

San José State University  
College of Social Sciences/Department of Psychology  
PSYC 121A-01, Advanced Research Methods:  
Personality & Social Psychology Lecture & Lab  
Sections 10 (25981) Lecture & 11 (25982) Lab,  
Spring, 2022

### Instructor Contact Information

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Instructor: Sandra Trafalis, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: TR 9:00 – 10:15 am, Fridays at 4:30  
– 6:30 pm or by appointment.

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### Course Information

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Classroom Lecture DMH 339/Lab359

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Class Days/Time: Fridays  
12:30-1:10 (section 10)  
1:30 to 4:30 (section 11/12)

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Prerequisites PSYC 001 or equivalent and STAT  
095 or equivalent, 100W

### Course Description

Descriptive, correlational, quasi-experimental, and experimental approaches: design, methodology, and analysis. Experience designing, conducting, analyzing, and presenting (verbal and written) research findings. Topics include: hypothesis testing, validity, reliability, scales of measurement, questionnaire development, power, statistical significance, and effect size. Prerequisite: Lower division GE complete; STAT 95, PSYC 18, PSYC 100W with a "C" or better (or departmental approval), Upper division standing, Psychology or Behavioral Science majors only.

### Learning Outcomes

#### Program Learning Outcomes

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

- PLO1 – Knowledge Base of Psychology – identify, describe, and communicate the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, 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 in Psychology – use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to behavior and mental processes
- PLO4 – Application 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**

The objective of this course is to provide you with a solid introduction to psychological research. We will examine the logic and strategies of scientific research and learn how to use statistics to draw conclusions from data. You will learn what research methods are available, when to use specific research methods, and how to interpret research results.

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

- CLO 1 Understand the differences and limitations of experimental and correlational research designs.
- CLO 2 Evaluate psychological research as to its reliability, validity, utility, and adherence to ethical guidelines.
- CLO 3 Identify threats to validity in research, including confounds and threats to generalizability.
- CLO 4: Execute a research project utilizing experimental design and interpret the results.
- CLO 5: Perform statistical analyses on data including descriptive statistics and inferential statistics..

The learning objectives will be assessed via written assignments and exam questions. The learning objectives will be assessed via written assignments, presentations, discussion posts, and exam questions.

## **Required Materials**

### **Canvas and E-Mail**

Unless otherwise announced in class, all graded assignments will be accepted only in electronic form using the Canvas learning management system assignments page ([Canvas](#) is available at <https://sjsu.instructure.com/>). Having access to the Internet is your responsibility, so have backup plans in case you have problems with your primary computer. I cannot accept excuses about technology problems as valid, unless the entire University network or all of Canvas is offline.

Supplementary course material will be made available on Canvas regularly. Communication regarding the course will be sent via the e-mail address linked to your MySJSU account or posted to Canvas. It is your responsibility to make sure you are enrolled in Canvas and receiving my e-mails.

### **Recommended Textbook**

Trochim, W., Donnelly, J., & Arora, K. (2016). *Research Methods The Essential Knowledge Base*, 2nd Edition. Cengage. ISBN:9780357692684

American Psychological Association. (2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

### **How to be Successful in this Course**

- § Review the current week's module
- § Read all material assigned in the module
- § Complete all activities and assignments assigned in the module;
- § Complete project related assignments and activities, including creating an experiment and collecting original data
- § Complete the final research project
- § Check Canvas and your e-mail for course announcements and changes
- § Check this syllabus/CANVAS for due dates and upcoming assignments
- § Ask questions when you get stuck, I will do my best to answer them or refer you to university resource, as needed. Email me through CANVAS or at the Email on the syllabus above

### **Determination of Grades**

Grades will be available to you on Canvas throughout the course.

A	916 to 1,000 points
A-	896 to 915 points
B+	866 to 895 points
B	816 to 865 points
B-	796 to 815 points
C+	766 to 795 points

C	716 to 765 points
C-	696 to 715 points
D+	666 to 695 points
D	616 to 665 points
D-	595 to 615 points
F	< 595 points

### Rounding is Included in the Grading Scale

The point totals reflect rounding up to the nearest *percentage*. For example, an A- would normally require 900 points (or 90% of 1000 points). With rounding, it only requires 896 points (or 89.6% of 1000 points). Because rounding is built in to the grading scale, your grade will be based on your final point total, rounded to the nearest whole *point* (so, 895.6 points is an A-, but 895.4 points is a B+). To be fair to everyone in the class, these are firm cutoffs.

### Make-Up and Extension Policy

Make-ups or extensions for any graded assignment will only be given when:

- You notify me immediately after you become aware of the circumstances requiring a make-up
- The reason is exceptional, unforeseen, and unavoidable. Examples of exceptional circumstances are getting sick, health emergencies, religious obligations, and military service.

## Course Requirements and Assignments

### Lab Activities

There will be several lab activities that are designed to complete critical milestones in the research project and practice research-related skills (e.g. how to develop an operational definition) and concepts (e.g., what is an operational definition). The lab activities will directly contribute to your ability to complete the final project. These activities will be worth **40%**.

### Final Project and Examination

Your final research project in this class will include an empirical report. This project is worth **60%** of your grade. APA-style research paper that involves developing a literature review, designing a methodology, collecting data, analyzing the data, and reporting the results. This project is considered the culminating assignment for the course and is due on the day of the final exam.

## **University Policies**

Per University Policy S16-9 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), 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. Course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

### **Academic Integrity**

Please don't cheat. I will not tolerate academic dishonesty in my courses. You can expect me to follow all University policies and protocols regarding the handling of suspected academic dishonesty. Penalties may include expulsion from SJSU. Software and statistical analysis may be used to detect academic dishonesty.

## **About Diversity**

Consistent with the mission of San José State University, I welcome persons of differing backgrounds and experiences including but not limited to age, disability and health status, ethnicity and race, family structure, geographic region, language, religious/spiritual and secular beliefs, resident status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, and socioeconomic status.

It is my goal to foster an environment in which diversity is recognized and embraced, and every person is treated with dignity, respect, and justice. I hope that your academic experience in this course and at San José State University will provide the opportunity to gain knowledge and experiences necessary to thrive in a diverse, global environment.

## Course Schedule

The course schedule is tentative and likely to change; modifications will be posted to Canvas.

Week	Module Topic	Reading Assignment	Assignment
Weeks 1 & 2 1/28 & 2/4	Module 1 Developing your topic	Handouts/Prompts	Lab Activity 1
Weeks 3 & 4 2/11 & 2/18	Module 2 Developing a Testable Idea	Handouts/Prompts	Lab Activity 2
Week 5 2/25	Module 3 Hypothesis development	Handouts/Prompts	Lab Activity 3
Weeks 6-8 3/4- 3/18	Module 4 Designing the study & Materials	Handouts/Prompts	Lab Activity 4 & 5
Week 9-13 3/25, 4/1, 4/8, 4/15 4/22	Module 5 Collecting the data  Surveys and Data Collection begins on 3/25.  Spring Break	Handouts/Prompts	Lab Activity 6 & 7
Week 14 – 16 4/29, 5/6, 5/13	Module 6 Analyzing and Summarizing the data	Handouts/Prompts	Lab Activity 8 & 9
Final Evaluation Due 5/20	Final Projects are due on the date of the final examination for this class and may be uploaded to CANVAS no later than the date of the final examination.		