**Foundations of Psychology**

**PSYC – 111-001**

**Fall 2016**

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| **Professor:** | Gregory E. Everett, PhD | **Class Location:** | Peck Hall, Room 2304 |
| **Office:** | Alumni Hall, Room 0147 | **Class Time:** | Mondays & Wednesdays  12 – 1:15 pm |
| **Phone:** | (618) 650 – 3284 |
| **Email:** | [geveret@siue.edu](mailto:geveret@siue.edu) | **Office Hours:** | Mondays, 9:30 – 11:00 am  Wednesdays, 1:30 – 3:00 pm  or by appointment |
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**Course Description**

Psychology is the science of behavior and mental processes. Foundations of Psychology is a 3 credit hour course that will provide students with an overview of the historical and scientific roots of psychological methods and techniques, biological bases of behavior, human development and learning, memory, motivation, personality, psychological disorders, therapeutic techniques, and social psychology.

**Required Text**

Myers, D. G., & Dewall, C. N. (2015). *Psychology: Eleventh edition in modules.* New York: Worth Publishers.

**Course Objectives**

By the completion of the course students will gain:

* a basic understanding of the science of psychology, including the scientific method, differing forms of psychological research, and contemporary approaches to psychological science.
* a basic understanding of nervous system structure and brain-behavior relationships.
* knowledge of human development from a life-span developmental perspective.
* knowledge of learning and memory processes, and the basics of motivation and personality.
* a basic understanding of psychological disorders, therapeutic techniques, and social psychological principles.

**Assignments and Final Grades**

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| **Assignments** | | **Final Grades**  **(points)** | |
| **Exam #1** | 84 points | **A:** | 396 – 440 |
| **Exam #2** | 84 points | **B:** | 352 – 395 |
| **Exam #3** | 84 points | **C:** | 308 – 351 |
| **Exam #4** | 84 points | **D:** | 264 – 307 |
| **Research Participation** | 60 points | **F:** | < 264 |
| **Written Assignment** | 44 points |  |  |

* **Exams –** Four (4) in-class, “closed book” exams will be given throughout the semester. Each exam will cover only the material since the last exam. As such, the final exam **is not comprehensive.** Each exam will cover both lecture topics and information from the assigned readings, and will include any combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, or short-answer questions. **Just because a topic was not covered during class lecture, does not mean the information will not be on the exam.**

**Be advised that students will not be permitted to take course exams if they arrive more than 10 minutes after the regularly scheduled beginning of class.**

* **Research participation –** As per Department of Psychology requirements, each student is required to participate in at least six (6) hours of psychological research or complete six (6) psychological research summaries (or a combination of the two). A detailed description of such requirements and the appropriate departmental policy are listed below.
* **Written Assignment –** Once during the semester students will be required to complete a brief written response on a topic related to one discussed in class (chosen by the professor). Further information will be provided in class on 9/14/2016.

**Attendance Policy**

Although attendance at class lecture sessions is not a course requirement (with the exception of **Wednesday, August 31 for the discussion of the Department of Psychology Research Requirement**), regular class attendance is expected. Regardless of lecture attendance, students are responsible for all material covered during each class session. As exams will cover material from both class lecture and the assigned readings, regular class attendance is strongly encouraged.

In order to reward class attendance, throughout the semester there will be several random attendance checks that will take place during the first 3 minutes of class. Each student present during these random checks will earn 2 bonus points that will be added to their score on the next exam. In order to earn such points, students must arrive to class on time and remain in class for the entire period (as leaving early on such days will result in the loss of the 2 bonus points).

**Also, class attendance on exam days is a specific course requirement.** Make-up exams will only be permitted for “excused absences” that are accompanied by proper documentation submitted to the professor. In order to be eligible for a make-up exam, proper documentation must be submitted to the professor **by the end of the next regularly scheduled class period**. If such documentation is not submitted according to this time requirement, you will automatically earn a score of 0 on that exam. Once documentation is received, the student will be permitted to makeup a missed exam **only** **during class time immediately following the regularly scheduled forth exam**. In such instances, students will first complete and turn in their regularly scheduled forth exam and will immediately be given a copy of the exam to be made up. **Students will not be permitted to leave the classroom between their completion of the forth exam and relevant makeup exams.** Make-up exams may not be of the same format of those exams given during class.

**Please be aware that this professor will not drop a student from this course for non-attendance. It is completely your responsibility to adhere to all relevant university guidelines related to officially withdrawing from this course.**

**Department of Psychology Policy on Research Participation for Psychology 111**

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. This requirement may be completed by active participation in a department-approved study, by report of instructor-approved library reading, or a combination of these two in accord with guidelines set by the instructor. Each accepted library research report 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 up to more hours.

Details of the research participation will be provided early in your class. Attendance on the day that research participation is described is mandatory and you will receive in-depth instructions on how to use the [Pool Party web site](http://www.siue.edu/education/psychology/undergrad/participantpool.shtml) for research participation. You will also participate in an initial screening process which may allow you to participate in future studies.

Failure to fully complete the research experience requirement results in a one-letter grade drop, so if a student, for example, had 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 the 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. 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 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 in grade of one letter grade.

Those students who do not wish to participate in research may substitute written assignments for research participation. The written assignments 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 written assignment includes these requirements:

1. Submit brief summaries of research articles published in current psychological journals (published in the past five years). A list of acceptable journals is given below. Research summaries must be typed, double-spaced, and should not exceed two pages (about one-and-one-half pages is recommended). Attach a photocopy of the first page of the article to your summary. Each summary counts for 1 HOUR of research time.

2. Research participation and/or summaries are due by the date stated in your syllabus. No credit will be given for late summaries.

3. Each summary should be written in your own words. Review the departmental policy on plagiarism before turning in any written work. To avoid being charged with plagiarism, ask your instructor any questions you have what it means to write in your own words.

A good summary attempts to summarize briefly who investigated what problem, by what method, and what resulted from this research. Use the following organization:

* Authors' names', year, title of article, journal, volume number, page numbers (available from the article).
* Purpose of the study (general problem, hypotheses, etc.). (What were they trying to do in the study…what did they think they would find?)
* Method or procedures used. (Omit technical details. In brief, how did they do the study? Do not get into too much detail, just describe at a broad level what they did.)
* Results. (What was found? What does it mean? Do not go into technical detail, just say in everyday terms what the results were. Did it support what they thought would happen?)
* Personal comments. (What, in your opinion, was the importance or significance of the study?)

Research summaries are due, in class or in my mailbox, by 4:30pm on **Monday, December 5, 2016**. **No credit will be given for late summaries.**

**List of Acceptable Psychology Journals**

These journals are available through our university library. If you are using a computer on campus, you can probably also access most of the articles from these journals online. If there are other journals you wish to use, check with your instructor first. Only 'scientific' journals, not 'popular' sources (e.g., Discover, Psychology Today, blog posts, etc.) will be accepted.

Child Development Journal of Experimental Psychology   
Cognition  Journal of Experimental Social Psychology  
Developmental Psychology Journal of Personality  
Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology Journal of School Psychology  
Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis Memory and Cognition  
Journal of Applied Psychology Psychology in the Schools  
Journal of Applied Social Psychology Psychology of Women Quarterly  
Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders Psychological Science  
Journal of Clinical Psychology Sex Roles  
Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology  
Journal of Counseling Psychology  
Journal of Educational Psychology  
Journal of Experimental Child Psychology

**Additional Information**

**Statement on Disabilities**

Students with documented disabilities should notify the instructor regarding any needed accommodations at the beginning of the course. To request accommodations please contact the Office of Disability Support Services, Student Success Center, Room 1270 (618-650-3726). According to SIUE safety and procedures policies, students with disabilities have the option of developing a written plan for evacuation in the unlikely event of an emergency that requires evacuation. If any student with a disability would like to develop a written evacuation plan for this class, please contact the instructor.

**Department of Psychology Policy on Withdrawal and Incomplete Grades**

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.siue.edu/policies/1j1.shtml>). The granting of a grade of I (Incomplete) is not automatic. It is available only in cases when a student has completed most of the work required for a class but is prevented by a medical or similar emergency from completing a small portion of the coursework before the deadline for grade submission. An I must be approved by the instructor with appropriate documentation provided by the student. If an instructor agrees to give a student an I, the instructor will fill out a Memorandum of Incomplete Grade to be kept with the student’s records. If the work is not completed by the time specified on the Memorandum, the student’s grade will be changed from I to F.

**Statement 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.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>.

**Tentative Course Schedule**

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| **Date** | **Topic** | **Required Reading** |
| **8/22** | Course introduction & syllabus review |  |
| **8/24** | The Story of Psychology  Thinking Critically with Psychological Science | Module 1  Module 2 |
| **8/29** | Thinking Critically with Psychological Science | Module 3 |
| **8/31** | Explanation of student research requirements  **(attendance mandatory)** |  |
| **9/5** | **LABOR DAY – NO CLASS** |  |
| **9/7** | The Biology of Mind | Module 5 |
| **9/12** | Nature, Nurture, and Human Diversity | Module 13 |
| **9/14** | **Discussion of Written Assignment** |  |
| **9/19**  **9/21**  **9/26** | Developing Through the Life Span  **TBA**  Developing Through the Life Span | Modules 14 & 15  Module 16 |
| **9/28** | **EXAM #1 (MODULES AND LECTURES)** |  |
| **10/3**  **10/5**  **10/10** | Learning  Learning  Learning | Module 21  Module 22  Module 23 |
| **10/12**  **10/17**  **10/19** | Memory  Memory  Memory | Module 24  Module 25  Module 26 |
| **10/24** | **EXAM #2 (MODULES AND LECTURES)** |  |
| **10/26** | What Drives Us? | Modules 33 & 34 |
| **10/31**  **11/2** | Personality  Personality | Module 46  Modules 47 & 48 |
| **11/7**  **11/9**  **11/14** | Psychological Disorders  Psychological Disorders  Psychological Disorders | Modules 49  Modules 50 & 53  Modules 51 & 52 |
| **11/16** | **EXAM #3 (MODULES AND LECTURES)** |  |
| **11/21**  **11/23** | **THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS**  **THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS** |  |
| **11/28**  **11/30** | Therapy  Therapy, **Written Assignment Due** | Module 54  Module 55 |
| **12/5** | Social Psychology, **Research Summaries Due** | Modules 42 & 43 |
| **12/7** | Careers in Psychology | Appendix B |
| **12/14 @ 10 am** | **EXAM #4 (MODULES AND LECTURES)** |  |