



**Syllabus for PSYC 205  
Lifespan Development  
Department of Psychology  
Summer 2025; June 2- July 5**

**Instructor:** Dr. Maggie Polk

**Office:** AH 0129

**Office Hours:** By appointment only via Zoom

**E-mail:** marpolk@siue.edu

**Term:** Summer 2025

**Class Location:** *Online*

**Class Meeting time:** Asynchronous

**Course Description and Objectives:** This semester we will explore both classic and contemporary research and theory in developmental psychology, from conception through adulthood.

**Textbook:**

Santrock, J.W. (2022). *A topical approach to lifespan development* (11<sup>th</sup> Ed.) McGraw-Hill

Undergraduate students can rent textbooks from SIUE. Please visit the [Textbook Service website](#) for more information. For off-campus classes, the textbook may be shipped to you. Look for the option “Off-Campus Classes have special instructions, click here for these.” Note: shipping time may take up to two weeks.

**Other course materials**

Additional readings may be assigned throughout the semester and will be posted to Blackboard.

**Communicating with the instructor:**

The most reliable way (and only way) to contact me is via e-mail. I respond to e-mails I receive during the week (M-F, 9-5 p.m.) within 24-48 hours. If you need to speak with me personally, I am easy to find during my office hours in my office. If you are unable to attend office hours due to a scheduling conflict, please contact me for an appointment.

**E-Mail Guidelines:**

E-mail is a wonderful tool when used properly. Please follow these simple guidelines when e-mailing me, so that I can identify you as one of my students quickly and address your concern without having to write you back to say “Who are you and what class are you in??” (This happens, *often!*)

1. Include class info in your subject line (PSY 205 Sec 001).
2. ALWAYS sign your e-mail. Many of you have e-mail addresses that mask your identity.
3. Please treat your e-mails as professional communications. Please use proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

### **Communicating with YOU:**

I will send out many emails and announcements via Blackboard so it is your responsibility to check your SIUE email regularly, as well as Blackboard announcements.

### **Course Requirements and Policies**

Assignments are posted in Blackboard throughout the semester and will be due online at the scheduled date and time. The dates of each assignment can be found on Blackboard and in your course calendar at the end of your syllabus. It is your responsibility to make sure that all assignments are completed and turned in on time. Work turned in after the scheduled date and time is considered late work.

#### **Submitting Work**

All assignments will be submitted via Blackboard. No emailed assignments will be accepted.

#### **Journal Entries (140)**

After completing a chapter, you will write a journal entry to reflect on the developmental topic we just covered. You will have a total of **14** journal topics. For each topic you will need to complete **three entries** for each topic— one as a child (ages 4-7), one as an adolescent (12-16), and one as your current age. Each entry should be one paragraph, and should highlight key parts of the topic you are covering for each age. Each entry should be written in first person as that age. The point of these journal entries is for you to apply what you learned in this chapter across different age groups to see how they are similar or different.

Journal entries will be posted directly on Blackboard under the Journal Page. **Entries should NOT be posted as an uploaded document. If they are not posted directly on the Journal page, they will not be graded.** For each chapter, you will create ONE entry that includes a heading for each age period you are writing about. An example of a full journal entry is included in the journal entry rubric page. **Each full journal entry is worth 10 points.** Blackboard has a full grading rubric for you to see the grade breakdown. It is in your best interest to keep up with these weekly as we finish each chapter, but they will be due at the end of each unit (see course calendar).

While these journal entries are meant to be creative and personal, proper writing is still expected, even for the “child”. Please look at the **Department of Psychology Writing Policy** for more information about what is expected in your writing. For more information and examples of journal entries, please look at the Journal Entries Guidelines on Blackboard.

**Exams (150 + 65).** There will be a total of 5 exams in this class: 3 mid-term exams that cover the first three units of the course, a final exam during Final Exam Week that covers the last unit of the course, and an *optional* comprehensive make-up exam that includes material from all four units. All exams will be open note and open book. **All exams will also use lockdown browser.** This means that you will be unable to access anything else on your screen while taking the test. Thus, if you keep your notes digitally, you will need to find alternate methods for how you can access your book. These exams will include many questions in a **75 minute period**. Any material presented in lecture videos, your textbook, or the articles posts are fair game for an exam. Your exams will be a mixture of multiple-choice questions and short answer questions. Exams will open up on Friday of each week at 12am and close on Sunday at 11:59p.m. Exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short-answers. Mid-term exams will be graded on a

50-point scale and the final exam will be graded on a 65- point scale. ***Note: Except your final exam, which will open at Wednesday 12am and close on Thursday at 11:59p.m.***

How the comprehensive make-up exam works: I do not schedule individual make-up exams for students who miss a test. If you miss an exam and wish to make it up, you may take the comprehensive make-up on the last day of class. You may also use the make-up exam to replace a low grade on one of the first three mid-terms. **You may not take the comprehensive make-up in place of the Final Exam!** The make-up includes questions from the entire semester. *Your makeup exam will take place at the very beginning of the final week of the course. Your makeup exam cannot hurt your grade, only help.*

### **Discussions (80 points).**

Each week, you will be asked to answer two discussion questions. One question will come from your textbook or the lecture videos. The second question will come from the article assigned to you for that unit. You will need to read that article in order to answer the question for that discussion thread. For each discussion topic/thread, you will have 3 posts – 1 initial post and 2 reply posts. Your initial post is worth 4 points, and each reply post is worth 2 point (total of 8 points for each discussion thread). Your initial post will be graded either as Excellent (4 points), Satisfactory (2 points), Unsatisfactory (1 point), missing (0 point). To receive excellent, students need to fully answer the question asked, go into great detail, provide evidence from the book or lecture videos and demonstrate a good understanding of the question asked. Satisfactory answers the question as is but does not go above and beyond. Unsatisfactory fails to answer all parts of the questions or does not give an answer that demonstrates understanding. Your reply posts need to be substantial replies, meaning they need to say more than “I agree” or “disagree”. You need to point out what exactly you agree or disagree on and why. If you only provide an agree or disagree, you will receive 0 points.

Guidelines for discussions:

- Initial posts for discussion threads are due THURSDAYS at 11:59 p.m.
- Reply posts for discussion threads are due Sundays at 11:59 p.m. If you do not complete an initial post you will not receive credit for the reply post. ***\*\* please note this date will change for the final week \*\****
- You must post your replies in the textbox of the discussion board – no word document submissions will be counted.
- You must sign your name at the end of your discussions. This shows you are taking accountability for you have said. If you do not include your name at the end of your posts, you will receive 1 point deduction for each post. If you consistently do not sign your name (i.e. it happens multiple weeks in a row), you will not receive credit for your discussion.

NOTE: If it appears that your discussions are being generated via AI, you will receive 0's and be reported to the provost's office. All discussions should be written by YOU.

*Extra credit opportunities:*

*In addition to your two weekly discussion posts, there will be a welcome discussion that you can answer and post 2 replies for a chance to get an additional 3 extra credit points the first week.*

### **Syllabus Quiz (5 points):**

All students will need to complete a syllabus quiz at the start of the semester. The syllabus quiz will be completed online through blackboard. Please check the course calendar for the date.

## **Course Policies**

### **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. In order 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. If you do have a question, you can send me an email.

### **Technology**

This course will use Blackboard (<https://bb.siue.edu>) as the primary vehicle for disseminating class materials. Announcements, lecture videos, assignments, updates, grades, and other important course information will be posted to Blackboard. It is your responsibility to regularly check this course’s Blackboard website throughout the semester. All assignments will be turned in on Blackboard (when applicable) unless otherwise instructed to do something differently by the instructor of this course.

### **Academic integrity/plagiarism**

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.

Use of an AI Generator such as ChatGPT, iA Writer, MidJourney, DALL-E, etc. is **explicitly prohibited** unless otherwise noted by the instructor. The information derived from these tools is based on previously published materials. Therefore, using these tools without proper citation constitutes plagiarism. Additionally, be aware that the information derived from these tools is often inaccurate or incomplete. It’s imperative that all work submitted should be your own. Any assignment that is found to have been plagiarized or to have used unauthorized AI tools may receive a zero and / or be reported for academic misconduct. By submitting assignments in this class, you pledge to affirm that they are your own work and you attribute use of any tools and sources.

### **Grading**

<b><u>Assignment</u></b>	<b><u>Percentage Breakdown</u></b>
Syllabus Quiz	5
Discussion (10)	80
Journal Entries (14)	140
Mid-Term exams	150
Final Exam	65
<b>Total</b>	<b>440</b>

**Final grades are not negotiable. I do NOT round up.** There will be opportunity to receive extra credit in this course, but it is your responsibility to work for it. If you are upset about a grade on an assignment, you need to set up a meeting with me to discuss that within a week of the published grade of the assignment. After that, I will not consider a grade dispute. ***I especially do not respond to end-of-semester e-mails that request unearned grade bumps.***

### **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 (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 paper including headings, citations and references, per the 7<sup>th</sup> 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 utilize one of the many online resources they have identified to help students (<http://www.siu.edu/lss/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 more than three writing errors are found on any one page of a written assignment, grading will cease, and the student's paper will be returned with a grade equal to 50% of the total point value for the assignment.**

### **Late or Missed Assignments**

Any **written assignment** (except discussion boards) must be completed and submitted via Blackboard by their assigned time. Assignments turned within 24 hours of due date will receive a **10% deduction**. Assignments turned within 48 hours of due date will receive a **20% deduction**. **Anything more than 48 hours will not be accepted and receive a 0**. Students are responsible for anticipating that technology can often fail and should be in communication with the instructor if necessary, PRIOR to the deadline. Assignments cannot be submitted via email unless communicated with the instructor ahead of time. If assignment is emailed without prior approval, assignment will immediately receive 20% deduction. You are encouraged to confirm that your assignment has been received via blackboard.

## **University Policies**

### **Services for 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 1203. You can also reach the office by emailing us at [myaccess@siue.edu](mailto:myaccess@siue.edu) or by calling 618-650-3726. If you feel you would need additional help in the event of an emergency situation, please notify your instructor to be shown the evacuation route and discuss specific needs for assistance.

### **Diversity and Inclusion**

SIUE is committed to respecting everyone's dignity at all times. In order to learn, exchange ideas, and support one another, our virtual and physical classrooms must be places where students and teachers feel safe and supported. Systems of oppression permeate our institutions and our classrooms. All students and faculty have the responsibility to co-create a classroom that affirms inclusion, equity, and social justice, where racism, sexism, classism, ableism, heterosexism, xenophobia, and other social pathologies are not tolerated. Violations of this policy will be enforced in line with the SIUE Student Conduct Code.

The Center for Student Diversity & Inclusion <https://www.siue.edu/csdi> is an excellent resource for students for support and community. Any person who believes they have experienced or witnessed discrimination or harassment can contact Ms. Jamie Ball, Director in the Office of Equal Opportunity, Access and Title IX Coordination at (618) 650-2333 or [jball@siue.edu](mailto:jball@siue.edu). There is also an online form for reporting bias incidents at [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?SIUEdwardsville&layout\\_id=10](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?SIUEdwardsville&layout_id=10).

### **Additional Support**

#### **Academic and Other Student Services**

As an enrolled SIUE student, you have a variety of support available to you, including:

- [Lovejoy Library Resources](#)
- [The Writing Center](#)
- [Academic Advising](#)
- [Campus Events](#)
- [Counseling Services](#)

If you find that you need additional support, please reach out to me and let me know.

#### **Cougar Care**

Dealing with the fast-paced life of a college student can be challenging, and I always support a student's decisions to prioritize mental health. Students have access to counseling services on

campus (Student Success Center, 0222). Make an appointment by visiting [cougarcare.siu.edu](https://cougarcare.siu.edu) or by calling 618-650-2842.

### **Academic Integrity**

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. The full text of the policy can be found here: <https://www.siu.edu/policies/3c2.shtml>.

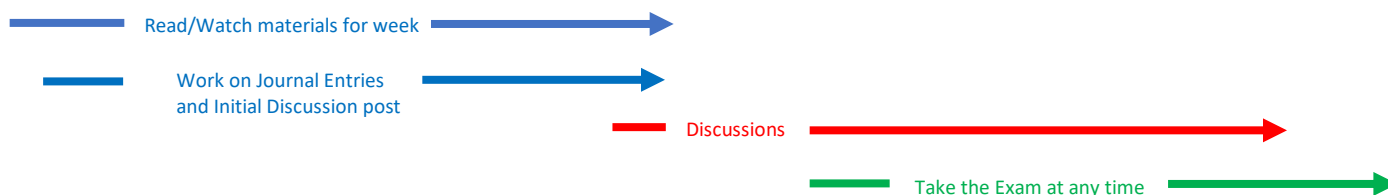
## Course Structure

Online courses must be clearly and consistently structured to help students understand deadlines but should provide flexibility for students' other engagements. To that end, this course will follow the following structure FOR THE FIRST 4 WEEKS:

<i>Monday AM – Thursday PM</i>	<i>Friday AM – Sunday PM</i>
<b>Read/Watch/ Journal/ Discussion Posts</b>	<b>Discussion Reply Posts / Exam</b>
All of week's materials will open on Monday morning. Students will read all readings, watch and take notes on lectures. Students will also work on their journal entries and initial discussion posts during this time and submit by Thursday at 11:59 p.m.	In addition, students should work on their reply posts which will be due by Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Students will take their exam at the end of each week. Students will work independent on the week's exam. Exams are open note and open book, but they are timed for 75 minutes. Please note that exams will be a mix of multiple choice and short answer questions that come from videos, the book and the weekly journal article.

*\*Note: You will have a syllabus quiz due by Wednesday of the first week; you will also have a welcome discussion that all posts are due by Thursday at 11:59 p.m for extra credit.*

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN	Mon
New Week opens!							New Week Opens!



## Course Structure – Final Week

<i>Monday AM – Tuesday PM</i>	<i>Wednesday AM – Thursday PM</i>
<b>Makeup Exam/ Discussion Post</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>
If you choose to participate in a makeup exam, you will have starting Monday at 12am-Tuesday at 11:59p.m. The makeup exam is comprehensive and 75 minutes. You will also have one more discussion post for this week. <b>Please note that your initial post and replies are due by Tuesday at 11:59 p.m.</b>	Your final exam will open up on Wednesday 12a.m. and close <b>Thursday at 11:59 p.m.</b> Your final exam will be just like other unit exams. You will have 90 minutes to take it, and it is open note and open book.

Course Calendar:

*Note: All assignments will be due at 11:59pm on their assigned date through Blackboard.*

<b>Week/Dates</b>	<b>Topics/Readings</b>	<b>Due Thursday at 11:59 p.m.</b>	<b>Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m.</b>
<b>Week 1</b> <b>6/2-6/8</b>	Introduction to Development (Ch. 1) Biological Beginnings (Ch. 2) Physical Development & Biological Aging (Ch. 3) Article: <i>Risk Taking in Adolescence</i> <i>Watch Videos</i>	<i>Syllabus Quiz</i> <i>Welcome Discussion (all posts)</i> <i>Pre-Course Quiz (E.C.)</i> <i>Unit 1 Journal Entries</i> <i>Discussion Initial Post</i>	<i>Exam 1</i> <i>Discussion reply posts</i>
<b>Week 2</b> <b>6/9-6/15</b>	Motor, Sensory and Perceptual Development (Ch. 5) Cognitive Developmental Approaches (Ch. 6) Information Processing (Ch. 7) Intelligence (Ch. 8) Article: <i>Impact of Social Media Use on Executive Function (Omit Study 3)</i> <i>Watch Videos</i>	<i>Unit 2 Journal Entries</i> <i>Discussion 2 Initial Posts</i>	<i>Exam 2</i> <i>Discussion reply posts</i>
<b>Week 3</b> <b>6/16-6/22</b>	Language Development (Ch. 9) Self, Identity & Personality (Ch. 11) Gender & Sexuality (Ch. 12) Article: <i>Gender Typicality, Peer Relations and Mental Health</i> <i>Watch Videos</i>	<i>Unit 3 Journal Entries</i> <i>Discussion Initial Posts</i>	<i>Exam 3</i> <i>Discussion reply posts</i>
<b>Week 4</b> <b>6/23-6/29</b>	Emotional Development and Attachment (Ch. 10) Moral Development (Ch. 13) Family, Lifestyles and Parenting (Ch. 14) Peer Relations (Ch. 15) Article: <i>What Makes a Marriage Work</i> <i>Watch Videos</i>	<i>Unit 4 Journal Entries</i> <i>Discussion Initial Posts</i>	<i>Discussion reply posts</i>
	<b>Topics/Readings</b>	<b>Due Tuesday at 11:59 p.m.</b>	<b>Due Thursday at 11:59 p.m.</b>
<b>Week 5</b> <b>6/30-7/3</b> <i>Note: we will end on 7/3 due to the holiday</i>		<i>Comprehensive Makeup Exam</i> <i>Discussion (all posts)</i> <i>Post Course Quiz (E.C.)</i>	<i>Final Exam</i> <i>(**remember your makeup exam does not replace final exam)</i>

## 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.