



COUGARS

Syllabus for PSYC 365-001

Group Dynamics & Individual Behavior

Tuesday/Thursday 9:30am – 10:45am

Founders Hall Rm 0111

Department of Psychology

Spring 2026

About the Instructor

Name: Dr. Rachel Bradley

Office Location: AH 0134

Phone: 618-650-3638

Email: rtennia@siue.edu

Office Hours: T & R 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

About the Teaching Assistants

Name: Kara Bell

Office Location: TBD

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Name: Alise Forsyth

Office Location: TBD

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Office Hours: TBD

Welcome

Hi everyone! I am excited to be working with you this semester as we explore the concepts and theories related to the study of group dynamics and individual behavior and how these topics have influenced the field of psychology. I think that the college classroom is the best space to examine these topics safely and respectfully and how each relates to our everyday lived experiences.

Instructor Bio

Dr. Rachel Bradley is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. After completing her PhD in social psychology at Saint Louis University in 2014, Dr. Bradley taught psychology for six years at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Dr. Bradley's research interests include exploring racial/ethnic and sexual identity and identification and examining colorism (a.k.a. skin tone bias), stereotyping, stigma, and prejudice. In addition to these interests, Dr. Bradley also studies topics related to the scholarship of teaching and learning. Dr. Bradley's teaching interests include research methods, social psychology, psychology of gender, multicultural psychology, and group dynamics. Dr. Bradley enjoys spending time with her husband, Jake, and dogs, ThudButt and Beckett.

Teaching Philosophy

I have spent considerable time developing and honing my skills as an educator. My philosophy of teaching is to cultivate curriculum that spur original thought to produce well-rounded students equipped to examine critically their social world. I come to each class with a thoughtful perspective and the goal to do my best to

provide the students who come into my classroom with knowledge and thought-provoking experiences. I want everyone who comes into my classroom to leave changed for the better.

How to Succeed in This Course

This course requires much reading, writing, and viewing the Blackboard content. Successful students will be those who do the following:

- ✓ **READ THE SYLLABUS THOROUGHLY!**
- ✓ Devote enough time to reading and writing for the class. It will be a lot of work!
- ✓ Check the Blackboard frequently for announcements and assignments.
- ✓ Complete all assigned reading and writing assignments.
- ✓ Prepare course materials in advance for studying for the exams.
- ✓ Complete and return all assignments by the deadline – late assignments will be penalized (see late assignment policy).
- ✓ Engage in class activities and discussions.
- ✓ Write full sentences with few if any spelling or grammatical errors in writing assignments.
- ✓ Follow all instructions carefully.
- ✓ Take advantage of the services offered by the writing center and library reference librarians.
- ✓ **ABOVE ALL BE RESPONSIBLE!**

Communicating with the instructor

SIUE Email is my preferred method of contact. I have purposely disabled Blackboard messaging for this course. Please use my email address or call my office phone number (618-650-3638) to reach me about the course. I will respond to the email within 48 hours of receiving the message. I will be checking email between 9AM-4PM during weekdays. Please contact me only via SIUE email.

About the Course

Catalog description

Small group interaction, including topics of group structure and function, group problem solving, leadership, etc.

Prerequisite knowledge and credit hours

PSYC 111 Three credit hours

Course goals and objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Summarize key psychological concepts related to the topic of group dynamics.
- Demonstrate an awareness of how principles of theories and concepts related to the topic apply to everyday life.
- Compare and contrast multiple psychological theories and concepts related to the topic of groups and individual behavior.
- Understand the influence of psychological factors such as culture, socialization, and belonging on the formation and proliferation of groups and related topics.

Course textbooks

- Forsyth, D. R. (2014). Group Dynamics seventh edition. Cengage Learning Inc.

Undergraduate and Graduate 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.

Course requirements

Course activities/assessments

Assignments are posted in Blackboard throughout the semester and will be due online at the scheduled date and time. This information can be found on the schedule presented in this syllabus. Specific instructions for each assignment can be found in Blackboard. It is your responsibility to make sure that all assignments are completed and turned in on time. I will not post or give verbal reminders. Work turned in after the scheduled date and time is considered late work.

Submitting work

Students will submit all work in Blackboard via specific submission links for coursework. Emailed assignments will not be accepted unless prior approval is obtained from the instructor.

In-Person Class Behavior Expectations

- **Pause before reacting emotionally.** Take a moment to reflect before responding in class—especially during discussions that may be sensitive or challenging. Think before you speak and aim to communicate with professionalism and respect.
- **Communicate clearly and respectfully.** Avoid shouting or speaking in an aggressive tone. Use appropriate language and explain any acronyms, jargon, or specialized terms so everyone can follow and contribute meaningfully.
- **Own your words.** Speak from your own perspective and take responsibility for your comments. Doing so helps build trust and strengthens our classroom community.
- **Contribute to a positive classroom environment.** Share your ideas and engage actively in class discussions. Aim to build on others' comments in a way that encourages thoughtful dialogue and collaboration.
- **Be constructive.** It's okay to disagree or challenge ideas—but do so in a respectful and solution-focused manner. Civil disagreement fosters critical thinking and deeper understanding when handled with care.
- **Stay on topic.** Be mindful to keep class conversations focused on the subject at hand. If you have a new idea or perspective that shifts the discussion, consider asking the instructor if it can be addressed later or during office hours.

Technology Privacy Information

We will be using Blackboard in this course. View the [Anthology Blackboard Privacy Statement](#) to review how your data is being used and stored.

Technology requirements and capabilities

Technical requirements for students can be found in this [ITS KnowledgeBase article](#). Additional resources for learning with technology can be found on the [Online at SIUE site](#).

Technical Support

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 KnowledgeBase](#) for various how-to and troubleshooting guides.

Course Policies and University Policies

Academic integrity/plagiarism

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.

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](#).

University guidance on artificial intelligence (AI)

Unless expressly allowed by the instructor, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools and applications (including ChatGPT, DALL-E, and others) to produce content for course assignments and assessments is a violation of SIUE's academic policy and is prohibited. **The use of AI for written assignments and all formal assessments is prohibited.**

GenAI Use Policy For this course – Level 1: Organizational Use Only

This course follows GenAI Usage Expectation Level 1, as defined by [Illinois State University](#).

What This Means for You:

You are expected to create your own, original work in this class. However, you may use Generative AI (GenAI) tools like ChatGPT, Gemini, or Copilot for personal efficiency. This includes:

- Summarizing lecture notes or assigned readings
- Clarifying difficult concepts
- Organizing study materials
- However, you may not use GenAI to generate or draft work that you submit for a grade. All submitted work must be fully your own and created without GenAI assistance unless otherwise specified by the instructor.

If you're ever unsure about what's allowed, please ask Dr. B before using a GenAI tool for any assignment-related purpose.

Why This Matters:

This policy ensures that your learning and development remain authentic, while still allowing you to benefit from technology as a support tool. Being transparent about GenAI use helps uphold academic integrity and supports fair learning experiences for all students. (*Attribution statement: This syllabus policy was created in collaboration with ChatGPT (OpenAI). The AI was used to draft and refine the wording, and all instructional decisions and final edits were made by the course instructor.*)

Turnitin

This course may utilize the Turnitin plagiarism detection software. If this is used, then a Turnitin link will be available anywhere written work is to be submitted in the course. [Find out more about using Turnitin](#). Visit the [Turnitin Services Privacy Policy](#) for additional information on their privacy policy.

Grading

Assignment Breakdown	Points Assigned	Weighted %	Weighted Pts Available
Attendance Points (for the entire semester)	100	10%	10
Syllabus and Course Readiness Quiz, each worth 10 pts	20	5%	1
Plagiarism Quiz	30	6%	1.8
Ten Top 5s, each worth 10 points	100	12%	12
Ten Weekly Reflective Journals, each worth 10 points	100	12%	12
Two In-Class Article Discussions, each worth 20 points	40	10%	4
Group Analysis Project	150	12%	18
Two Unit Essays, each worth 100 points	200	13%	26
Final Project	300	20%	60
Total	1,040	100%	144.8

Grading scale

Letter Grade	Weighted Points Range	Percentage Range
A	144.8 – 130.32	100% - 90%
B	128.87 – 115.84	89% - 80%
C	114.39 – 101.36	79% - 70%
D	99.91 – 86.88	69% - 60%
F	85.43 or below	59% or below

A traditional grading scale will be followed. I do not “round up” for final grades. Do not ask about this. Your final project will make up 20% of your final grade. All other assignments will make up the remaining 80% of your final grade. If you have an issue with your grade on an assignment, you must notify me by email to set up an appointment to discuss the grade within a week after your grade is posted in Blackboard. I will not consider grade disputes raised after this time.

Grading rubric[s]

Grading rubrics will be provided in Blackboard for assignments that the instructor utilizes one for grading purposes.

Feedback and grading timeline

Weekly assignment grades with rubric feedback will be posted within one week of the due date. Other assignments may take longer to grade. You can find your grade by clicking the My Grades link on the left menu of the Blackboard course. If there is a rubric attached to the assignment, you can click your score to see my personal feedback on the rubric, if any.

Late or Missed Assignments

Late assignments will be penalized 10% for each day past the due date. After 2 days (this includes all days within the week Monday - Sunday), the assignment will not be accepted for credit. All assignments are subject to the late assignment policy. Formal assessments cannot be submitted after the due date. Assignments will not be accepted as email attachments unless approved by the instructor.

Important Information about Assessments: Make-up assessments will not be given for any reason. Please contact me via email if you experience a life event that will impact your ability to submit assessments on time.

Rewrites

Rewrites will not be permitted in this course.

Attendance/Excused Absence Policy

Attendance will be taken every class meeting. Each student will begin the semester with 100 points for attendance. Deductions will occur for unexcused absences. Holidays and scheduled class cancellations will not be included in the count of missing days. Missing 10%= 90pts, 20%= 80pts, 30%= 70pts, 40%= 60pts, 50%= 50pts, >50%= 0pts.

- Students are **STRONGLY** encouraged to attend all class meetings. There will be in-class activities and assignments for which you may receive points. If you are not present on the day of these activities/assignments, you will not receive points, and you cannot make these up. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to obtain notes and/or handouts from your classmates.
- An “Excused” absence is recorded for any student who notifies the instructor (by phone or email) prior to the class meeting time that they will not be able to attend class. A note may be required if absences become frequent or upon the instructor’s request. Also, students who arrive at class meetings 15 minutes late or more will be counted as an unexcused absence.

Participation

It is vitally important that our classroom environment promotes the respectful exchange of ideas, including being sensitive to the views and beliefs expressed during discussions. 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 one adhere to the deadlines given as you complete assignments, discussions, and other course activities.

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. 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.

Regular and Substantive Interaction

Regular and substantive interaction (RSI) is required as part of new U.S. Department of Education regulations for distance (online) education and it supports student learning in all learning environments (online, face-to-face, hybrid, hyflex, etc.). SIUE faculty participate in RSI by initiating frequent and timely opportunities to engage with students. Because there are several ways to implement RSI, such as facilitating online discussions, scheduling a Zoom conference with a student, or holding regularly scheduled review sessions before tests, RSI may look different in every class. To learn more about RSI, use the Online Tips links for Faculty and Students in your Blackboard course websites or visit the [Faculty Resources for Regular and Substantive Interaction webpage](#).

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>.

University Policies and Information

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

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.

Course Schedule:

Week	Content	Assignments (AI Level)	Due Dates
Week 1 1/12-18	Introduction & Class Overview	Syllabus, Course Readiness, & Plagiarism (0)	1/18/2026 @ 11:59pm
Week 2 1/19-25	Chapter 1: Intro to Group Dynamics NO CLASSES MONDAY-DR. MLK DAY	Top 5 Assignment (1) & Reflective Journal (2)	1/25/2026 @ 11:59pm
Week 3 1/26- 2/1	Chapter 2: Studying Groups	Top 5 Assignment(1) & Reflective Journal (2)	2/1/2026 @ 11:59pm
Week 4 2/2-2/8	Chapter 3: Inclusion & Identity	Top 5 Assignment(1) & Reflective Journal (2)	2/8/2026 @ 11:59pm
Week 5 2/9-15	Chapters 4 & 5: Formation, Cohesion & Development	Top 5 Assignment(1) & Reflective Journal (2)	2/15/2026 @ 11:59pm
Week 6 2/16-22	Article Discussion #1	Discussion Notes (0) <i>Unit Essay 1(0)</i>	2/22/2026 @ 11:59pm
Week 7 2/23- 3/1	Chapter 6: Structure	Top 5 Assignment(1) & Reflective Journal (2)	3/1/2026 @ 11:59pm
Week 8 3/2-8	Chapters 7 & 8: Influence & Power	Top 5 Assignment(1) & Reflective Journal (2)	3/8/2026 @ 11:59pm
Week 9 3/9-15	NO CLASSES THIS WEEK-SPRING BREAK	NONE	NONE
Week 10 3/16-22	Chapters 9: Leadership	Top 5 Assignment(1) & Reflective Journal (2)	3/22/2026 @ 11:59pm
Week 11 3/23-29	Workshop Week: Group Analysis Project	<i>Unit Essay 2 (0)</i>	3/31/2026 @ 11:59pm
Week 12 3/30- 4/5	Group Analysis Project Presentations	Group Project Submission	3/30/2026 @ 11:59pm
Week 13 4/6-12	Chapters 10 & 12: Performance & Decision Making	Top 5 Assignment(1) & Reflective Journal (2)	4/12/2026 @ 11:59pm
Week 14 4/13-19	Chapter 11: Teams	Top 5 Assignment(1) & Reflective Journal (2)	4/19/2026 @ 11:59pm
Week 15 4/20-26	Chapters 13 & 14: Conflict & Intergroup Relations	Top 5 Assignment(1) & Reflective Journal (2)	4/26/2026 @ 11:59pm
Week 16 4/27- 5/3	Article Discussion #2 Workshop Week: Final Project	Discussion Notes (0) <i>Unit Essay 3(0)</i>	5/3/2026 @ 11:59pm
Finals 5/4-8	Finals Week-No Class Meetings	Final Project(2)	5/7/2025 @ 11:59pm

Seven Levels of GenAI Use in This Course

Level	Description	What It Means
0	No AI Use	All work must be completely original—no GenAI use at all.
1	Personal Use Only	You can use GenAI to organize notes or clarify content, but not to help with assignments.
2	Brainstorming Help	You can use GenAI to get ideas, but the final work must be your own.
3	Feedback Tool	You write your work first, then use GenAI for suggestions. Final revisions must be done by you.
4	Co-Creation	You can work with GenAI to create drafts, but you must revise and clearly say what GenAI helped with.
5	Full Use with Attribution	You may use GenAI freely, as long as you say where and how it helped.
6	Full Use without Attribution	You may use GenAI in any way, with no need to cite it—but think carefully about ethical and legal risks.