



COUGARS

Syllabus for PSYC 365-001 & 002

Group Dynamics & Individual Behavior

T/TH @ 9:30am Alumni Hall Rm 0302

T/TH @ 12:30 pm Alumni Hall Rm 0302

In-Person

Department of Psychology

Spring 2024

About the Instructor

Name: Dr. Rachel Bradley

Phone: 618-650-3638

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Office: Alumni Hall 0134

Office Hours: T/TH 2:00pm – 3:30pm

About the Teaching Assistants

Name: Simon Childerson

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Name: Liezel Lindo

Email: lilindo@siue.edu

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 groups and how these entities can impact individual behavior within psychology. This is quite an important topic as we live, work, and play in both formal and informal groups with others. I think that the college classroom is the best space to examine this topic safely and respectfully and how it relates to our everyday lived experiences.

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 and dogs, Wally and ThudButt.

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 and 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 Blackboard frequently for announcements and assignments.
- ✓ Complete all assigned reading and writing assignments.
- ✓ Prepare course materials in advance.
- ✓ 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 to reach me about the course. I will respond to 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 or via phone using the office number listed in this syllabus.

Course 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:

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

Course textbook

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

Students can rent textbooks from SIUE. Please visit the [Textbook Service website](#) for more information. For online or 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.

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.

Course Requirements and Policies

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 on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to make sure that all assignments are completed and turned in on time. It should not be expected that I will post or give verbal reminders for work. 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.

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.

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](#).

Grading

Assignment Breakdown	Points Assigned	Weighted %	Weighted Pts
Attendance Points (for the entire semester)	100	10%	10
Syllabus and Course Readiness Quiz, each worth 10 pts	20	5%	1
Plagiarism Training	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 Points Assigned	100%	144.8 Points Available

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 on Blackboard. I will not consider grade disputes raised after this time.
- This course will have three-unit essays as the primary form of assessing knowledge acquisition. These essays will be directed with specific prompts. Two of the three essays will be included in the final grade. Each essay will be due online on Blackboard on the date scheduled. It is your responsibility to make sure that your essay is completed and turned in on time. Late essays will not be accepted for any reason or circumstance.

Grading rubrics

Grading rubrics will be provided on Blackboard for assignments that utilize one for grading purposes.

Feedback and grading timeline

Weekly Journals and Top 5 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 feedback on the rubric, if any.

Late or Missed Assignments/Rewrites

- 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, except essay assessments, are subject to the late assignment policy.
- Make-up essay assessments will not be given for any reason.
- Rewrites will not be permitted for this course.

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 class 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 you adhere to the deadlines given below as you complete assignments, discussions, and other course activities. This is not included in your final grade.

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 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 will be 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.

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.

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 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	Learning Activities & Assignments	Due Dates All due at 11:59 pm CST
Week 1 1/8-14	Introduction & Class Overview	Syllabus Quiz Course Readiness Quiz Plagiarism Training	Sunday, January 14, 2024
Week 2 1/15-21	Chapter 1: Intro to Group Dynamics	Top 5 Assignment Reflective Journal	Sunday, January 21, 2024
Week 3 1/22-28	Chapter 2: Studying Groups	Top 5 Assignment Reflective Journal	Sunday, January 28, 2024
Week 4 1/29-2/4	Chapter 3: Inclusion & Identity	Top 5 Assignment Reflective Journal	Sunday, February 4, 2024
Week 5 2/5-11	Chapters 4 & 5: Formation, Cohesion & Development	Top 5 Assignment Reflective Journal <i>Unit Essay 1</i>	Sunday, February 11, 2024
Week 6 2/12-18	Chapter 6: Structure	Top 5 Assignment Reflective Journal	Sunday, February 18, 2024
Week 7 2/19-25	Chapter 7 & 8: Influence & Power	Top 5 Assignment Reflective Journal Article Discussion #1	Sunday, February 25, 2024
Week 8 2/26-3/3	Chapters 9: Leadership	Top 5 Assignment Reflective Journal <i>Unit Essay 2</i>	Sunday, March 3, 2024
Week 9 3/4-10	SPRING BREAK - No Class Meetings	NONE	NONE
Week 10 3/11-17	Workshop Week: Group Analysis Project	NONE	NONE
Week 11 3/18-24	Group Analysis Project Presentations	Group Project Submission	Monday, March 18, 2024
Week 12 3/25-31	Chapter 10 & 12: Performance & Decision Making	Top 5 Assignment Reflective Journal	Sunday, March 31, 2024
Week 13 4/1-7	Chapter 11: Teams	Top 5 Assignment Reflective Journal	Sunday, April 7, 2024
Week 14 4/8-14	Chapter 13: Conflict	Top 5 Assignment Reflective Journal Article Discussion #2	Sunday, April 14, 2024
Week 15 4/15-21	Chapter 14: Intergroup Relations	Top 5 Assignment Reflective Journal <i>Unit Essay 3</i>	Sunday, April 21, 2024
Week 16 4/22-28	Workshop Week: Final Project	NONE	NONE
Week 17 4/29-5/03	Finals Week- No Class Meetings	Final Project	5/1/2024 @ 11:59pm