



**Syllabus for PSYC 205
Lifespan Development
Department of Psychology
Spring 2025; Jan 13 – Mar 7**

Instructor: Dr. Maggie Polk

Office: AH 0129

Office Hours: T/TH 11-12 in person or via zoom
OR By appointment only via Zoom (see BB for link)

E-mail: marpolk@siue.edu

TA: Bree Cunningham

TA: Nicholas Young

TAs are available to meet by appointment via zoom. Please email them to schedule a meeting.

Term: Spring 2025

Class Location: Online

Class Meeting time: Asynchronous

Email: bcunnaa@siue.edu

Email: nichyou@siue.edu

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* (11th 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 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 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.

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 XXX).

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.

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.

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. 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 includes 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.

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.

Discussions (40 points).

Each unit, you will be asked to answer two discussion questions (one question per week).

Questions will come from the textbook or lecture videos for that unit. In addition to answering the question, you will need to reply to at least two of your classmates' posts. For each discussion topic, you will have 3 posts – 1 initial post and 2 reply posts. Each week you will have 3 total posts. Your initial post is worth 3 points, and each reply post is worth 1 point (total of 5 points for each discussion thread). Your initial post will be graded either as Excellent (3 points), Satisfactory (2 points), Unsatisfactory (1 point), missing (0 point). To receive excellent, students need to fully answer the question asked, go into great detail, provide evidence from the book or lecture videos and demonstrate a good understanding of the question asked. Satisfactory answers the question as is but does not go above and beyond. Unsatisfactory fails to answer all parts of the questions or does not give an answer that demonstrates understanding. Your reply posts need to be substantial replies, meaning they need to say more than “I agree” or “disagree”. You need to point out what exactly you agree or disagree on and why.

Guidelines for discussions:

- Initial posts for discussion threads are due THURSDAYS at 11:59 p.m.
- Reply posts for discussion threads are due Sundays at 11:59 p.m. If you do not complete an initial post you will not receive credit for the reply post. ** please note this date will change for the final week**
- You must post your replies in the textbox of the discussion board – no word document submissions will be counted.
- You must sign your name at the end of your discussions. This shows you are taking accountability for you have said. If you do not include your name at the end of your posts, you will receive 1 point deduction for each post. If you consistently do not sign your name (i.e. it happens multiple weeks in a row), you will not receive credit for your discussion.

NOTE: If it appears that your discussions are being generated via AI, there will be SERIOUS consequences. All discussions should be written by YOU.

Extra credit opportunities:

There will be a welcome discussion and closing discussion that you can answer and post 2 replies for a chance to get an additional 2 extra credit points on each thread (total of 4 extra points).

You may post additional reply posts for up to 3 points of extra credit per thread. Each additional reply post will be 1 point.

Exams (150 + 65). 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 open note and open book. All exams will also use

lockdown browser. This means that you will be unable to access anything else on your screen while taking the test. Thus, if you keep your notes digitally, you will need to find alternate methods for how you can access your book. These exams will include many questions in a **75 minute period**. Any material presented in lecture, your textbook, or the articles posts are fair game for an exam. Your exams will be a mixture of multiple-choice questions and short answer questions. Exams will open up on Friday of each week at 12am and close on Sunday at 11:59p.m. **Note: Except your final exam, which will open at Wednesday 12am and close on Friday at 12:00 p.m.** You will have 75 minutes to complete the exams, except your final exam which will be 90 minutes. Exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short-answers. Mid-term exams will be graded on a 50-point scale and the final exam will be graded on a 65-point scale.

How the comprehensive make-up exam works: I do not schedule individual make-up exams for students who miss a test. 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. *Your makeup exam will take place at the very beginning of the final week of the course. Your makeup exam cannot hurt your grade, only help. It will include material from every single chapter covered.*

Syllabus Quiz (5 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. The syllabus quiz will use Lockdown Browser (the same software for your exams). It will allow you to take the quiz multiple times so that you can practice using the software. You can refer back to this quiz before your exams to ensure you have the correct software. Please note that the highest grade of your quiz taken before the due date will be included in the final grade column. Please check the course calendar for the date.

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, lecture videos, assignments, 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.

Grading

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Percentage Breakdown</u>
Syllabus Quiz	5
Discussions	40
Journal Entries	140
Reaction Papers	100
Mid-Term exams	150
Final Exam	65
Total	500

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 7th 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** (except discussion boards) must be completed and submitted via Blackboard by their assigned time. Assignments turned within 24 hours of due date will receive a **10% deduction**. Assignments turned within 48 hours of due date will receive a **20% deduction**. **Anything more than 48 hours will not be accepted and receive a 0**. Students are responsible for anticipating that technology can often fail and should be in communication with the instructor if necessary, **PRIOR** to the deadline. Assignments cannot be submitted via email unless communicated with the instructor ahead of time. If assignment is emailed without prior approval, assignment will immediately receive 20% deduction. 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 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. There is also an online form for reporting bias incidents at 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.siue.edu or by calling 618-650-2842.

COVID-19 Pandemic Policies Related to Classroom Instruction (Fall 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.siue.edu/policies/Covid.shtml>

Classrooms, Labs, Studios, and Other Academic Spaces

Under current University policy, SIUE will only require masking in campus healthcare settings. See, <https://www.siu.edu/about/announcements/coronavirus/safety-guidelines-support/index.shtml>.

Individual faculty of record may determine that masking will be required in their classrooms and are asked to communicate accordingly with students. Face masks may be required in other campus sites following guidance from governing regulatory agencies.

- Students who forget to wear a face covering when masking is required 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 when masking is required 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 when masking is required 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).

General Health Measures

Students and employees are expected to review the [siue.edu/coronavirus](https://www.siu.edu/about/announcements/coronavirus/) website (<https://www.siu.edu/about/announcements/coronavirus/>) to better understand prevention strategies and safety expectations.

- Students and employees are expected to maintain healthy hygiene practices.
- Students and employees are expected to follow COVID-related guidelines and directions.
- Students and employees are expected to conduct a daily health self-assessment and isolate themselves if COVID-related symptoms are present. COVID-related symptoms include:
 - o Fever (100.4 degrees or above) or chills
 - o Cough
 - o Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - o Fatigue
 - o Muscle or body aches
 - o Headache
 - o New loss of taste or smell

- o Sore throat
- o Congestion or runny nose
- o Nausea or vomiting
- o Diarrhea

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 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.

Course Calendar:

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

Week/Dates	Topics/Readings <i>Note: All readings and videos for each unit are available for the full two weeks. Below is a suggested break-down of how to split up topics.</i>	Due Thursday at 11:59 p.m.	Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m.
Unit 1: Week 1 1/13-1/19	Syllabus & Welcome Video Introduction to Development (Ch. 1) Biological Beginnings (Ch. 2) Article: <i>Risk Taking in Adolescence</i>	1/17 <i>Syllabus Quiz</i> <i>Welcome Discussion</i> <i>(all posts for EC)</i> <i>Discussion 1 Initial Post</i>	1/21 <i>Discussion 1 Replies</i> <i>Reaction Paper 1</i> <i>**Due to MLK holiday, your paper and replies will be due Tuesday 1/21 at noon.</i>
Unit 1: Week 2 Exam Week 1/20-1/26	Physical Development & Biological Aging (Ch. 3) <i>Watch Videos</i>	1/23 <i>Discussion 2 Initial Post</i> <i>Unit 1 Journal Entries</i>	1/26 <i>Discussion 2 Reply posts</i> Exam 1
Unit 2: Week 3 1/127-2/2	Motor, Sensory and Perceptual Development (Ch. 5) Information Processing (Ch. 7) Article: <i>Impact of Social Media Use on Executive Function (Omit Study 3)</i> <i>Watch Videos</i>	1/30 <i>Discussion 3 Initial Post</i>	2/2 <i>Reaction Paper 2</i> <i>Discussion 3 Reply posts</i>
Unit 2: Week 4 Exam Week 2/3-2/9	Cognitive Developmental Approaches (Ch. 6) Intelligence (Ch. 8) <i>Watch Videos</i>	2/6 <i>Discussion 4 Initial Post</i> <i>Unit 2 Journal Entries</i>	2/9 <i>Discussion 4 Reply posts</i> Exam 2
Unit 3: Week 5 2/10-2/16	Language Development (Ch. 9) Gender & Sexuality (Ch. 12) Article: <i>Gender Typicality, Peer Relations and Mental Health</i> <i>Watch Videos</i>	2/13 <i>Discussion 5 Initial Posts</i>	2/16 <i>Reaction Paper 3</i> <i>Discussion 5 Reply posts</i>
Unit 3: Week 6 Exam Week 2/17-2/23	Emotional Development and Attachment (Ch. 10) Self, Identity & Personality (Ch. 11, everything but identity) <i>Watch Videos</i>	2/20 <i>Discussion 6 Initial post</i> <i>Unit 3 Journal Entries</i>	2/23 <i>Discussion 6 Reply posts</i> Exam 3
Unit 4: Week 7 2/24-3/2	Moral Development (Ch. 13) Family, Lifestyles and Parenting (Ch. 14) Article: <i>What Makes a Marriage Work</i> <i>Watch Videos</i>	2/27 <i>Discussion 7 Initial Post</i>	3/2 <i>Reaction Paper 4</i> <i>Discussion 7 Reply posts</i>
Final Week Different dates!	Topics/Readings	Due Wednesday (3/5) at 11:59 p.m.	Due Friday (3/7) at NOON (12:00 P.M.)
Week 8: Unit 4 Final Exam Week 3/2-3/7	Peer Relations (Ch. 15) <i>Watch Videos</i> <i>Optional Makeup Exam open Tuesday</i> <i>Final Exam Open Wednesday</i>	<i>Discussion 8 (Initial and Reply posts)</i> <i>Unit 4 Journal Entries</i> OPTIONAL MAKEUP EXAM!	Final Exam (**remember your makeup exam does not replace final exam)

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.