About the instructor

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Virtual Office Hours: I am happy to meet on Zoom on non-holiday business days. Please email me for a link.

Welcome and course description

Welcome to Foundations of Psychology! Our course is fully asynchronous online. The field of psychology encompasses numerous areas of study. Over the course of this semester, you will 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, many are discussed in-depth in upper-level psychology courses at SIUE.

Communicating with the instructor

We will use Blackboard as the primary communication hub for our class. Announcements, updates, grades, and other important course information will be posted to Blackboard. We will use Zoom for virtual office hours.

If you have a question not answered in the syllabus or course materials, please reach out by email. Please include a formal greeting, your course and section number, specific question(s), and who you are (first and last name). I will try my best to respond to emails that include this information within one business day, excluding holidays.

About the course

Prerequisite knowledge and credit hours

This course is worth 3 credit hours. There are no prerequisites.

Course goals and 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.

Course textbook

Pomerantz, A.M. (2019). *My Psychology* (2nd ed). 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

All additional materials will be posted on Blackboard.

Course requirements

Syllabus quiz
Complete a short quiz about this syllabus by the end of the first week. The quiz highlights important course information. You have unlimited attempts until the deadline—your highest score counts toward your final grade.

Exams
You will complete four exams consisting of multiple-choice questions on scheduled date ranges during the semester (see Course Schedule). You choose when to take the exam within the timeframe noted in the Course Schedule. Once the exam deadline has passed, the exam cannot be made up. Students have 75 minutes to complete the exam and may use their 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 later). Exams are not cumulative. Exam questions focus on material presented during lecture, which may or may not be included in textbook readings.

Please ensure that you have a reliable computer and Internet access when you choose to begin an exam. **If an exam "reset" is required for any reason, please call ITS 24/7 at 618-650-5500, any time before the exam deadline. (You may also email me at least 24 hours before the exam deadline. I cannot guarantee I will see requests emailed less than 24 hours before the deadline, on holidays, or on weekends.) If the exam is reset by me or ITS, your final grade will be reduced by 10 percent of the exam value** (i.e., 5 points will be subtracted from your final score). 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. Once the exam deadline has passed, the exam cannot be made up or reset.

Term paper
The term paper explores a subfield of psychology, chosen from a list provided by the instructor. **Upload a Word document (.docx or .doc) or PDF version of your term paper through Blackboard**. Please do not submit a link to a Google Drive or OneDrive document. Do not submit a document in Apple Pages, Google Docs, or other formats. Links, other document formats (e.g., rtf, gdoc), and emailed papers will not be accepted and receive zero points. Documents that cannot be opened (e.g., that produce an error or corrupt document message) or are blank will receive zero points. **Please carefully review your work before submitting. If you notice an error in the document you uploaded, quickly upload a corrected version and include a note about which version should be graded. (Blackboard will allow unlimited submissions until the deadline or your submission is graded, whichever occurs first).** Your document may be graded shortly after it is submitted. Once your submission is graded, you cannot upload another version, even if the assignment deadline has not yet arrived. For help with saving work in Word document or PDF format or submitting a document through Blackboard, you can contact ITS by email or through their website for assistance. Please do not wait until the last minute to submit; technical difficulties will not extend the deadline.

Web quizzes
Web quizzes reinforce key topics from lecture and are like questions that may appear on exams. Deadlines are listed in the Course Schedule. Quizzes are not timed but must be submitted by deadlines. Students have one attempt to complete each quiz.

Discussion boards
Discussion boards help students engage with course content and each other. You will participate on four discussion boards. For each discussion board, post a reply that meets the length requirement in the prompt. Students will not be able to view others' posts until their own post is submitted. More information about online discussions board requirements is available on Blackboard.

Participation in research or research 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 taking quizzes on select research articles, or a combination of these two in accord with guidelines set by the instructor. Each accepted quiz (must score 70% or above to be accepted) receives one hour of

research credit, and active participation in ongoing studies receives credit according to the length of time spent in the study, which can vary from half an hour to multiple hours.

Details of the research participation will be provided early in your class. Attendance on the day research participation is described is mandatory and you will receive in-depth instructions on how to use the SONA website (https://siue.sona-systems.com) for research participation.

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. Students who make an appointment for research participation, as do the investigators conducting the study, make a commitment to be at the designated place at the designated time for their appointment. If an emergency arises to prevent participants from being able to be at the appointed time and place, they must notify the investigator no later than one hour prior to the study time. If students fail to come to the study on time or fail to cancel with sufficient notice, they will not receive credit for that study and be marked as a "no-show." If you have more than two no-shows, you will no longer be able to register for experiments and will only have the option to complete the research article quizzes. Moreover, it is up to the investigator to decide whether and when such a participant can make an additional appointment for that particular study. Students should be aware that making a large number of appointments at the end of the semester (at the same time that hundreds of other students are trying to do so) can be difficult. It is best to fulfill the requirement well before the end of the semester.

Again, failure to meet the requirement at the end of the semester will lead to a reduction of one letter grade.

Those students who do not wish to participate in research may substitute research article quizzes for research participation. The article quizzes will give you some exposure to psychological research and acquaint you with some of the rich sources of materials where psychological studies are reported. During prescheduled times (see "Research Article Quizzes" section on Blackboard), you can read a pre-approved research article and take a quiz on said article. You must earn a 70% or greater to receive credit. Each quiz counts for 1 hour of research time. **Please watch the Research Experience Overview Video in Week 1, Module 3 on Blackboard for more information.**

Submitting work
All work will be submitted through Blackboard. Emailed assignments are not accepted.

Please use Firefox or Chrome on a desktop or laptop computer and visit https://bb.siue.edu to complete all Blackboard work. Do not use the downloadable Blackboard app, Safari browser, or a phone or tablet. These may improperly display or submit assignments. If you have tech questions, please ask ITS before beginning Blackboard work. Missing or erroneous submissions will be graded as-is, which could mean a student receives zero points for an assignment.

Technology requirements
Technical requirements for students can be found in this ITS Knowledge Base article.

Technology capabilities
Students in an online course should be able to:
- Use a word processor, such as MS Word, to compose assignments and communicate with others in class
- Attach files to course areas
- Navigate websites and course materials
- Reach out to tech support staff when issues arise and troubleshoot to resolve problems

Course policies

The Psychology Department's policy on plagiarism
Plagiarism includes presenting someone else's words without quotation marks (even if you cite the source), presenting someone else's ideas without citing that source, or presenting one's own previous work as though it were new. When

paraphrasing from another source or your own work, at the very least, the student should change the wording, sentence syntax, and order of ideas presented in the paper. Additionally, you should not submit a paper, or parts of a paper, written to fulfill the requirements of one class for the requirements in another class without prior approval of the current instructor and appropriate citation. Ideally, the student will integrate ideas from multiple sources while providing critical commentary on the topic in a way that clearly identifies whether words and ideas are those of the student or are from another source. Plagiarism is one type of academic misconduct described in SIUE's Student Academic Code (3C2). University policy states that "Normally a student who plagiarizes shall receive a grade of F in the course in which the act occurs. A plagiarism offense shall be reported to the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs" (Plagiarism (1I6)). The University policy discusses additional academic sanctions including suspension and expulsion from the University. To ensure that you understand how to avoid plagiarism, we encourage you to review the linked information on plagiarism.

Grading

A student's grade is determined by the total number of points earned during the semester while completing the following course requirements:
1. Syllabus Quiz (10 points)
2. 4 Exams (50 points each, 200 points total)
3. Term Paper (40 points)
4. 13 Web Quizzes (5 points each, 65 points total)
5. 4 Discussion Forums (5 points each, 20 points total)

There are 335 possible points.

Grades are determined by the following point ranges; percentages are listed for reference. Grades are not rounded or curved.

The final course grade will be reduced by one letter if a student does not meet the **4 research hours requirement** by participating in research studies and/or completing research article quizzes.

Grading scale

	Percentage	Points
A	100-90	**335-300**
B	89-80	**299-267**
C	79-70	**266-233**
D	69-60	**232-200**
F	59-0	**199-000**

A minimum of 300.00 points is required to earn an A, 267.00 to earn a B, 233.00 to earn a C, and 200.00 to earn a D.

Please promptly bring any potential grading errors to the instructor's attention. Grades will generally not be modified if more than one week has passed since a grade was posted or after the last non-finals-week day of the semester.

Feedback and grading timeline

Discussion board grades will be posted within one week of the discussion due date. Quiz and exam grades will be available upon their completion. Exam questions and answers may be reviewed after the exam deadline. The term paper may take longer than one week to grade. 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.

Artificial intelligence

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools and applications (e.g., ChatGPT) to produce content for course assignments and assessments is a violation of SIUE's academic policy, is prohibited, and will be treated as academic misconduct in this course. Plagiarism and AI detection software may be used to analyze submitted work.

Late or missed assignments

Assignments are due by the dates and times listed in the Course Schedule, unless the instructor announces a modified deadline. An assignment is late if it is submitted one second after the deadline (e.g., an assignment due at 3:00 p.m. that is submitted at 3:00:01 p.m. is late). Blackboard timestamps will be used to determine submission times. Emergencies (such as, but not limited to, technology or Internet problems and illness) do not exempt students from this policy. Please plan ahead for potential emergencies by completing assignments soon after they become available; do not wait until a deadline is near to submit work. Please submit all assignments through Blackboard. Emailed assignments are not accepted. **No late work is accepted, no exceptions. Assignments that are late or missed receive zero points. Please do not request to make up missed assignments.**

No modification to course material availability

Course material, including assignments, will be available during the dates listed in the Course Schedule, unless the instructor announces a modification for the entire class. Students who remain enrolled in this course agree they must complete related work within the dates presented in the Course Schedule. Availability dates will not be modified for individual students (e.g., early or extended access is not available for individual students). Please do not request modifications to course material availability.

Accommodations statement

Students needing accommodations because of medical diagnosis or major life impairment will need to register with Accessible Campus Community and Equitable Student Support (Access) and complete an intake process. Access is in the Student Success Center, Room 1203, myaccess@siue.edu, 618-650-3726. Students with accommodations should discuss these with the instructor at the beginning of the course.

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 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

Course Schedule

Week (begins on Mondays, 12:01 am CST)	Learning Activities	Assignments	Due Dates (by Sunday, 11:59 pm CST)
Week 1, Module 1 Welcome and Introduction	• Read syllabus and familiarize yourself with communication policy • View course introduction video	• Syllabus Quiz • Introduce Yourself discussion board	8/25
Week 1, Module 2 Term Paper Introduction	• Read the Subfields of Psychology document • View term paper overview video • Compare and contrast the 16 subfields	• Identify one subfield as the subject of your term paper	8/25
Week 1, Module 3 Research Requirement and SONA	• View SONA research participation resources • View Research Experience Overview Video	• Sign up for SONA	8/25
Week 1, Module 4 The Science of Psychology	• Read Pomerantz, Chapter 1 • View The Science of Psychology lecture videos (2 parts) and slides	• Web Quiz 1: The Science of Psychology, Ch. 1	8/25
Week 2, Module 5 Brain and Behavior	• Read Pomerantz, Chapter 2 • Watch Brain and Behavior lecture videos (2 parts) and slides • View optional video: Meet Your Master - Getting to Know Your Brain	• Web Quiz 2: Brain and Behavior, Ch. 2	9/1
Week 2, Module 6 Development Across the Life Span	• Read Pomerantz, Chapter 9 • Watch Development Across the Life Span lecture videos (2 parts) and view slides	• Web Quiz 3: Development Across the Life Span, Ch. 9	9/1
Week 2, Module 7 Exam 1 and Discussion 1	• Prepare for Discussion 1 and Exam 1	• Discussion Board 1 • Exam 1	9/1
Week 3, Module 8 Learning	• Read Pomerantz, Chapter 6 • View Learning lecture videos (2 parts) and slides	• Web Quiz 4: Learning, Ch. 6	9/8
Week 3, Module 9 Memory	• Read Pomerantz, Chapter 5 • View Memory lecture videos (2 parts) and slides	• Web Quiz 5: Memory, Ch. 5	9/8
Week 4, Module 10 Intelligence	• Read Pomerantz, Chapter 7 (read "Intelligence" section) • View Intelligence lecture videos (2 parts) and slides	• Web Quiz 6: Intelligence, Ch. 7	9/15
Week 4, Module 11 Discussion 2 and Exam 2	• Prepare for Discussion 2 and Exam 2	• Discussion Board 2 • Exam 2	9/15

Week (begins on Mondays, 12:01 am CST)	Learning Activities	Assignments	Due Dates (by Sunday, 11:59 pm CST)
Week 5, Module 12 Psychology at Work	• Read Psychology at Work supplemental chapter • View Psychology at Work lecture videos (2 parts) and slides	• Web Quiz 7: Psychology at Work	9/22
Week 5, Module 13 Emotions, Stress, and Health	• Read Pomerantz, Chapter 8 (read "Emotion" section) and Chapter 11. • View Emotions, Stress, and Health lecture videos (2 parts) and slides. • View optional videos: ○ Feeling All the Feels ○ Emotion, Stress, and Health Crash Course	• Web Quiz 8: Emotions, Stress, and Health (Chs. 8 and 11)	9/22
Week 6, Module 14 Social Psychology	• Read Pomerantz, Chapter 13 (skip "Social Relations" section) • View Social Psychology lecture videos (2 parts) and slides • Watch supplemental videos	• Web Quiz 9: Social Psychology, Ch. 13	9/29
Week 6, Module 15 Personality	• Read Pomerantz, Chapter 12 • View Personality lecture videos (2 parts) and slides	• Web Quiz 10: Personality, Ch. 12	9/29
Week 6, Module 16 Discussion 3 and Exam 3	• Prepare for Discussion Board 3 and Exam 3	• Discussion Board 3 • Exam 3	9/29
Week 7, Module 17 Psychological Disorders and Term Paper	• Read Pomerantz, Chapter 14 • View Psychological Disorders lecture videos (5 parts) and slides	• Web Quiz 11: Psychological Disorders, Chapter 14 • Term Paper	10/6
Week 8, Module 18 Therapy	• Read Pomerantz, Chapter 15 • View Therapy lecture videos (2 parts) and slides	• Web Quiz 12: Therapy, Ch. 15	**Friday, 10/11**
Week 8, Module 19 Psychology Show-and-Tell	• View Psychology Show-and-Tell lecture video and slides • View supplemental videos	• Respond to in-video prompts • Web Quiz 13: Show-and-Tell	**Friday, 10/11**
Week 8, Module 20 Exam 4 and Discussion 4	• Prepare for Discussion Board 4 and Exam 4	• Discussion Board 4 • Exam 4	**Friday, 10/11**

Subject to change notice

All material, assignments, and deadlines are subject to change with prior notice. Students are responsible for staying in touch with their instructor, reviewing the course site regularly, or communicating with other students to adjust as needed if assignments or due dates change.