

Foundations of Psychology

PSYC 111-001 (3 credit hours), Fall 2024
Mondays & Wednesdays, 1:30 – 2:45 p.m., Peck Hall 2304

Contact Information

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Welcome & Bio

I hope you are excited for our class! I earned my undergraduate degrees in Psychology and Sociology from Northern Arizona University and went on to receive a master's degree in psychology and a Ph.D. in Family and Human Development from Arizona State University. I am a developmental and social psychologist by training and my research surrounds gender role attitudes, sexism, masculinity, and romantic relationships broadly. I have been teaching for the past 4 years and enjoy teaching psychological concepts to students!

I. Readings

A. Pomerantz, A. M. (2023). *My Psychology* (3rd ed.). Worth Publishers.

****The eBook is required, but hardcopies of the textbook are also available through Textbook Services.**

B. Additional readings posted on Blackboard

II. Course Description

Welcome to Foundations of Psychology! 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.

III. Course Objectives for Students

1. Understand the origins, evolution, and current state of the field of psychology
2. Be introduced to major subfields within the broader discipline of psychology
3. Develop critical thinking skills used by psychologists to question assertions and make evidence-based, not emotional, decisions
4. Appreciate the role of research in psychology by participating in psychological research studies and/or completing research article quizzes
5. Effectively communicate knowledge of the field of psychology in writing

IV. Course-Specific Policies

Blackboard

We will use [Blackboard](#) as the online communication hub for our face-to-face class. Announcements, updates, grades, some readings, and other important information will be posted to Blackboard. Assignments and exams will be submitted through Blackboard. Please check Blackboard daily throughout the semester.

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 and is prohibited.

Class Attendance and Expectations

Students are responsible for ascertaining the policies of instructors regarding absences from class. (Please see university policy 119.)

Attendance will only be taken on the first day of class. (Please see the [First Class Meeting Attendance and Late Course Add Policy](#).) To maximize learning and performance on exams, students are strongly encouraged to attend all class sessions and actively take notes during lecture. Quizzes and exams are written to emphasize the topics, terminology, explanations, and examples presented in class—some of which are not in the textbook.

Please come to class ready to learn and participate. A student who is ready to learn has turned off or silence electronic devices (with the exception of a laptop or tablet exclusively for note taking) and is alert, awake, and focused (e.g., not sleeping, texting, browsing, engaging in conversation with others). (Please see the [Classroom Distractions](#) policy for additional information.)

Please actively participate! Ask and answer questions during class. Contribute to discussions. Visit the instructor during office hours. Email with questions. This will ensure your success in this class 😊

Video, photographic, and audio recording of class sessions are prohibited. (Please see university policies 1L15 and 3C1.)

Please demonstrate respect and professionalism toward everyone in our class.

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 **6 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) (<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 6-hour requirement well before the end of the semester.

Again, failure to meet the 6-hour 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. The article quizzes will be posted on Blackboard during the second half of the semester. During prescheduled times (see 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.

V. Assignments, Exams, and Grading

Late Work and Missed Assignments

Assignments are due by the dates and times listed in the Course Schedule, unless the instructor announces a modified deadline. Please submit all assignments through Blackboard, unless instructed otherwise. Emailed assignments are not accepted. Late work (excluding quizzes and exams) will be accepted at 25% reduction in points the first day late, and 50% reduction in points the second day late, but late work will **not** be accepted after two days. In other words, you have two 24-hour cycles to submit your late work for either 25% or 50% reduction in points before receiving a zero on your assignment. **Exams and learning curve quizzes will not be accepted late.** To maintain a passing grade, I strongly encourage you to submit assignments on time.

Assignments

1. Syllabus Quiz

The syllabus quiz asks questions about this syllabus and any introductory documents posted on Blackboard. You have unlimited attempts until the deadline—your highest score counts toward your final grade.

2. Learning Curve Quizzes

There will be 30 learning curve quizzes that reinforce key topics from the textbook in an adaptive, learning format. Deadlines are listed in the [Course Schedule](#). Learning curves can be opened and continued, but still must be finished by the deadline in order to receive points. You will be graded on either completing the assignment (5 pts) or not completing it (0 pts). Quizzes will appear in Blackboard and are accessed through the eBook's Achieve platform.

3. Exams

There are four multiple-choice exams (see [Course Schedule](#) for dates). Exams are not cumulative. Questions focus on material presented during lecture, which is not always included in textbook readings. Each exam will be available on **Blackboard for completion for 48 hours** (the day of the scheduled class and the following day). **There is no time limit for the exams, but you will only have one chance to complete the exam.** Students are encouraged to prepare for the exam as if no resources (notes and textbook) are available, although these materials are allowed. Use of online resources, such as Google or other search engines, are not allowed.

Tips for taking online assessments:

- Plan to complete Exams when an internet connection is typically stable
- Choose a time to complete the Exam when distractions are limited
- Do not use a mobile device, such as a phone or tablet
- Read the instructions and directions carefully

****Makeup exams are only given in cases of emergency. Any makeup exam will be open during finals week. Only 1 makeup exam for the class will be allowed. You will not be allowed to take a makeup exam if you email me after the exam deadline.**

4. Term Paper

The term paper explores a subfield of psychology, chosen from a list provided by the instructor. Please see the "Term Paper" folder on Blackboard for detailed instructions and a submission link. **Upload a Word document (.docx or .doc) or PDF version of your term paper through Blackboard/Turnitin.** 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/Turnitin 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/Turnitin, 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.

Turnitin plagiarism detection software may be used to analyze submitted term papers. In addition to detecting traditional plagiarism, this software can also identify if an AI tool (e.g., ChatGPT) was used to generate content. You may not use an AI tool to compose any part of the term paper. [Find out more about using Turnitin.](#)

5. In-Class Extra Credit Opportunities

In-class activities are unannounced, in-class participation opportunities that may count as extra credit. Each activity is worth 2 points. Students who are in class on the day of an activity will receive credit for participating. Attendance taken during the first week of class will not be considered for extra credit.

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 (60 points each, 240 points total)
3. Term Paper (40 points)
4. 30 Learning Curve Quizzes (5 points each, 150 points total)

There are 440 possible points.

Note: Final course grade will be reduced by one letter if a student does not meet the 6 research hours requirement by participating in research studies and/or completing research article quizzes.

	Percentage	Points
A	100-90	440-396
B	89-80	395-352
C	79-70	351-308
D	69-60	307-264
F	59-0	263-0

VI. Course Schedule

All material, assignments, and deadlines are subject to change with prior notice. "POM" in Readings column is Pomerantz (2019), our textbook. Not all sections of assigned chapters may be discussed in lecture.

*****All assignments and exams are due at 11:59pm unless stated otherwise*****

Date	Topics	Readings	Assignments/Exams
Week 1 8/19 & 8/21	Welcome! Syllabus Term paper introduction	Syllabus Term paper instructions	
	The Science of Psychology	POM Ch. 1	
Week 2 8/26 & 8/28	The Science of Psychology (cont.)		Syllabus Quiz due 8/26 Learning Curves 1a-1c due 8/26
	Research Requirement & SONA Brain and Behavior	"Research Experience" folder POM Ch. 2	Sign up for SONA in class
Week 3 9/2 & 9/4	No Class - Labor Day Brain and Behavior (cont.)		Learning Curves 2a-2b due 9/4
Week 4 9/9 & 9/11	Development Across the Lifespan Development Across the Lifespan (cont.)	POM Ch. 9	Learning Curves 9a-9c due 9/11
Week 5 9/16 & 9/18	Exam 1 – No class Learning	POM Ch. 6	Exam 1 (Ch. 1, 2, 9) due on 9/17

Week 6 9/23 & 9/25	Learning (con.t)		Learning Curves 6a-6c due 9/23
	Memory	POM Ch. 5	
Week 7 9/30 & 10/2	Memory (cont.)		Learning Curves 5a-5b due 9/30
	Cognition: Intelligence	POM Ch. 7, read only "Intelligence" section	Learning Curve 7c due 10/2
Week 8 10/7 & 10/9	Psychology at Work	Reading posted on Blackboard	*No Learning Curves
	Exam 2 – No class		Exam 2 (Ch. 6, 5, 7, Psyc at Work) due on 10/10
Week 9 10/14 & 10/16	Emotions, Stress, and Health	POM Ch. 8 (read "Emotion" section) and Ch. 11	
	Emotions, Stress, and Health (cont.)		Learning Curves 8b and 11a-11b, due 10/16
Week 10 10/21 & 10/23	Social Psychology	POM Ch. 13	
	Social Psychology (cont.)		Learning Curves 13a-13b due 10/23
Week 11 10/28 & 10/30	Personality	POM Ch. 12	
	Personality (cont.)		Learning Curves 12a-12c due 10/30
Week 12 11/4 & 11/6	Diversity in Psychology	POM Ch. 10	
	Diversity in Psychology (cont.)		Learning Curves 10a-10b due 11/6
Week 13 11/11 & 11/13	Exam 3 – no class		Exam 3 (Ch. 8, 10, 11, 12, 13) due on 11/12
	Psychological Disorders Term Paper	POM Ch. 14	Term Paper due Wed. 11/13; upload Word/PDF to Blackboard
Week 14 11/18 & 11/20	Psychological Disorders (cont.)		
	Psychological Disorders (cont.)		Learning Curves 14a-14d due 11/20
Week 15 11/25 11/27	No Class – Thanksgiving		
	No Class – Thanksgiving		
Week 16 12/2 & 12/4	Therapy	POM Ch. 15	
	Therapy (cont.)		Learning Curves 15a-15b due 12/4 Exam 4 during finals week

Finals Week:

Exam 4 (Ch. 14, 15) – No class

Opens 12/11 at 12:00am, closes on 12/12 at 11:59pm

VII. General Policies

A. Department

Department of Psychology Policy on Incomplete Grades and Withdrawal

All withdrawals must be completed by the end of the 13th week of classes during fall and spring, and by a similarly late date (i.e., before 82% of class meetings have occurred) in any summer term. Grades that apply to students who initiate a withdrawal and grades that apply when a student fails to officially withdraw within established deadlines are determined by university policy (see <https://www.siu.edu/policies/1j1.shtml>). The granting of a grade of I (Incomplete) is not automatic. It is available only in cases when a student has completed most of the work required for a class but is prevented by a medical or similar emergency from completing a small portion of the coursework before the deadline for grade submission. An I must be approved by the instructor with appropriate documentation provided by the student. If an instructor agrees to give a student an I, the instructor will fill out a Memorandum of Incomplete Grade to be kept with the student's records. If the work is not completed by the time specified on the Memorandum, the student's grade will be changed from I to F.

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 (<https://www.siu.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" (<https://www.siu.edu/policies/1i6.shtml>).

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.

B. Attendance

Absence Policy: Non-exam Days

Students who need to be absent do not need to notify the instructor. If absent, please:

- check the syllabus and [Blackboard](#) for topics covered, assigned readings, and announcements. Students are also encouraged to check with a classmate for any missed in-class announcements.
- **review the Course Schedule in the syllabus and any announcements and complete any assignments that are due.** Even though a student is absent, deadlines for assignments remain the same. Please submit assignments through [Blackboard](#) unless other instructions are provided.
- contact a classmate and ask to copy notes for missed classes. The instructor does not provide notes beyond those posted to [Blackboard](#).
- ask a classmate about any in-class discussions and activities. Unless stipulated otherwise in this syllabus, students cannot earn or make up participation or attendance points awarded while absent. Obtaining notes about discussions and activities from another student is encouraged.

- remember that virtual attendance is not available for this in-person course. (Please see “Face- to-face Course Delivery Policy” section for more information.)

First Class Meeting Attendance and Late Course Add Policy

The first class meeting of the semester includes review of the syllabus and discussion of course policies and requirements. An opportunity to ask questions about this information is provided. Because of the importance of this information, first-day attendance is required. Students not physically in attendance for the first class meeting may be dropped from the course. Students who have a substantive reason for missing the first class must email the instructor prior to the first class to request they remain enrolled. No course adds will be approved by the instructor after the first week of the semester. Students who miss the first class meeting but are enrolled are responsible for acquiring missed information from a classmate.

Extended Absences Due to Serious Illness, Life Circumstances, Etc. Policy

Students who, because of serious illness, life circumstances, etc., find it necessary to miss many class sessions and are not able to complete assignments by deadlines (please see [Absence Policy: Non-exam Days](#)) are encouraged to withdraw from this course and reenroll in a subsequent semester when they can perform at their best. Students who remain enrolled in this course acknowledge that the [Late Work](#) and other related policies will apply in all circumstances. Please see the [Department of Psychology Policy on Incomplete Grades and Withdrawal](#) for related information about course withdrawal deadlines.

C. Accommodations

University policies and guidance that address teaching, learning, and student support services are available at: <https://kb.siue.edu/132378> Students are encouraged to visit this resource site for current information on:

- Regular and Substantive Interaction
- Recordings of Class Content
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Pregnancy and Newly Parenting Policy
- Services for Students Needing Accommodations (ACCESS)
- Academic and Other Student Services (Library, Academic Success, Tutoring, etc.)
- Cougar Care
- Student Success Coaches

D. Behavior

Email Etiquette

I am a fan of professional correspondence. When you email, please share the following information. It helps me provide a quick, meaningful response:

- A formal greeting (Hi Dr. Jenkins, Prof. Jenkins, Dear Dr. J, etc.)
- Course and section number (listed in the syllabus and on Blackboard)
- Who you are (first and last name, please)
- Professional language

I will try my best to respond within one business day to messages that include the above information.

No Rounding or Individualized Extra Credit

Final letter grades are based on total points earned and the grading table in the syllabus. Please don't request rounding or curving. The instructor may deduct points from students who ask. Occasionally, the instructor may offer extra credit opportunities to the whole class. (Extenuating circumstances, such as a specific number

of volunteers needed at specific times, may limit ability to participate.). Please don't ask for individualized extra credit. The instructor may deduct points from students who ask.

Use Firefox or Chrome to Complete Coursework on Blackboard

Please use [Firefox](#) or [Chrome](#) (these browsers work best) 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 cell 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 0 points for an assignment.

Classroom Distractions

Students have the right to a classroom free of substantive distractions that may adversely impact their ability to learn, including distractions from fellow students. The instructor reserves the right to provide informal corrective feedback to disruptive students, potentially in front of the entire class. Students who anticipate that such an interaction might lead to embarrassment or frustration are encouraged to be mindful of their behavior to prevent the need for such feedback. Extreme or repeated disruptions may be referred to the Department Chair or Office of Student Conduct.

Personal Disclosures Policy

Students are encouraged not to disclose personal (e.g., healthcare) information to the class. If they choose to share personal information about themselves or people they know, they should anonymize such statements. For example, substitute "a person," "a man," "a teenager," etc. for identifying names or relationships. As a reminder, disclosures made in class are not confidential. The instructor may discuss de-identified clinical examples. Use of de-identified cases for didactics is permitted by the Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct.