

Foundations of Psychology PSYC111-001 Fall 2025

Room: Science East 3126 Time: Tuesday & Thursday 2:00 – 3:15pm Credit Hours: 3

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

Course Description:

Welcome to Psychology 111. Course will provide the student with a basic understanding of psychology. Theories and research relating to emotions, abnormal behavior, motivation, learning, personality, methods of therapy, biology and behaviors, developmental psychology, and social psychology will be discussed. Psychology is ultimately the study of people, so it's important for everyone to see how the topics covered in this course apply to the real world of everyday life. We will see that there are some basic psychological processes (e.g., biological, emotional, social) that apply to everyone and other aspects of psychology that vary across different people. In addition, this course is conducted entirely online, which will require you to carefully organize your time and you work to avoid getting behind. I will do all I can to assist you with this, but the responsibility is ultimately yours – be sure to contact me immediately with any concerns about the course or your progress through it.

Goals:

1. Characterize the nature of psychology as a discipline.
 - a) the appreciation of the scientific and philosophic roots of psychology.
 - b) the appreciation of the primary objectives of psychology.
2. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of selected content areas of psychology.
 - a) theories and research representing each of the four general domains (e.g., biological, cognitive, social, and clinical).
 - b) the history of psychology
 - c) overarching themes, persistent questions, or enduring conflicts in psychology (e.g., nature versus nurture, mind versus brain).
3. Use the concepts, language, and major theories of the discipline to account for psychological phenomena.
4. Explain major perspectives of psychology (e.g., behavioral, biological, cognitive, evolutionary, humanistic, psychodynamic, and sociocultural).

Class Format and Requirements:

The course format will consist of lectures, readings, quizzes, activities, exams, and an assignment. The readings will complement the lecture materials. However, some things will be covered in lecture that will not be covered in the book. You are responsible for learning everything that is covered in class. The best strategy will be to complete the assigned reading before the class lecture on that topic (see below – Tentative Class Schedule).

The notes posted are only an approximation of what will be covered in class. The material on the notes will always be incomplete. **The best strategy is to print out the notes before class, bring them to class, and then write additional notes on top of them.**

Requirements for Satisfactory Completion of Course:

There will be 14 online quizzes, 6-8 in-class activities, 4 in-class exams, and 1 assignment.

Quizzes consist of 4 questions, usually given online at the end of each section (e.g., Introduction of Psychology). Activities consist of either short-answer and fill-in blank questions, usually given in class. The mid-term exams and the final exam will each consist of 30 questions. All questions will be multiple-choice format. Those exams are NOT open/book or open/note. Exam grades will be posted approximately one week after the exam in class. **Exams will not be handed back; instead students may go over their exams during my office hours.** If you must miss an exam because of a personal/family emergency or illness you must notify me as soon as possible AND provide adequate documentation of the event that caused you to miss the exam. The makeup exam will consist of short answer questions in addition to multiple-choice questions. There will be NO opportunity to make up the final exam after it is given in class.

For the assignments, you will be required to write up to 6-7 pages paper (including a reference pages). The assignment will involve searching the literature (references) and providing a critical assessment. More information on the assignment will be provided before the first exam.

Methods for Evaluating Student Performance: The weighting will be given as follows:

| | |
|---|------------|
| Quizzes and Activities | 25% |
| Exam 1 (September 11th) | 15% |
| Exam 2 (October 9th) | 15% |
| Exam 3 (November 6th) | 15% |
| Final Exam (TBA) | 15% |
| Assignment (December 4th) | 15% |

I will use the following scale to assign letter grades:

| | | |
|------------------|------------------|-----------|
| 90 and above = A | 80-89 = B | 70-79 = C |
| 60-69 = D | 59 and below = F | |

Use of Technology/Internet Resources:

Students may use a variety of research sources in the development of assignments, including published and Internet available resources. Standard publications from scholarly books and journals should be used as your primary sources, with Internet sources providing useful *supplemental* support.

Assignments **may not** be based solely on Internet sources. Furthermore, students must be cautious in the use of reliable Internet sources. If in doubt about the quality or accuracy of a source, do not use it. For information on proper citation for Internet sources, please use the following site:

www.apa.org/journals/webref.html#Web

Departmental Policy on Incomplete Grades and Withdrawal Options:

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. When students discontinue attending class and do not withdraw from a course they may receive the grade of UW (Unauthorized Withdrawal). The grade of UW will only be given when a student's grade based on the course requirements is an F. The grade of UW is calculated as an F in a student's grade average.

The granting of a grade of I (Incomplete) is not automatic and 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 work not later than the end of the following semester. 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.

Recordings of Class Content:

Faculty recordings of lectures and/or other course materials are meant to facilitate student learning and to help facilitate a student catching up who has missed class due to illness or quarantine. As such, students are reminded that the recording, as well as replicating or sharing of any course content and/or course materials without the express permission of the instructor of record, is not permitted, and may be considered a violation of the University's Student Conduct Code (3C1), linked here:

<https://www.siue.edu/policies/3c1.shtml>.

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 1270. You can also reach the office by e-mail at myaccess@siue.edu or by calling 618.650.3726. For more information on policies, procedures, or necessary forms, please visit the ACCESS website at www.siue.edu/access.

Course Rules:

1. Late work All deadlines are firm; no late work will be accepted.
2. Communication If I need to contact you, I will do so via SIUE email. You are responsible for checking your SIUE email daily. Checking your SIUE email will also ensure that you get important departmental announcements.
3. Blackboard All administration of this course will take place via Blackboard.
4. 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, may also include, 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 instructor approval and appropriate citation. Ideally, the student will integrate ideas from multiple sources while providing critical commentary on the topic in a way that clearly identifies whether words and ideas are those of the student or are from another source. Plagiarism is one type of academic misconduct described in SIUE's Student Academic Code (<http://www.siue.edu/policies/3c2.shtml>). University policy states that "Normally a student who plagiarizes shall receive a grade of F in the course in which the act occurs. The offense shall also be reported to the Provost." (<http://www.siue.edu/policies/1i6.shtml>). The University policy discusses additional academic sanctions including suspension and expulsion from the University. To insure that you understand how to avoid plagiarism, we encourage you to review the information on plagiarism provided on the Department of Psychology web page at <http://www.siue.edu/education/psychology/plagiarism.shtml>.
5. Academic Honesty ANY case of academic dishonesty will receive the recommended university policy: failure of the course and reporting of the case to the Provost.
6. 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;
 - verb tense consistency;
 - clear and unambiguous sentences and ideas;
 - writing that is free of typos, spelling errors, and major grammatical errors;
 - properly formatted citations and references (if relevant).

This is by no means an exhaustive list of basic writing skills, but will give you an idea of what we are looking for in our papers. If you feel you need help with your writing, you are encouraged to seek assistance from the writing center on campus (<http://www.siue.edu/is/writing>) or utilize one of the many online resources they have identified to help students (<http://www.siue.edu/is/writing/resources.shtml>). If your graded written assignments fail to meet the basic writing requirements listed above (and any others found to be appropriate by your instructor), the instructor will stop the grading process and return the paper to you with the grade of 0.

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.

Tentative Class Schedule

| Date | Topic | Corresponding Reading |
|---------------------|---|---|
| 8/19 8/21 | Syllabus Introduction of Psychology | Ch.1 (Quiz#1) |
| 8/26 8/28 | Research Methods in Psychology The Biology of Mind | Ch.1 (Quiz#2) |
| 9/2 9/4 | The Biology of Mind (continued) Learning | Ch.2 (Quiz#3) |
| 9/9 9/11 | Learning (continued) Exam 1 | Ch.6 (Quiz#4) Ch.1, 2, 6 |
| 9/16 9/18 | Cognitive Processes Memory | Ch.7 (Quiz#5) |
| 9/23 9/25 | Memory (continued) Motivation and Emotion | Ch.5 (Quiz#6) |
| 9/30 10/2 | Motivation and Emotion (continued) Stress and Health | Ch.8 (Quiz#7) |
| 10/7 10/9 | Stress and Health (continued) Exam 2 | Ch.11 (Quiz#8) Ch.5, 7, 8, 11 |
| 10/14 10/16 | Personality | Ch.12 (Quiz#9) |
| 10/21 10/23 | Psychological Disorders | Ch.14 (Quiz#10) |
| 10/28 10/30 | Therapy | |
| 11/4 11/6 | Therapy (Continued) Exam 3 | Ch.15 (Quiz#11) Cp.12, 14, 15 |
| 11/11 11/13 | Social Psychology Part 1 | Ch.13 (Quiz#12) |
| 11/18 11/20 | Social Psychology Part 2 | Ch.13 (Quiz#13) |
| 11/25 11/27 | <i>Thanksgiving Break</i> | |
| 12/2 12/4 | Development Across the Life Span Assignment Due | Ch.9 (Quiz#14) |

Note: Final exam (Ch.9 & 13) scheduled on during the final exam week (TBA).