

**San José State University**  
**Department of Psychology**  
**PSYC 18, Introduction to Research Methods**

**Section-05 - Fall 2022**

**Course and Contact Information**

Instructor(s): Trevor Basil, PhD  
Office Location: DMH 232  
Email: [trevor.basil@sjsu.edu](mailto:trevor.basil@sjsu.edu)  
Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 10:30am-11:30am, Friday 5-7pm via [zoom](#)  
Class Days/Time: Tuesday/Thursday 9am-10:15am  
Classroom: HGH 120  
Prerequisites: PSYC 001 or equivalent and STAT 095 or equivalent

**Course Description**

Psychological research methods and design (experimental, quasi-experimental [correlational], and descriptive investigations) covering observation, instrumentation, and the collection, analysis, interpretation, and reporting of research data as illustrated through a review of original research in a variety of the subdisciplines of psychology.

**Course Format**

**In Person + Hybrid**

While mainly in person, this may properly be described as a hybrid course given the incorporation of Canvas and some of the independent study requirements. Internet connectivity, computer, and Microsoft Office software are required to participate in the classroom activities and/or submit assignments.

**Canvas**

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#). You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](#) on [Spartan App Portal](#) (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn of any updates. For help with using Canvas see [Canvas Student Resources page](#).

**Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)**

Upon successful completion of the requirements for a major in psychology, students will be able to:

- PLO1 - Knowledge Base of Psychology – demonstrate familiarity with major concepts, empirical findings, theoretical perspectives, and historical trends in psychology.
- PLO2 – Research methods in Psychology – design, implement, and communicate basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretations.
- PLO3 – Critical Thinking Skills – use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to behavior and mental processes.
- PLO4 – Applications of Psychology – apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues

- PLO5 – Values in Psychology – value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.

### **Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)**

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

- CLO 1 – Demonstrate knowledge of the research process as it relates to behavioral research.
- CLO 2 – Distinguish between non-experimental, experimental, and quasi-experimental research methods.
- CLO 3 – Assess the threats to validity within a study.
- CLO 4 – Analyze a body of research findings.
- CLO 5 – Construct a research design that effectively tests original hypotheses.
- CLO 6 – Develop a research proposal in APA format
- CLO 7 – Discuss the importance of ethical principles when conducting research with human and animal participants
- CLO 8 – Present an oral presentation based on their completed research proposal

### **Required Readings**

**Textbook:** Morling. (2021). *Research Methods in Psychology* (4rd Edition). W.W. Norton & Company, Inc. ISBN: 978-0-393-89372-4

**Suggested reading:** American Psychological Association. (2019). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). ISBN: 978-1-4338-3217-8

### **Course Requirements and Assignments**

**Readings:** Students should read the assigned chapter of the required textbook before the start of class on each Monday of the week.

### **Sources of Points**

**Exams (CLO1, CLO2, CLO3, CLO4, PLO2, PLO3, PLO5):** Students will complete 3 non-cumulative, open book, open note exams. Exams will be taken on specific days during the semester and will take one class period to complete. Each exam will be worth 100 points.

**Quizzes (CLO1, CLO2):** Students will complete 5 open book quizzes based on assigned readings. Quizzes will be taken at the beginning of class and will contain 5 critical thinking questions with approximately 10 minutes to complete. Each quiz will be worth 20 points.

**Homework Critical Thinking Assignments (CLO1, CLO2, CLO3, CLO4):** Throughout the semester, we will have an assignment due at the end of the day at 11:59pm on which the assignment is given. This will range from in-class assignments requiring participation in group discussions, turning in reflections, or submitting completed word documents onto Canvas. Please note that these assignments cannot be made up or turned in late. Students will have a total of 10 assignments with each assignment being worth 20 points.

**Final Presentation (CLO4, CLO5, CLO6, CLO7, CLO8)**

You will also present a research proposal to the class. This assignment is worth 300 points and is broken down into 3 parts: Presentation (150 points), slides (50 points), and feedback to peers (100 points). For the presentation, you will have two options: A) Live presentation or B) Video recording of your presentation. Regardless of the option you choose, you will need to be in class to answer questions from your classmates.

**Grading System**

<b>Exams (300 points)</b>
<b>Quizzes (100 points)</b>
<b>Assignments (200 points)</b>
<b>Final Presentation (300 points)</b>
<b>Total = 900 points</b>

**Final Letter Grade Scale**

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	<i>864 to 900</i>	<i>96 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>837 to 863</i>	<i>93 to 95%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>810 to 836</i>	<i>90 to 92%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>774 to 809</i>	<i>86 to 89 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>747 to 773</i>	<i>83 to 85%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>720 to 746</i>	<i>80 to 82%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>684 to 719</i>	<i>76 to 79%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>657 to 683</i>	<i>73 to 75%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>630 to 656</i>	<i>70 to 72%</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>594 to 629</i>	<i>66 to 69%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>567 to 593</i>	<i>63 to 65%</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>540 to 566</i>	<i>60 to 62%</i>

- **Extra credit opportunities:** Extra credit assignments will be made available throughout the semester and will be announced in class (20 points maximum)
- **Late assignments:** If you did not request or receive an extension, research proposals and milestone assignments that are turned in past the due date will receive a 10% penalty from your earned score per late day. In-class assignments and quizzes cannot be made up or submitted late. However, as noted above, there will be multiple extra credit opportunities to earn back any missed points.
- **Grade changes:** Final grades will not be changed unless there was a clerical error.

- **Academic integrity:** Plagiarism, cheating, and any other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. The [University Academic Integrity Policy F15-7 \[pdf\]](#) requires you to be honest in all your academic coursework. If evidence of academic misconduct is found, you will receive a zero on the assignment(s) in question and I will file a report with the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. Visit the [Student Conduct and Ethical Development](#) website for more information.

### Zoom Classroom Etiquette

- **Use of Camera in Class:** Turning on your camera is encouraged if you have one and are comfortable doing so. However, it is not required. If you do use your camera, please place it in a stable position that is focused at eye level.
- **Mute Your Microphone:** To help keep background noise to a minimum, make sure you mute your microphone when you are not speaking.
- **Be Mindful of Background Noise and Distractions:** As best as you can, given your personal circumstances, find a quiet place to “attend” class. Try to avoid locations in which people may be walking behind you, people talking/making noise, etc.
- **Asking questions online:** If you would to ask a question/make a comment during lecture, the best approach is to use the “raise hand” feature in Zoom; I will then call on you to unmute yourself
  - If you use this feature but I still don’t notice you, feel free to unmute yourself and get my attention verbally. You can also use the chat function to ask questions, which is particularly useful if you’re on a device that doesn’t have a microphone

### University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](#), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](#) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

### Additional Information

**Writing Center:** The SJSU Writing Center offers a variety of free resources to help students become better writers. The center offers writing resources, workshops, and one-on-one and small-group tutoring sessions. Services support writing for students in all disciplines and at all levels. The SJSU Writing Center has two in-person locations, Clark Hall, Suite 126 and MLK Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Workshops and tutoring are also available through online platforms. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at [sjsu.edu/writingcenter](https://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter).

**Academic Counseling Center for Excellence (ACCESS):** ACCESS in the Social Sciences provides General Education advising, academic planning, graduation planning, mandatory freshman advising, probation advising, reinstatement and former student returning advising, career counseling, and tutoring (Statistics & Writing) for undergraduate students majoring or intending to major in any of the departments in the College of Social Sciences (CoSS). To schedule an appointment, visit the ACCESS website at <https://www.sjsu.edu/access/>.

**Student Technology Resources:** The [SJSU Learn Anywhere](#) site (<https://www.sjsu.edu/learnanywhere>) has a number of helpful resources for learning in an online environment, including help with Zoom and Canvas, finding free or affordable internet and computer resources, FAQs, workshops, and more. Additionally, a wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from [Collaboration & Academic Technology Services](#) located in IRC Building. These items include, but are not limited to: Laptops, wifi hotspots, webcams, and wireless microphones.

**Counseling and Psychological Services:** The SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Carlos in the new Student Wellness Center, Room 300B. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide confidential consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate, or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit the Counseling and Psychological Services website at [sjsu.edu/counseling](https://sjsu.edu/counseling), call 408-924-5910, or email [counseling.services@sjsu.edu](mailto:counseling.services@sjsu.edu).

**Peer Connections:** [Peer Connections](https://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) is your campus-wide resource for mentoring (time management, note taking, learning strategies, adjusting to college, etc.) and tutoring (including over 120 different courses and undergraduate writing). In addition, Peer Connections provides classroom support through Supplemental Instruction Leaders, Learning Assistants, Peer Mentors, and Embedded Tutors. Your instructor will announce if a Peer Educator is in your class. Peer Connections also has space for studying and offers breakfast snacks for students each day while supplies last. All services are FREE to SJSU students. For more information on services, hours, locations, or a list of current student success workshops, please visit the website at [peerconnections.sjsu.edu](https://peerconnections.sjsu.edu).

**SJSU Cares:** Students experiencing challenges meeting their basic needs including, but not limited to, access to food, shelter, and a safe space are encouraged to contact [SJSU Cares](https://sjsu.edu/ cares). Students who feel that their class performance may be affected by these challenges are encouraged to notify their professors, if comfortable doing so. Faculty members may be able to provide flexibility within the course for students working with a case manager.

### PSYC 018-05 / Introduction to Research Methods, Fall 2022, Course Schedule

Week	Date (T/R)	Topics	Readings (Read before Tuesday's class)
1	Aug. 23	Introduction	
	Aug. 25	Syllabus	
2	Aug. 30	Lecture 1: Psychology is a way of thinking	Chapter 1
	Sep. 1	Lecture 2: Sources of Information	Chapter 2
3	Sep. 6	Lecture 2: Sources of Information	
	Sep. 8	Lecture 3: Three Claims, Four Validities	Chapter 3
4	Sep. 13	Lecture 3: Three Claims, Four Validities	
	Sep. 15	Lecture 4: Ethical guidelines for Psychology Research	Chapter 4
5	Sep. 20	Lecture 4: Ethical guidelines for Psychology Research	
	Sep. 22	Lecture 5: Identifying Good Measurement + Review	Chapter 5
6	Sep. 27	<b>Exam 1</b>	
	Sep. 29	Lecture 6: Surveys and Observations	Chapter 6

7	Oct. 4	Lecture 7: Sampling	Chapter 7
	Oct. 6	Lecture 8: Bivariate Correlation Research	Chapter 8
8	Oct. 11	Lecture 8: Bivariate Correlation Research	
	Oct. 13	Lecture 9: Multivariate Correlation Research	Chapter 9
9	Oct. 18	Lecture 9: Multivariate Correlation Research + Review	
	Oct. 20	<b>Exam 2</b>	
10	Oct. 25	Lecture 10: Introduction to Simple Experiments	Chapter 10
	Oct. 27	Lecture 11: More on Experiments	Chapter 11
11	Nov. 1	Lecture 12: Experiments with More Than One IV	Chapter 12
	Nov. 3	Lecture 13: Quasi-Experiments and Small-N Designs	Chapter 13
12	Nov. 8	Lecture 14: Replication, Transparency, Real World Imp	Chapter 14
	Nov. 10	Lecture 14: Rep, Transparency, Real World + Review	
13	Nov. 15	<b>Exam 3</b>	
	Nov. 7	Group Proposal Discussion/Feedback	
14	Nov. 22	No Class - Thanksgiving	
	Nov. 24	No Class - Thanksgiving	
15	Nov. 29	Presentations (Statistics Review/Presenting Results)	Pg. 562
	Dec. 1	Presentations (Statistics Review/Presenting Results)	
16	Nov. 6	Presentations (Statistics Review/Presenting Results)	
<b>Final</b>		<b>Peer Discussion</b>	

\* *The course schedule is subject to change. Any updates will be uploaded to Canvas.*