



**Syllabus for PSYC 111
Foundations of Psychology
Department of Psychology
May 28- June 28**

Instructor: Dr. Maggie Polk
Office: AH 0129
Office Hours: By Appointment Only
Zoom link provided on Blackboard

Term: Summer 2024 (June Session)
Class Location: Online, Asynchronous
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Welcome

Welcome to Foundations of Psychology! This course is fully asynchronous online.

Whether you are a psychology major, non-major, or undecided, this course is for you! As you will see over the following weeks, psychology is a very diverse field that covers a variety of different areas. Have you ever wondered why people are less likely to help someone with a large gathering? Or how to break habits such as biting your nails? Or how someone is classified as having a psychological disorder? Over the course of this semester, you will answer questions like these and be exposed to a breadth of topics in psychological science including neuroscience, lifespan development, learning, memory, emotion, personality, psychological disorders, psychotherapy, and social psychology. If you are interested in learning more about these topics than what we cover in the short span in this class, consider taking more psychology courses at SIUE.

Course Objectives:

1. Examine the origins, evolution, and current state of the field of psychology.
2. Identify various subfields within the broader discipline of psychology.
3. Evaluate the role of research in psychology.
4. Articulate knowledge of the field of psychology in writing.
5. Demonstrate retention and understanding of key psychological concepts.

Textbook

Pomerantz, A.M. (2023). *My Psychology* (3rd). New York: Worth Publishers.

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 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. I STRONGLY encourage you to check your email and/or Blackboard at least once every business day to stay up to date.

Communicating with the instructor:

The most reliable 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 I receive an email outside of those business hours, please understand that that timeline may be even longer in response. If you are unable to attend office hours due to a scheduling conflict, please contact me for an appointment to meet via zoom.

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 111).
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.

Note: If you do not respect these guidelines I will not respond to your email. It is IMPERATIVE that you are professional in your email communication to me.

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.

Exams (100 points each; 300 points total)

You will complete three exams consisting of multiple-choice questions on scheduled date ranges during the semester (see Course Schedule). Each exam will only cover what is happening in that unit, including your final exam. Questions will focus on material presented during lecture videos and textbook readings. Your exams are not cumulative. Your exams will open Friday morning at 12am and close Sundays at 11:59 p.m. of their respective weeks (see Course Schedule for official dates). Your exam will be open for 60 minutes and you can take the exam anytime during the time frame. Once the exam deadline has passed, the exam cannot be made up. Your exams will be open readings and notes; however, the exam is to be taken individually, without help from anyone else. Once started, the exam must be completed in one sitting (i.e., it cannot be paused and resumed at a later time).

Please ensure that you have a reliable computer and Internet access when you choose to begin the exam. **If an exam “reset” is required for any reason, please email me while the exam is open. If the exam is reset, your final grade will be reduced by 10 percent of the exam value.** The reduction is because 1) a reset extends the time of a timed exam and 2) students are responsible for ensuring their computer and Internet access are reliable. I can’t guarantee I will see your email in time to reset an exam (especially if you email over the weekend), so please do everything you can to ensure your computer and Internet access are reliable. **Email exam reset requests at least 24 hours before an exam is due; requests sent less than 24 hours before a deadline may not be seen in time for a reset. Once the exam deadline has passed, the exam cannot be made up or reset.**

Chapter Quizzes (10 points each; 150 points total)

Chapter quizzes reinforce key topics from lecture and are similar to questions that may appear on exams. Chapter quizzes will open at the beginning of each respective unit and can be completed as you complete a chapter. They will serve as ways to apply what you learned through the chapter. You will have unlimited tries to take these quizzes until their due date, but you will see new questions each time you re-take the quiz. Please note that your grade will be based on your last quiz taken, not necessarily the highest. Deadlines are listed in the Course Schedule. Missed quizzes cannot be made up. Students may use any resources while completing quizzes.

Course Activities (50 points each; 150 points total)

Each activity will have its own unique instructions so please check blackboard for what to expect. A rubric will be provided along with the instructions. These activities will serve as creative sources to demonstrate the information you learned in each unit.

Discussions (10 points each; 90 points total)

Although this class is online, there will be lots of different discussion opportunities as this class is formatted in a way to encourage discussion participation. As such, starting Week 2** (see below for note), there will be **2 discussion threads each week** students are required to answer. The first thread will be the same every week – come up with a discussion question about something within that corresponding week’s chapter(s). You will read and watch the lecture videos, and as a result, you will be tasked with coming up with your own discussion question. This can be either something that stood out to you, something that you want to know more information about or something else that could spark discussion from that week. Your question or comment should be at least 50 words and spark conversation. You need to write more than something like “What is classical conditioning?” but rather ask a question or make a comment that could spark conversation. You should either provide some background information to what made you think about this question and/or provide an answer of your own to the question to let people know what you are thinking based on this question. Then, you will need to respond to at least one person’s question/comment to receive full credit. Your reply post should be more than just “this surprised me too” but rather add to the thread either by answering the question or providing more explanation to their comment. Your question/comment will be worth 6 points and your reply post will be worth 4 points.

The second weekly discussion will be a question I ask you to respond to. Your initial response should be at least 100 words and incorporate information from the textbook and lecture videos to

back up your response. In addition, you will need to have at least one reply post to another one of your classmates with the same expectations as for the first discussion post. 6 points for your initial post and 4 points for your reply post.

It is vitally important that our classroom environment promote the respectful exchange of ideas, including being sensitive to the views and beliefs expressed during discussions. Especially in an online course where it can feel easy to hide behind a computer screen and say whatever you want, it is extra important that you treat all of your classmates with respect. We will discuss very sensitive topics and some people may have differing opinions than you. I want you to be open to what others have to say, even if it differs from what you believe. Your success in this course will depend on your communication, consistent engagement and active participation in all course activities. Success in this course requires that you adhere to the deadlines given below as you complete assignments, discussions, and other course activities.

Please follow the following guidelines when posting on discussion boards:

- Reflect before you post an emotional response and reread what you have written to be sure it is professional. Communicate as if your comments are printed in a newspaper.
- Communicate effectively.
 - Do not use all caps or multiple punctuation marks (!!!, ???, etc.).
 - Be sure to define or explain acronyms, jargon or uncommon terms so everyone can understand and participate in the discussion.
- Sign your name. Take responsibility for your comments in order to build a strong classroom community.
- Foster community. Share your ideas and contribute to ongoing discussions. Make comments that add to, not detract from, a positive learning environment for the course.
- Be constructive. Challenge ideas and the course content, but do so in positive ways. It's fine to disagree, but when done politely you stimulate and encourage helpful discussion, and you maintain positive relationships with fellow students.
- Keep the conversation on topic. Online dialogue is like conversation. If there is a particular dialogue going on, please add to it, but if you have something new to say, start a new thread.

** Week 1, you will have one discussion thread that will ask you to pose a question that you had from the first week of information. You will not respond to a question I ask this first week, that will start week 2.

Welcome Discussion – If you answer and respond to at least 2 classmates, you can earn up to 2 points of EC in this discussion.

Syllabus Quiz (10 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. You will have 10 minutes to take the quiz.

Pre – and Post – Course Quizzes (Extra Credit)

There will be chance to earn up to 3 points of extra credit by completing these quizzes. This will be to test your knowledge before and after taking the course. They are extra credit!

Participation in Research or Article Quizzes by Psychology 111 Students

Research is the basis of knowledge in psychology and provides the content in all areas of the discipline. The Department of Psychology requires a minimum of **4 hours** of research experience of each student enrolled in PSYC 111, unless the participant pool coordinator determines otherwise. This requirement may be completed by active participation in a department-approved study, by completing article quizzes on select research articles, or a combination of these two in accord with guidelines set by the instructor. ****PLEASE NOTE THAT FOR THE SUMMER COURSE THERE ARE NO ACTIVE RESEARCH STUDIES HAPPENING SO YOU WILL HAVE TO COMPLETE THE QUIZZES****

In order to receive 1 hour of credit, you need to score 70% or higher on the quizzes. Quizzes will only be open on weekends, and will only be open for 1 hour. Once you start the timer, you cannot stop it. You can use the article associated with the quiz while you take the quiz but I strongly suggest you read it ahead of time before taking the quiz. There will be a total of 8 quizzes (2 each weekend for 4 weeks) so there will be double the amount of opportunities to achieve your 4 hours of research credit.

Failure to fully complete the research experience requirement results in a one-letter grade drop. For example, if a student earned a B in PSYC 111 at the end of the semester but failed to fulfill the research experience requirement, the student would receive a C.

Again, failure to meet the requirement at the end of the semester will lead to a reduction of one letter grade. Even if you have 3.5 credits, it will still result in a letter grade drop.

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

| Assignment | Percentage Breakdown |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Syllabus Quiz | 10 |
| Discussion (9 x 10) | 90 |
| Course Activities (3 x 50) | 150 |
| Chapter Quizzes (10 x 15) | 150 |
| Exams (3 x 100) | 300 |
| Total | 700 |

A letter grade of A, B, C, etc. will be assigned based on the following scale:

A = 90% or better (626 points or higher); B = 80-89% (556 points or higher); C = 70-79% (486 points or higher); D= 60-69% (416 points or higher); F = anything lower than 59% (415 points or lower).

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.***

Feedback and grading timeline

Discussion board grades will be posted within one week of the discussion due date. Course Activities will be posted within 1.5 weeks of the due date. Quiz and exam grades will be available upon their completion. You can find your grades for assignments by clicking the My

Grades link on the left menu of the Blackboard course. If feedback is provided, you can find it by clicking your score.

Late or Missed Assignments

Any **written assignment** 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. This only applies to written assignments (i.e., exams and quizzes do not count).

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.**

Technical Support

Since this is an online course, you are expected to have reliable Internet access on a regular basis. It is your responsibility to address any computer problems that might occur. Such problems are not an excuse for delays in meeting expectations or for missing course deadlines.

Contact ITS at [618-650-5500](tel:618-650-5500) or at 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.

Tips for taking online assessments:

- Set up a wired (Ethernet) Internet connection on your computer
- Do not use a mobile device, such as a phone or tablet
- Read the instructions and directions carefully
- Be prepared to complete the assessment in the allotted time

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.siu.edu or by calling [618-650-2842](tel:618-650-2842).

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>.

Course Schedule

| Week/Dates | Topics/Readings | Due Thursday at 11:59 p.m. | Due Friday at 11:59 p.m. | Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. |
|----------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Week 1 5/28- 6/2 | Syllabus & Welcome Video The Science of Psychology (Ch. 1) Brain and Behavior (Ch. 2) <i>Watch Videos</i> | <i>Syllabus Quiz</i> <i>Welcome Discussion (E.C.)</i> <i>Discussion 1</i> <i>Pre-Quiz (E.C.)</i> | <i>Chapter Quizzes (1 & 2)</i> <i>Research Article</i> <i>Quizzes 1&2 Open</i> | <i>Course Activity 1</i> <i>Research Article</i> <i>Quizzes 1&2 Due</i> |
| Week 2 6/3-6/9 | Sensation and Perception (Ch. 3) Consciousness (Ch. 4) Memory (Ch. 5) <i>Watch Videos</i> | <i>Discussion 2 & 3</i> | <i>Chapter Quizzes (3, 4, & 5)</i> <i>Exam 1 opens at 12am</i> <i>Research Article</i> <i>Quizzes 3&4 Open</i> | <i>Exam 1 (Chapters 1-5)</i> <i>Research Article</i> <i>Quizzes 3&4 Due</i> |
| Week 3 6/10-6/16 | Learning (Ch. 6) Cognition: Thinking, Language and Intelligence (Ch. 7) Motivation and Emotion (Ch. 8) Development Across the Lifespan (Ch. 9) <i>Watch Videos</i> | <i>Discussion 4 & 5</i> | <i>Chapter Quizzes (6, 7, 8, 9)</i> <i>Research Article</i> <i>Quizzes 5&6 Open</i> | <i>Course Activity 2</i> <i>Research Article</i> <i>Quizzes 5&6 Due</i> |
| Week 4 6/17-6/23 | Diversity in Psychology (Ch. 10) Personality (Ch. 12) Social Psychology (Ch. 13) <i>Watch Videos</i> | <i>Discussion 6 & 7</i> | <i>Chapter Quizzes (10, 12, 13)</i> <i>Exam 2 Opens at 12am</i> <i>Research Article</i> <i>Quizzes 7&8 Open</i> | <i>Exam 2 (Chapters 6-10)</i> <i>Research Article</i> <i>Quizzes 7&8 Due</i> |
| | Topics/Readings | Due Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. | Due Thursday at 11:59 p.m. | Due Friday at 11:59 p.m. |
| Week 5 6/24-6/28 | Stress and Health (Ch. 11) Psychological Disorders (Ch. 14) Therapy (Ch. 15) <i>Watch Videos</i> | <i>Discussion 8 & 9</i> <i>Exam 3 opens at 12am</i> | <i>Chapter Quizzes (11, 14, 15)</i> <i>Post Course Quiz (E.C.)</i> | <i>Exam 3 (Chapters 11- 15)</i> <i>Course Activity 3</i> |

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.