

About the Instructor

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Welcome

I love teaching this course because this where second year students get to see how much they've learned over the past four semesters and apply those skills. It's exciting to see your skills start to come together to inform how you carry out applied evaluation and intervention work.

Bio

I have worked with children with autism since my first year of graduate school, but that wasn't always my primary interest. My research interests in graduate school focused more broadly on consultation and students with classroom behavior challenges. It wasn't until I was on internship, working in a school and a district with high-quality, evidence-based services for autistic students, that I fell in love with the practice and research issues that come up when working with learners with autism. I often say that working with autistic/folks with autism teaches neurotypical/non-ASD folks how to explain things clearly, provide consistent expectations, and ensure accountability for those expectations. I've seen over and over again in my career how, once a teacher or a psychologist is clear, effective, and supportive in working with someone with autism, they also become better at meeting other students' needs.

Teaching Philosophy

I believe that teaching is interactional, and requires both sides of the equation – you as the learner, me as the instructor – to be actively engaged with one another. I can say something beautifully and eloquently, but if it doesn't meet you where you are in your understanding, you're not going to learn anything. Thus, I try to explain things clearly, and I welcome and encourage questions, so that I can be sure that I'm explaining things in a way that works for you. Another core part of my teaching philosophy is that, as a graduate educator, I have an ethical and legal

obligation to ensure that you are prepared to practice the psychological methods that we learn together. While I will always provide strong support and encouragement to all students, I need to ensure that everyone who passes one of my classes has met the criteria for doing so.

Communicating with the Instructor

I try to respond to student emails within 24 hours, or by the end of the day on Monday if you email me over the weekend. If you don't hear back to me within that time, **please send a follow-up email**. You're not bothering me – I get a lot of emails and sometimes I miss one, and I want to make sure that I answer your question. If you need to get in touch with me urgently, on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, I'm usually in the office, so you can stop by or *give me a call* on my office phone. Sometimes a quick phone call is the fastest way to resolve a complicated situation or answer a hard question.

About the Course

Course description

This course is designed to apply advanced clinical child and school psychology students' existing competencies in assessment, intervention, and consultation to the process of identifying autism in school-age children and helping to ensure that the needs of children with autism are met throughout the span of development. Best practices in assessment of autism will be reviewed, with an emphasis on incorporating previously learned skills understanding psychological and developmental conditions and cognitive and emotional/behavioral assessment. Students will deepen their understanding of evidence-based interventions for school-age children, such that they can be effective in their roles as school- or community-based mental health providers and members of problem-solving teams working to meet children's needs. Finally, students will develop their ability to critically evaluate the efficacy of intervention services for the purposes of effective progress monitoring.

Course goals and objectives

- 1) Students will build upon previously developed skills in standardized and dynamic methods of assessment to accurately identify the presence of autism in school-aged children.
- 2) Students will develop a sophisticated understanding of the state of the science with regard to evidence-based interventions addressing core characteristics of autism
- 3) Students will become familiar with the neurodiversity movement, the social construction of disability, and the importance of self-advocacy by individuals with disabilities.
- 4) Students will be able to identify when educational programming is successful in meeting the needs of children with autism, and how to assist in modifying such programming to meet developmentally emergent educational, social, and mental health needs.

*****Disclaimer:** During this course, students will be exposed to examples of Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule, Second Edition (ADOS-II) administrations and will learn and be assessed on appropriate administration, scoring, and interpretation of the ADOS-II across modules. However, this graduate education experience does not establish 1) a student's reliability in administering and scoring the ADOS-II within his/her practice site or 2) that the student has received training commensurate with that provided by the publishers of the ADOS-II and other research reliable, approved trainers. As such, any students who wish to build upon the skills provided in this course in order to independently administer the ADOS-II should either 1) receive training from and establish reliability with a trained administrator at their internship/future employment site and/or 2) attend direct training in person from approved ADOS-II trainers (see <https://www.wpspublish.com/product/schedule> for more information).

Course textbooks

- Dilly, L. J., & Hall, C. M. (2019). *Autism Spectrum Disorder assessment in schools*. Routledge. (Relevant chapters posted to BB).
- Kroncke, A. P., Willard, M., & Huckabee, H. (2016). *Assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorder: Critical issues in clinical, forensic, & school settings*. Springer International Publishing.
- McKenney, E. L. W. (2021). *School-based consultation and students with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Routledge.
- Steinbrenner, J. R., Hume, K., Odom, S. L., Morin, K. L., Nowell, S. W., Tomaszewski, B., Szendrey, S., McIntyre, N. S., Yücesoy-Özkan, S., & Savage, M. N. (2020). *Evidence-based practices for children, youth, and young adults with Autism*. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, National Clearinghouse on Autism Evidence and Practice Review Team. Retrieve online at: <https://ncaep.fpg.unc.edu/sites/ncaep.fpg.unc.edu/files/imce/documents/EBP%20Report%2002020.pdf>
- Stone-MacDonald, A., Cihak, D. F., & Zager, D. (2023). *Autism spectrum disorders: Advancing positive practices in education*. Routledge.

Articles

- Azad, G. F., Marcus, S. C., Sheridan, S. M., & Mandell, D. S. (2018). Partners in School: An innovative parent-teacher consultation model for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. *Journal of Educational and Psychological Consultation, 28*, 460 – 486. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10474412.2018.1431550>
- Bergeron, R., Floyd, R. G., McNicholas, P. J., & Farmer, R. L. (2023). Assessment of Intellectual Disability with the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, Fifth Edition: Analysis of part score profiles and diagnostic outcomes. *School Psychology Review, 52* (6), 747 – 752. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2372966X.2022.2094284>
- Boudreau, A. M., Lucyshyn, J. M., Corkum, P., Meko, K., & Smith, I. M. (2021). Peer-mediated Pivotal Response Treatment at school for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. *Canadian Journal of School Psychology, 36*, 34 – 50. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0829573519870923>

- Dart, E., H., Radley, K. C., Helbig, K. A., & Salvatore, C. (2024). Reframing social skills practices for autistic students: A responsive framework for assessment and intervention. *Journal of Educational and Psychological Consultation*, *34*, online first. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10474412.2023.2221671>
- Hamsho, N., Eisenhower, A., Galligan, M., Collier-Meek, M. A., Bolourian, Y., Levinson, S., & Blacher, J. (2024). Drawing on key partner perspectives of an autism-focused professional development program: A conceptual framework for coaching. *Journal of Educational and Psychological Consultation*, *34*, online first. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10474412.2023.2262450>
- Harmon, A. (2011, September 17). Autistic and seeking a place in an adult world. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.nytimes.com>
- Landman, W., Bogaerts, S., & Spreen, M. (2024). Typicality of level change (TLC) as an additional effect measure to NAP and Tau-U in single case research. *Behavior Modification*, *48*(1), 51-74. <https://doi.org/10.1177/01454455231190741>
- Lei, J., Leigh, E., Charman, T., Russell, A., & Hollocks, M. J. (2024). Exploring the association between social camouflaging and self- versus caregiver-report discrepancies in anxiety and depressive symptoms in autistic and non-autistic socially anxious adolescents. *Autism*, *28* (10), 2657 – 2674. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13623613241238251>
- McDonald, C. A., Lopata, C., Donnelly, J. P., Thomeer, M. L., Rodgers, J. D., & Jordan, A. K. (2016). Informant discrepancies in externalizing and internalizing symptoms and adaptive skills of high-functioning children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. *School Psychology Quarterly*, *31*, 467 – 477. <https://doi.org/10.1037/spq0000150>
- Norris, M., & Lecavalier, L. (2010). Screening accuracy of Level 2 Autism Spectrum Disorder rating scales. *Autism*, *14*, 263 – 284. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1362361309348071>
- Papoudi, D., Rubner Jorgensen, C., Guldberg, K., & Meadan, H. (2021). Perceptions, experiences, and needs of parents of culturally and linguistically diverse children with autism: A scoping review. *Review Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, *8*, 195 – 212. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40489-020-00210-1>
- Parker, R. I., Vannest, K. J., & Davis, J. L. (2011). Effect size in single-case research: A review of nine nonoverlap techniques. *Behavior modification*, *35*(4), 303-322. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0145445511399147>
- Smith, I. M., & MacDonald, N. E. (2017). Countering evidence denial and the promotion of pseudoscience in Autism Spectrum Disorder. *Autism Research*, *10*, 1334 – 1337. <https://doi.org/10.1002/aur.1810>
- Snider, L. A., Talapatra, D., Miller, G., & Zhang, D. (2020). Expanding best practices in assessment for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. *Contemporary School Psychology*, *24*, 429 – 444. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40688-020-00294-w>
- Vincent, L. B., Helbig, K. A., & McKenney, E. L. W. (2024). Consultation and collaboration to support meaningful and socially valid outcomes for autistic people. *Journal of Educational and Psychological Consultation*, *34* (1), 1 – 13. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10474412.2023.2284190>

Vivanti, G., Dissanayake, C., Duncan, E., Feary, J., Capes, K., Upson, S., Bent, C. A., Rogers, S. J., & Hudry, K. (2019). Outcomes of children receiving Group-Early Start Denver Model in an inclusive versus autism-specific setting: A pilot randomized controlled trial. *Autism, 23*, 1165 – 1175. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1362361318801341>

NASP Standards for Graduate Preparation of School Psychologists (2020) Addressed:

Domain 1. Data-Based Decision Making & Accountability

Domain 2. Consultation and Collaboration

Domain 4. Mental and Behavioral Health Services and Interventions Domain 5. School-Wide Practices to Promote Learning

Domain 7. Family-School Collaboration Services

Domain 8. Equitable Practices for Diverse Student Populations

Domain 9. Research and Evidence-Based Practice

Course Assignments

IRIS/AFIRM Modules Activities. Periodically throughout the semester, students are assigned an IRIS or AFIRM module to watch, and will turn in short answer responses to reflection activities posted throughout (for IRIS activities) or submit the certificate of completion (for AFIRM module). The specific module to be watched for each of these assignments is linked below, in the Course Calendar. *Grading will be based on providing complete and accurate (when relevant) responses to each set of questions provided throughout each module.*

Observations & CARS-2 Assignment. Students will conduct two structured observations of the student with or suspected of having autism that they are evaluating, using the observation form provided by the instructor. Then, they will complete a third observation of the student and immediately fill out the CARS-2 observation form, at the appropriate level, immediately afterward. Students will **briefly** (strict 10-minute limit, including questions from peers) present the results of those observations in class. The presentation is worth 20 points, and the observations and CARS-2 administration are graded as part of the comprehensive evaluation case described further below. *Grading will be based on having accurately completed each observation form, accurately scoring behavior via the CARS-2, accurately reporting findings to peers, attending to relevant information, exploring implications of initial observation data and how those findings might inform future evaluation activities, and answering peers' questions knowledgeably.*

ABAS-3, ASRS, & Other Autism Characteristics Summary and Anonymous Peer Evaluation. Students will be given de-identified data from the ABAS-3, ASRS, and at least one other autism rating scale, with at least one parent and one teacher reporting. Following guidance provided in-class, students will create tables for and write narrative summaries of each component, and submit an electronic draft to the instructor. The instructor will send an anonymous copy of the draft to a peer reviewer, who will then provide feedback

regarding clarity and intelligibility of the narrative. This assignment is worth 75 points, 50 points will be based on each student's own writing and 25 points will be based on the thoroughness and helpfulness of feedback provided by each student as a peer reviewer. *Grading of the written narrative will be based on submitting a complete and thorough first draft that is consistent with guidelines and examples provided in-class. Grading of the peer evaluation will be based on providing a detailed and helpful review of a peer's narrative.*

Comprehensive Autism Evaluation and Report. Students will conduct a comprehensive evaluation or re-evaluation of a student demonstrating evidence of having learning difficulties due to possible Autism Spectrum Disorder. Students should discuss with their practicum supervisors the possibility of being involved with the evaluation of a student who will be administered the ADOS-2, if that measure is given within the district. If the ADOS-2 will be administered, students should plan to observe the administration. Other evaluation procedures that should be used include:

- a thorough file review,
- administration of the Cultural Formulation Interview, adapted for school, with either one of the child's parents/caregivers or the student, if the student is in 8th grade or higher
- an interview-based or written developmental history,
- direct observations of child behavior in structured **and** social settings, per procedures described in the observation/CARS-2 section of this syllabus,
- two rating scales of autism characteristics, such as the SRS-2, ASRS, and/or SCQ (choose 2 of the 3 to administer), each administered to at least one teacher and one parent/caregiver,
- adaptive behavior scales administered, scored, and interpreted by the grad practicum student, and
- either an intelligence test, an achievement battery (narrow academic measures are acceptable), a data-based review of the child's response to evidence-based interventions provided via MTSS, or a thorough description of the student's recent IEP progress, depending upon the needs of the referral.

Students are encouraged to work closely with other professionals involved in the evaluation, when relevant (e.g., Speech/OT/PT). If a child with autism or suspected of autism is not available for evaluation, discuss with your supervisor the possibility of evaluating a child suspected of having an intellectual disability or an emotional/behavioral condition, and inform me of the need to conduct an alternate evaluation immediately.

As detailed in the table at the end of this syllabus, 70 points are available for accurate and thorough completion of each aspect of the evaluation, including the observations and CARS-2 administration.

A de-identified report describing the evaluation and results will be turned in **two times** over the course of the semester. The **first draft** should be considered a semi-rough draft, in which all available assessment information is included and described, but not all assessment activities may yet be completed.

The first draft of the report is worth 50 points. *Grading will reflect thoroughness and accuracy with which assessment procedures are described, evidence of coherent organization, and evidence of careful planning in developing an appropriate evaluation approach that is based on course content, including careful collection of background information and behavior management procedures during test administration.*

The **second draft** should be an **edited, full and complete** draft, in which all assessment activities are described. The document should be carefully edited and prepared, in such condition that it is ready to be turned in as a final copy, given to one's supervisor, and given to the young person and/or their parents.

The second draft of the report is worth 60 points. *Grading will reflect the overall readiness of the document as described above, evidence-based interpretation, conclusions, and recommendations, the degree to which students attend to the report writing guidelines provided via Blackboard, and the degree to which the written product reflects feedback provided on the first draft.*

Intervention and Progress Monitoring Activity. Students will seek out a student with autism in need of intervention or whose interventions would benefit from implementation support. They will meet with the child's parent and/or teacher, and conduct a Needs Identification Interview to learn about and clearly define the target behavior(s). Target behaviors should include the desired behavior to increase, as well as any disruptive behavior in need of decreasing, if it is occurring instead of and appears to be functionally related to the desired target behavior.

Students should work with the parent and teacher to obtain 3 – 5 baseline measurements of the target behavior(s), and engage in appropriate needs analysis activities as indicated by the presenting concern and consultees' goals. Students will then research several appropriate EBI for the target concerns, discuss preferences for intervention with the parent and/or teacher, and share implementation materials with them, to attempt the intervention. These should include the relevant AFIRM module link, and a brief 10 - 15 minute recorded presentation or recorded meeting in which the graduate consultant reviews the rationale for the intervention and goes over relevant implementation materials that the graduate consultant has located or created. Relevant implementation materials can include: data monitoring systems, reminders of implementation steps, self-evaluations of implementation fidelity, reinforcement systems, and any other relevant tools. If the graduate consultant is able to record a meeting with the parent and/or teacher, the meeting should also include consultees' practice of the implementation steps.

Ideally, consulting students should also arrange for 3 -5 measurements of the target behavior(s) following implementation, to evaluate the apparent impact of the intervention attempted. Monitoring and collection of fidelity data is also encouraged.

At the end of the semester, students will compile relevant video clips and powerpoint slides with voiceover to create a composite video of approximately 10 minutes that includes the following:

1. The name of evidence-based intervention for students with autism
2. A brief review of the populations and needs for which that intervention has been deemed to be effective
3. The student need for which the intervention was applied and the rationale for using the particular intervention selected (student name and other identifying information removed)
4. Core components of the intervention that need to be delivered accurately and consistently
5. One to three relevant video clips that may be available, which may include the student practicing/modeling the intervention for the parent/teacher, a brief instance of a meeting with the parent/teacher, or, if possible, implementation of the intervention with the target child client. If the child client is videoed, clips should include no more than the student's first name, and other children who have not provided consent should not be visible
6. A review of steps taken to ensure integrity during implementation, including, if relevant, video clips of implementation support strategies used
7. A graph depicting student response
8. A summary discussion of the effectiveness of the intervention in this particular case and next steps to be taken.

Videos will be uploaded to Blackboard for online discussion there during the final week of the semester.

Procedures for obtaining consent for videos will be discussed in class. Intervention activities are worth up to 60 points, and the final presentation is worth up to 40 points.

ADOS-2 Co-Scoring and Class Presentation. Students will be assigned an ADOS-2 administration to watch with a peer. Immediately following the viewing, students will each individually score the administration, and then talk through their scoring and come to agreement regarding the code to assign to each item. They will submit their scores and notes to the instructor using a provided template, and will receive the official scores in return. Each team will then prepare a brief (no more than 15 minute) presentation, in which they show key examples of behaviors from the ADOS-2 administration and share 3 – 4 examples of how items were scored. Examples should include 1 – 2 clear instances in which a specific behavior demonstrated by the client led to and/or illustrates a specific score, and 1 – 2 instances in which it was difficult to come to consensus or the score initially assigned was incorrect (in comparison to the official score), and how the team resolved the scoring and/or made sense of why their initial scoring was incorrect. Thus, students are publicly modeling their learning for their peers. Presentations will be given in class, and should involve ample opportunities for peer questions and discussion. *Grading will be based on adherence to assignment procedures, initial evidence of care taken while coding and consideration of each other's opinions, accuracy in identifying clear examples of various behaviors/codes in the assigned video, and clear, thorough discussion of items/behaviors that were more challenging to code.*

Participation. High-quality discussion of course readings is essential to ensuring mastery of the material covered in this course. Each week, students are expected to identify at least one point from each reading to raise during in-class discussion. Preparation of more than one topic is encouraged, in case a peer selects a similar/overlapping discussion point. Due to the advanced nature of this course, participation is evaluated qualitatively rather than quantitatively. Students will be provided participation feedback at least once during the semester. Any student whose participation is rated below satisfactory at mid-semester and who does not improve their participation will have their final course grade reduced by one letter grade. The below table describing participation quality is intended to help students operationalize high quality participation, and will be used to provide feedback.

Participation Quality

Extremely Low Quality	The student attended class but did not participate in discussion more than three times during the semester. Discussion of self-assigned key point during each class was cursory.
Low Quality	The student participated during less than half of class meetings during the semester. Discussion of self-assigned key point during each class was cursory.
Satisfactory Quality	The student participated approximately once per class. Or The student's participation was consistently lacking in quality. Or The student dominated classroom discussion such that peers were sometimes denied the opportunity to participate. Discussion of self-assigned key point during each class also met one of the previous qualifiers.
High Quality	The student consistently offered comments or questions that indicated comprehension of assigned readings. Discussion of self-assigned key point during each class indicated understanding of the issue and/or careful consideration of conflicting/confusing evidence.
Extremely High Quality	The student contributed insightful and novel comments and questions during most classes, and participated in class, without dominating the conversation, during all meetings. Discussion of self-assigned key point during each class indicated insightful and critical understanding of the issue and any contradictory evidence.

Course Grades

How to succeed in this class: This class is intended to familiarize you with the core characteristics of autism, so that in your future work you can make evidence-based decisions about assessment and intervention practices for children suspected of having autism. ***Knowledge of the important link between data and service delivery is expected to benefit you in serving all children with whom you work, not just those with autism.*** To master this material, you must read thoroughly, analyze carefully, and observe closely. Students who receive a “B” in this class will complete the assigned activities in their entirety and demonstrate a sound understanding of the related theory. Students who receive an “A” will, in addition, demonstrate evidence of continuous critical analysis of readings and experiences.

Assignment	Total Points	Percentage of Grade
Adaptive Behavior and Autism Rating Scales Summary & Peer Review	75	15%
ADOS-2 Co-scoring Assignment	50	10%
Comprehensive Evaluation Activities (see table at end of syllabus for complete breakdown)	200	40%
IRIS and AFIRM Activities	75	15%
Intervention and Progress Monitoring Activity	100	20%
Total	500	100%
<p>Course Averages</p> <p>A = 92.5% or above = 462.5 points or above</p> <p>B = 84% to 92.4% = 420 points to 462.4 points</p> <p>C = 77.5% to 83.9% = 387.5 points to 419.9 points</p> <p>D = 387.4 points and below</p>		

Instructor, Departmental, and University Policies

Instructor Policies

Online materials

Most course materials and assignment links are posted on Blackboard. Please check there first for relevant resources when working on class activities.

Communication

All students must have an SIUE email address to participate fully in this course, as email will be used to communicate information regarding seminar meetings, readings, meetings with you and your supervisors, and timelines for conducting end of semester evaluations.

Academic Engagement

Being engaged in this course includes checking Blackboard and Teams regularly and being prepared to discuss class materials. During group discussions, you are expected to listen attentively to peers, attempt to understand their points before sharing your own, and respect the human dignity of your peers. Dissent is welcome, but it is not acceptable to introduce or defend points that dehumanize your peers. Shared humanity recognizes equal access to well-being, liberty, and opportunity/property; therefore, arguments that individuals within one socially constructed group have greater entitlement to well-being, liberty, or opportunity/property than others, on the sole basis of membership in that group, are not allowed, and will result in removal from the discussion. As a point of reference, if you are forcing one or more peers to "prove" that they are equally entitled to your basic rights, then you are dehumanizing them, and such behavior is not tolerated in this course.

Students Needing Accommodations

I have endeavored to create a syllabus, Blackboard resources, and classroom environment that are accessible to learners using assistive devices and other learners with disabilities. If you are a learner with a disability and come across a resource, assignment, or task that is not accessible, please let me know of it as soon as possible so that I can take steps to correct it and/or find a more suitable replacement. I also welcome and encourage collaboration early in the semester, so that we can ensure fair and accessible participation in course activities.

APA Format in Written Work

Students are expected to be familiar and/or to familiarize themselves with APA standards for citations and references, per the *7th edition* of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. Please ensure that you have access to this text at any time that you may need it during the semester.

*****A lack of knowledge of appropriate citation and referencing format will not excuse you from point deductions from written assignments or disciplinary action in the case of plagiarism.*****

If you would like additional instruction in the use of APA format, please arrange to speak with me, or seek out the resources described below.

Students who require additional assistance in writing in the areas of grammar and/or organization are strongly encouraged to seek out additional assistance from outside sources to assist in improving their ability to revise their written work. University-based services for assisting students with professional writing include the Writing Center (<http://www.siu.edu/IS/WRITING/index.html>), which also provides workshops in APA style.

Department Policies

The Psychology Department's Policy on Withdrawals and Incompletes

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 <http://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 an I to F.

The Psychology Department's Writing Policy

As a student in this course, you will be expected to display graduate-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 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 use one of the many online resources they have identified to help students (<http://www.siu.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 (see below for the specific policy for this class).

The penalty for unacceptable writing in this class is as follows: if your written assignment violates any of the above stipulations, or is otherwise inconsistent with the stated expectations for a written assignment, it will be returned to you for resubmission, and 25% of the total available points will be deducted from the final grade assigned after resubmission.

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 (<http://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." (<http://www.siu.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.siu.edu/education/psychology/plagiarism.shtml>.

In addition, it is expressly prohibited for students to work together on, review, or look at each other's homework, papers, or presentations for this class.

University Policies and Information

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.

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.

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	Learning Activities	Readings	Work Due (submit on BB by start of class unless otherwise noted)
Week 1 1/14/26	Introduction to autism and neurodiversity	Vincent et al., 2024 – “Language and autism” section only; Stone-MacDonald et al., Chp. 1 & 23; Norris & Lecavalier, 2010	Have 2 – 3 discussion points ready to discuss in class Review: https://explainingbrains.com/practitioners/ resources, come to class ready to share a favorite
Week 2 1/21/26	Evaluating autism characteristics and adaptive development	Dilly Chps. 5 & 7 (on BB); Kroncke et al., Chp. 6; McDonald et al., 2016; Review CARS-2 Manual (in Resource Center or on BB) Review ABAS-3 manual in Resource Center	Have 2 – 3 discussion points ready to discuss in class
Week 3 1/28/26	Evaluating mental health needs in autism cases, including camouflaging	Kroncke et al., Chps. 12 & 14; Lei et al., 2024; Stone-McDonald et al. Chp. 17	Have 2 – 3 discussion points ready to discuss in class
Week 4 2/4/26	Interventions for children with autism, Part 1: Early childhood and basics of consultation	Stone-MacDonald et al. Chps. 3 & 6; McKenney Chps. 1 & 4	Have 2 – 3 discussion points ready to discuss in class (IRIS) Activity #1 - https://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/module/asd2/ Observation and CARS-2 presentations 1 – 3

			Work Due (submit on BB by start of class unless otherwise noted)
Week	Learning Activities	Readings	
Week 5 2/11/26	Interventions for children with autism, Part 2: Academic and engagement skills	Stone-MacDonald et al. Chps. 8 & 9; Vivanti et al., 2019; McKenney Chp. 5	Have 2 – 3 discussion points ready to discuss in class File review for assessment client (bring to class for instructor review) Observation and CARS-2 presentations 4 - 6
Week 6 2/18/26	Interventions for children with autism, Part 3: Communication and social skills	Stone-MacDonald et al., Chps. 7 & 10; Dart et al., 2024; McKenney Chp. 6	Have 2 – 3 discussion points ready to discuss in class (IRIS) Activity #2 - https://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/module/at/ Observation and CARS-2 presentations 7 - 9
Week 7 2/25/26	<p>NASP Convention – (AFIRM) Activity #3 - https://afirm.fpg.unc.edu/discrete-trial-training (Submit on BB by 12:50 pm on 2/25/26)</p> <p>Watch overview of adaptive behavior and rating scales write up video in Week 6 folder on BB</p>		
Week 8 3/4/26	Report writing, sharing results, and working with families	Dilly Chp. 8 (on BB); Papoudi et al., 2021 Smith & MacDonald, 2017; Azad et al., 2018	Have 2 – 3 discussion points ready to discuss in class Developmental history for assessment client (bring to class for instructor review) Receive mid-semester participation feedback
Week 9 3/11/26	SIUE Spring Break		

Week	Learning Activities	Readings	Work Due (submit on BB by start of class unless otherwise noted)
Week 10 3/18/26	Interventions for autistic adolescents and emerging adults, Part 1	Stone-MacDonald et al., Chps. 12, & 13; McKenney Chp. 7	Have 2 – 3 discussion points ready to discuss in class Adaptive behavior and rating scale write-up emailed to instructor by start of class Receive anonymized peer document via email on 3/20/26
Week 11 3/25/26	Advanced topics in single-case design: Effect sizes	Complete readings in this order: 1) Parker & Vannest, 2011 2) Landman et al., 2024	Have 2 – 3 discussion points ready to discuss in class Submit peer review by 5 pm on 3/23/26, via email Receive anonymous review and any add'l instructor feedback by 5 pm on 3/27/26
Week 12 4/1/26	Considerations with working with students with Intellectual Disability and/or intensive support needs	Snider et al., 2020; Bergeron et al., 2023	Evaluation Report Draft 1
Week 13 4/8/26	Consultative and implementation support, cont'd	Boudreau et al., 2021; Hamsho et al., 2024; McKenney Chp. 8	Have 2 – 3 discussion points ready to discuss in class Receive instructor feedback on Evaluation Draft 1
Week 14 4/15/26	Introduction to the ADOS-2	Kroncke et al., Chp. 9; Review ADOS-2 manual; Sabnis & Bueno Martinez, 2022 (on BB)	In-class practice of ADOS-2 tasks Evaluation Report Draft 2

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Week 15 4/22/26	Interventions for autistic adolescents and emerging adults, Part 2	Stone-MacDonald et al., Chps. 14, 15, & 22; Harmon, 2011	Have 2 – 3 discussion points ready to discuss in class Submit ADOS-2 practice scores via email by 8 pm, 4/22/26; Receive instructor feedback on ADOS-2 scores by 5 pm on 4/24/26
Week 16 4/29/26	Small group presentations on ADOS-2 scoring		
Finals Week 5/6/26	Upload EBI Implementation Support Video by midnight on 5/4/26 View and comment on each peer's video by 12:50 pm on 5/6/26		

Autism Assessment Case

Component	Comments	Points Available/Assigned
File Review		/10
Two structured observations		/10
Additional observation & CARS-2 administration		/5
CARS-2 presentation	See instructor feedback	/20
Parent/Client Cultural Formulation Interview		/10
Developmental history obtained		/5
Autism specific rating scales administered – two types		/10
Adaptive behavior scales administered		/10
Cognitive and/or academic assessment/information obtained		/10
Report Draft 1	See instructor feedback	/50
Report Draft 2	See instructor feedback	/60

Autism Intervention Case

Component	Comments	Points Available/Assigned
File Review		/10
Needs identification interview		/10
Appropriate needs analysis activities, including observations and/or FBA, baseline data collection		/10
Team discusses and agrees on hypothesis, intervention plan		/5
Appropriate intervention planning and training activities		/10
Fidelity monitoring and support activities		/10
Graphed behavior change w/ appropriate effect size statistics		/5
Online powerpoint presentation	See instructor feedback	/40