB		Introduction Outline
Oct 2	Writing group - Introductions		Progress Report #5
Oct 7	Method and hypothesis	BB Quiz & Text Ch8	
Oct 9	Method and hypothesis	Text Ch9&OL Demos	Introduction Draft
Oct 14	Presentations & practice	Text Ch13	Introduction Draft
Oct 16	Method and hypothesis		Progress Report #6
Oct 21	Results	Text Ch10	Peer Review
Oct 23	Method and planned analysis		Peer Review Progress Report #7
Oct 28	Project updates		
Oct 30	Collecting and analyzing data		Sign up practice
Nov 4	Results, Tables, Figures	Text Ch12	
Nov 6	Discussions and final papers	Text Ch11	Progress Report #8
Nov 11	Practice props		Career Project
Nov 13	Practice props		Progress Report #9

Nov 18	Practice props		
Nov 20	Practice props		Progress Report #10
Nov 25	Thanksgiving – NO CLASS	--	--
Nov 27	Thanksgiving – NO CLASS	--	--
Dec 2	Practice props		
Dec 4	Reflections, goals, resources		
Dec 9-13	NO CLASS – FINALS		Full Thesis Proposal
Apr 30	Thesis defense with committee		Full Thesis Paper

Course Policies and Expectations (students are responsible for knowing these)

- **Late policy.** Late assignments will receive a 5% deduction. If your assignment will be late, it is your responsibility to set a new reasonable due date and notify me of when that is.
 - **NOTE.** If you are having personal struggles that prevent you from completing your work regularly, please come to office hours or schedule a time for us to talk.
- **Illness policy.** If you have any illness symptoms that cannot be explained by a chronic condition you have, PLEASE stay home. You can make up the class material online.
- **Attendance policy.** I expect you to attend 90% of our classes in person, meaning you can safely miss 3 classes (out of 28 total). If you miss, you should talk to a classmate about what was missed and be sure to attend the next class period. If you make up your work when you miss and engage while you're in class, occasional absences should be okay.
- **Open door.** My office is AH0132. If my door is open, you're welcome to drop in for help. If my door is closed, please do not disturb me unless we have a set appointment.
- **MY SIUE email.** I do my best to respond to email within a day or two. I am much better reached in person than by email. Stop by my office or see me before or after class.
- **YOUR SIUE email - weekly.** I will email you announcements and reminders about class. It is very important that you read these emails, but fine to catch up on them every few days.
- **YOUR SIUE email – before class.** In case of illness and childcare issues, I may need to move class online. Please check your email before leaving home for class.
- **Blackboard.** We will use Blackboard for course materials and submitting assignments.
- **Submitting your work using Turn It In.** Your papers and assignments will be submitted electronically through Turn It In, a plagiarism detection service to which the University subscribes. You should save your TurnItIn receipt as proof that you submitted your work on time. If you have issues with TurnItIn, you can also email me your paper for a timestamp.
- **Blackboard maintenance.** Please note that there are scheduled maintenance times for Blackboard. It is essential that you be aware of those times and make sure that you have submitted any work in progress (e.g. tests, assignments, posts to journal, wikis or discussion boards) prior to the systems being shut down for maintenance. Any work in progress will be lost when the servers go down for maintenance. Visit the Blackboard Maintenance Times (<http://www.siue.edu/its/bb/maintenance.shtml>) web site for specifics times.
- **Grades.** Student grades will be posted regularly on Blackboard. If you believe there is a discrepancy in the grade posted and the grade you received on an assignment, it is your responsibility to provide me with the graded assignment to justify any grade changes.
- **Extra credit.** Extra credit will be offered to the entire class, and not to individual students.
- **Academic honesty.** If you are involved in any case of academic dishonesty, you will earn an F on the assignment and will be reported to the Provost's office. A repeat offense will result

- in failing the class and additional reporting. Academic dishonesty cases may involve:
- **Plagiarism.** Do not plagiarize. See department policy below.
 - **Cheating.** If you are on your phone during an exam, I can only assume you are cheating. You will fail the exam and I will report academic dishonesty.
 - **AI.** 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.
 - **Giving and receiving help.** You are encouraged to study for exams with classmates and brainstorm research ideas or discuss course content. You will also work together on your survey projects. However, you SHOULD NOT work together on your papers.

Required Technology

We will use Blackboard and SPSS in this course. It is your responsibility to address any computer or internet problems that might occur. Such problems are not an excuse for delays in meeting expectations or for missing course deadlines. Support for using Blackboard and SPSS is available by calling 618-650-5500, or by visiting <http://www.siue.edu/its/bb/> At a minimum, you will need the following software/hardware to participate in this course:

- computer with an updated operating system (e.g. Windows, Mac, Linux)
- updated Internet browser (Apple Safari, Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox)
- DSL or Cable Internet connection or a connection speed no less than 6 Mbps. A secure, encrypted Wifi (requiring a login and password) is acceptable. Note that some Blackboard components will not work properly on free wifi from places like Starbucks or McDonalds.
- Microsoft Office, including Word (SIUE students get Free Office 365)
- Other useful software is available at <http://www.siue.edu/its/software/index.shtml>
- SPSS on your home computer or you can use computers on campus

Student Services

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lovejoy Library Resources • Academic Success Sessions • Tutoring Resource Center • The Writing Center • Academic Advising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Aid • Campus Events • Counseling Services • List of Student Resources • ITS (tech and Blackboard help)
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University and Psychology Department Policies

- **Psychology Department 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.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/li6.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.siue.edu/education/psychology/plagiarism.shtml>.

- We will cover how to properly read and cite sources in class. You are responsible for understanding what plagiarism is; if you have any questions at all, you should discuss them with Dr. Hawkins BEFORE you turn in a plagiarized paper. A lack of knowledge of appropriate citation and referencing format will not excuse you from point deductions from written assignments or disciplinary action in the case of plagiarism.
 - **Psychology Department policy on Incomplete Grades, Pass-No Credit Option, and Withdrawal.** It is the student’s responsibility to officially withdraw from a course through the Enrollment Office by the dates set by the university if the student is not intending to complete the course. Students who do not withdraw and have not completed the course will receive an Unauthorized Withdrawal (UW). Only under special circumstances may a faculty member agree to give the student an Incomplete (INC) grade in order to allow the student to complete the remaining work for the course no later than the end of the following semester. An INC is never automatic but must be approved by the instructor. If an instructor agrees to give a student an INC grade, the instructor and student will fill out a form (Memorandum of Incomplete Grade) indicating why an INC is being given. One copy of the completed form will be given to the student, one copy will be given to the instructor, and one copy will be kept by the Department of Psychology secretary. If the work is not completed by the specified time, the grade will be changed from INC to F.
 - **Psychology Department 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.siue.edu/is/writing>) or utilize one of the many online resources they have identified to help students (<http://www.siue.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 with the grade of 0. You will have 48 hours to return the assignment in an acceptable form; if it still fails to meet the basic writing criteria, the grade of 0 will remain.
- **SIUE Statement on disabilities.** 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. 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 or by calling

618.650.3726. For more information on policies, procedures, or necessary forms, please visit the ACCESS website at www.siu.edu/access.

- **SIUE statement on diversity.** 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 [Inclusive Excellence, Education, and Development Hub](#) is an excellent resource for students for support and community. Any person who believes they have experienced or witnessed discrimination or harassment can contact Lindy Wagner, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Inclusive Excellence, Education and Development at (618) 650-3179 or linwagn@siue.edu.
- **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).
- **SIUE nondiscrimination policy.** Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) is a public comprehensive University committed to creating and maintaining a diverse community in which students, faculty, and staff can learn and work together in an environment free of discrimination and free from any form of illegal harassment. Such actions violate the dignity of the individual and the integrity of the University as an institution of learning. SIUE prohibits discrimination against employees, applicants for employment and students on the basis of age, color, disability, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran's status. Discrimination in any form will not be tolerated; management and supervisory personnel, at all levels, are responsible for taking reasonable and necessary action to prevent discrimination.

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.siue.edu/policies/3c1.shtml>.