

San José State University
Psychology
PSYCH 220, Seminar in Experimental Psych, Spring 2023

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Christine Ma-Kellams
Office Location:	DMH 312
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Office Hours:	Th 9-11 & by appointment on Zoom: https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/91199033927
Class Days/Time:	Tu 10:30-1:15
Classroom:	DMH and Zoom:
Prerequisites:	Advanced Research Methods
University Graduation Requirement	GWAR

Course Format: hybrid in person (Tuesdays) & online (Thursdays)

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on Canvas Learning Management System course login website at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU on [Spartan App Portal](http://one.sjsu.edu) <http://one.sjsu.edu> to learn of any updates.

Course Description

Applications of experimental method to current problems in psychology. Individual design and experimental work required. This course is intended to provide students with knowledge and skills necessary to conduct psychological research. Students will understand the essential concepts of research methodology and be able to critically assess various research techniques. Practical experience in designing and communicating research will also be gained.

Course Goals

This course will explore the empirical approaches to the understanding of human behavior across psychology. We will examine the scientific study of research methodology better understand and evaluate published work as well as design independent research studies.

Class will include lecture, in-class demos, small-group activities, videos, and presentations. This course satisfies SJSU's Graduation Writing Assessment Requirements (GWAR),

<http://www.sjsu.edu/gradstudies/policy/gwar/index.html>.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO): Upon successful completion of the course, students will have developed:

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

CLO1 – Understand the concepts, vocabulary, and designs in psychology research.

CLO2 – Understand validity and reliability issues in research designs.

CLO3 – Develop methodological procedures to address potential problems in research.

CLO4 – Discuss ethical issues involved in research.

CLO5 – Critically evaluate published research studies.

CLO6 – Design a reliable and valid empirical research study.

CLO7 – Discuss research concisely in written and oral communication.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs): Upon successful completion of the psychology graduate MA requirements:

PLO1 - Advanced Knowledge - Students completing the MA in Psychology program will understand the major theoretical perspectives and research methods across areas of experimental psychology, i.e., Developmental, Social, Cognitive, and Physiological.

PLO2 - Research Methods & Scholarship - Students completing the MA in Psychology program are required to complete a thesis. The thesis will demonstrate:

(a) creative problem-solving in the design, implementation of empirical research.

(b) project management skills in the implementation of empirical research.

(c) advanced competency in the statistical analysis and interpretation of empirical research findings.

(b) the ability to communicate (oral and written) their research findings at a professional level

PLO3 - Career Enhancement - Students completing the MA in Psychology program will achieve career enhancement through placement in a doctoral program or acceptance of a position requiring a master's in psychology in the public or private sector.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook & Readings

Required readings are listed below and will be posted on Canvas.

Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. (2018). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches* (5th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Activities

In-class activities are an important part of this class and attending class requires active participation. Activities are meant as a space for you to apply the theories and findings from the psychology of prejudice to the real world.

Attendance

Timely attendance and participation are essential for success in the course. I will do my best to foster an environment where all students feel free to express their ideas. If you miss class, you will likely miss important material that may be covered on the exams, and you will lose points for any participation activities that you miss. You are responsible for all announcements, in-class handouts, lectures, and other materials from class whether you attend class or not. You should try to get missed notes from a classmate.

Course Readings

Readings should be done before each class. Useful discussions follow only when everyone has completed the

readings thoroughly and thoughtfully.

Exams: All midterm exams are noncumulative; however, the final exam is cumulative. Prior to each exam, there will be an in-class review session; please prepare ahead of time and bring questions to the review. Exam material will come from lectures, in-class activities, and assigned readings.

Class participation: We will engage in a variety of in-class activities, including demonstrations, group discussions, videos, etc. Attendance and participation in discussion are crucial for doing well in the course.

Research Project & Final Paper: Option 1

Scientific understanding of the psyche is based on empirical research. As a student of this science, it's important that you be able to think critically about published research and think creatively about future directions for existing research.

For the research project, you will design a study of your choice, ideally one that you plan on doing your thesis on. Students are encouraged to use this project as an opportunity to start on their thesis project.

The paper will include a thorough review of the existing literature on the topic, your own critical analysis of the research that has been conducted, methods, predicted results, and discussion, including possible future directions and practical applications. The paper should include journal articles or academic books as references, and be in APA style; length should be 12-15 pages.

To allow for feedback and revision, the proposal, data collection methods, and predicted results section of your paper will be due at different points throughout the semester so that you can get preliminary feedback and make the necessary revisions.

Alternative to Research Project & Final Paper: Option 2

Empirical research is half the battle. Scientific findings should contribute to public discourse and our society's understanding of others and themselves. So, as an alternative to submitting your thesis drafts as your Research Project/Final Paper, you can instead submit a series of Op-Eds.

The goal of these Op-Eds is to take a recent scientific finding (ideally related to your thesis or a project you've been a part of) and discuss it in a way that contributes to the public's understanding of it. It should not just summarize the results from a study (or studies), but make an compelling argument for why society at large should care.

To this end, you have the option of submitting drafts of 3 different Op-Eds of about 800-1,000 words each. In other words, you can turn in an Op-Ed in lieu of submitting the proposal, data collection methods, or predicted results of your thesis. As with the thesis, you'll get feedback on each one you submit.

Then, at the end of the semester for your Final Paper, you will turn in a finalized copy of your revised Op-Eds (with revisions based on the feedback), along with a submission plan listing the popular media sources you plan on submitting each Op-Ed to, the editor's name and contact info, and your timeline for submission.

Presentation: Students are required to present on the findings from their final research project. In the case of Option #1, this will include presenting on the background literature (i.e., including peer-reviewed articles on the topic), methods, predicted results, and a discussion of the implications for this line of research. In the case of Option #2, this will include doing a reading of 1 of their Op-Eds (of their choice) followed by a Q & A discussion. Specific instructions for this assignment will be passed out in class.

****ALL written assignments need to use 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins.

Final Examination or Evaluation

The final exam will be on the time scheduled by the SJSU final exam schedule.

Grading Information

Grading

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
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Activities/Assignments:

Proposal: abstract/references	10 pts
Lit review	10 pts
Methods/Data analysis plan	10 pts

Exams:

Midterm #1	40 pts
Midterm #2	40 pts
Final Exam	40 pts

Research Project:

Final Proposal	75 pts
Research Presentation	10 pts

Determination of Grades

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	<i>96 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>93 to 95%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>90 to 92%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>86 to 89 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>83 to 85%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>80 to 82%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>76 to 79%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>73 to 75%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>70 to 72%</i>

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>66 to 69%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>63 to 65%</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>60 to 62%</i>

Classroom Protocol

Late assignments

An assignment turned in after the due date (and time) will receive a 10% penalty per day late. If you do not show up for the exam, you will receive a zero on it. There are no exceptions to this rule except for emergencies with official documentation (e.g., doctor's note). Note the deadlines in the class syllabus and plan accordingly.

Electronics

Cell phones, mp3 players, and all other electronic devices should be turned off in class. Texting or answering calls during class is not acceptable. If electronic devices are visible during an exam, you will receive a zero on the exam.

Laptops are strongly discouraged: Social media is bad for your happiness (studies show) and addictive (so is email). Please consider the limitations of "multi-tasking" and make an informed choice when deciding to bring computers to class.

Academic Honesty

You are held to the highest standard of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated. You may never use the ideas or work of another person without proper citation (i.e. noting the name and source according to APA style). The work you turn in for all assignments should always be your own. I am interested in your original ideas, as well as your ability to properly cite others' ideas. Keep in mind that plagiarism does not necessarily have to be intentional to be serious. When in doubt, cite!

Contact

I check my email on a daily basis Monday-Friday and should respond to most queries within 24 hours. Please feel free to approach me before/after class, or make an appointment for office hours.

Accessibility

Any student needing academic adjustments or accommodations should talk with me by the end of the second week of the term. University Policies (Required)

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant information to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. is available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>". **Make sure to visit this page, review and be familiar with these university policies and resources.**

In the following pages, you will find an outline of the topics and readings we will be covering. Please note that the syllabus may be updated during the semester to reflect changes in course readings, shifts in lecture topics, etc. You will be notified each time a change takes place.

Week	Month	Date	LECTURE TOPIC	Assignment/Reading
1	JAN	31-FEB 2	Introductions/Psychology as a science	Ch. 1
2	FEB	7, 9	Alternatives to Experiments/Ethics	Ch. 3
3		14, 16	Hypothesis testing/Topic generation	Ch. 4; Abstract & references due
4		21, 23	Basic experimental design/Literature review	Ch. 2
5		28, MAR 2	Midterm #1 (on Canvas)	Midterm #1
6	MAR	7, 9	Conference/no class	Ch. 5
7		14, 16	Variables: Within vs. between, control, & confounds	Ch. 6
8		21, 23	Multivariate & Quasi-experimental designs	Ch. 7 Lit review due
9		28, 30	SPRING BREAK	No reading—enjoy your break!
10	APRIL	4, 6	Midterm #2 (on Canvas)	Midterm #2
11		11, 13	Brief tour of methods; propose study	Ch. 8
12		18, 20	Stats Review; Proposal workshop	Ch. 9 Methods & data analysis plan due
13		25, 27	Drawing conclusions/Talking strategies	Ch. 10

14	MAY	2, 4	Presentation strategies/Future of psych methods	Final Proposal due
15		9, 11	Presentations	Presentations
16		23	Final exam (on Canvas) 9:45-12 Noon	