

**San José State University  
Department of Psychology  
PSYC 155.1 (61), Human Learning  
Winter 2025**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Steven Del Chiaro
<b>Office Location:</b>	Zoom
<b>Email:</b>	Through Canvas (Please indicate on the subject line of the email: class date and time)
<b>Office Hours:</b>	<b>By appointment on Zoom (request through Canvas) 8:00 am – 9:00 am Class Meeting Days</b>
<b>Class Modality</b>	<b>Online Hybrid</b>
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Monday-Friday 9:00am– 11:55 am . Class meeting dates – See Syllabus and Zoom section of Canvas
<b>Classroom:</b>	Zoom

### Course Web Page

#### Class Websites:

Canvas – ALL assignments are assigned and turned into Canvas. You must be able to upload .doc or pdf. documents.

#### **Logging Into Canvas**

**Canvas Login URL:** <https://sjsu.instructure.com/> . Please note that it should NOT have the "www" at the start of the URL like many other websites. All students must first set up their SJSUOne account before accessing Canvas. To do so, go to <http://its.sjsu.edu/services/sjsuone/> . The **Username for Canvas** then is your 9 digit SID or Employee ID and your PW is the one you chose when you established your SJSUOne account. You will see the courses you taking (assuming the instructor is using Canvas).

#### **Further Assistance with Canvas**

Students should go first to <http://guides.instructure.com/m/4212> with problems and then to the University Help Desk for Canvas problems, including logging in (<http://www.sjsu.edu/helpdesk/>).

#### **Course Description**

Through learning, humans and animals share a capacity to adapt to ever changing demands in the environment. Attempts to understand these processes form a cornerstone of experimental psychology. Theories from this basic research have contributed to applications and further theory development in many other areas of psychology (e.g. clinical, social and education). PSYC 155

is an introduction to the study of learning and behavior and focuses on the Behavioral Perspective as a way of improving our understanding of human behavior and how it is shaped.

The course will focus on two types of learning: Classical and Operant conditioning. Students can have a life-changing experience in this course, because it provides the basis for new ways of approaching common life challenges such as disciplining children, maintaining positive marriages and other relationships, and procrastination (to name just a few). The material is intellectually challenging at times, but well worth the effort required to learn to think like a Behaviorist!

### **Required Texts/Readings**

**Textbook – Must purchase LMS, E-Book comes with LMS. We will cover first day of class**  
Powell, R. A., Symbaluk, D. G., & MacDonald, S. E. (2017). Introduction to Learning & Behavior. 5th Edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Thomson Learning.

### **Other Readings**

As assigned by instructors on an as needed basis.

### **Learning Outcomes**

The primary goal of this course will be to help you develop an understanding of the major themes, issues, and methods recognized within the psychology of learning. The aim of this course is to provide an understanding of the basic principles of the learning process. You will discover the learning processes that allow us to know how and when to act in order to obtain desired pleasurable aspects of our environment and to avoid unwanted unpleasant ones.

### **Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)**

The primary goal of this course will be to help you develop an understanding of the major themes, issues, and methods recognized within the psychology of learning. The aim of this course is to provide an understanding of the basic principles of the learning process. You will discover the learning processes that allow us to know how and when to act in order to obtain desired pleasurable aspects of our environment and to avoid unwanted unpleasant ones.

### **Competencies and Performance Indicators**

The competencies listed below shall be demonstrated and assessed through class discussion, exams (comprised of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions) and simulation lab reports.

1. Understand the science of learning.
  - a. Demonstrate an appreciation of the empirical foundation of the study of learning.
  - b. Be familiar with research techniques and findings that illustrate fundamental learning concepts.
2. Differentiate between various theories of learning and memory.
  - a. Be able to understand and differentiate between theories.
  - b. Be able to cite evidence supporting the views of major theorists.
3. Demonstrate the ability to apply the concepts learned in the course to concrete examples:
  - a. Be able to differentiate and explain learning concepts using your self-change project.

- b. Be able to apply learning principles to real world phenomena.

### **Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)**

Upon successful completion of the psychology major requirements...

*PLO1 – Knowledge Base of Psychology* – Students will be able to identify, describe, and communicate the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology. (test, quizzes, paper)

*PLO2 – Research Methods in Psychology* – Students will be able to design, implement, and communicate basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretations. (paper)

*PLO3 – Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology* – Students will be able to use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to behavior and mental processes. (paper)

*PLO4 – Application of Psychology* – Students will be able to apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues. (tests, paper)

*PLO5 – Values in Psychology* – Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society. (paper)

### **Library Liaison**

Bailey, Christa  
Phone: 408-808-2422  
Email: [christa.bailey@sjsu.edu](mailto:christa.bailey@sjsu.edu)

### **Classroom Protocol**

#### **Syllabus Policy:**

The course syllabus presented in this document will be followed as closely as possible. However, the course syllabus, schedule, policies, and procedures are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor or in the event of extenuating circumstances. This includes the tentative dates listed. The instructor will announce possible changes of the syllabus in advance. Since such announcements are typically made during class, it is the student's responsibility to clarify any of these changes that may have been made when the student is absent.

Although you will be responsible for all of the material in the assigned readings, some of the information may not be covered in class. Therefore, if there is material that is unclear to you it is highly recommended that you discuss this material with me at an appropriate time (e.g., during office hours). It is your responsibility to read the syllabus and ask questions about it so that you have a clear understanding of the expectations. If you are unclear about any of the requirements/expectations, then please set up a time to speak with me. I will be grading as though you have a clear understanding of the course requirements and material.

#### **Attendance:**

I will not be taking attendance. You are adults and need to make your own decisions. Please

realize that your decisions have consequences (If this makes no sense to you then this is the course for you, as you will understand through operant conditioning that behaviors have consequences!). Students are responsible for everything that is said and done in class. I strive to make my classes not only educational but also enjoyable. It is important to note that it is the student's responsibility to withdraw from a course they do not wish to take. If you simply stop coming to the class and do not withdraw from the course, then you will still receive a grade that will be based on the completed work. Additionally, I encourage students to arrive on time for the class. However, I understand that extenuating circumstances do arise that can prevent your diligent efforts toward punctuality. I do have a small portion of your grade based on participation, tardiness can affect your grade. Many important pieces of information are discussed in class, and students are responsible for knowing and complying with this information including changes in assignments. Please make appropriate adjustments to your schedule to allow for arrival to the class on time.

### **Classroom courtesy and disruptions:**

Class disruptions are not tolerated. Students will be removed from class if they are being disruptive to fellow students or the professor. Disruptions include but are not limited to not paying attention (e.g., reading the newspaper, sleeping), tuning off video, etc. In accordance with university policies on student conduct, it is expected that you will treat other students and the instructor with courtesy and respect. Being distracting on Zoom ARE ACTIVITIES THAT ARE NOT RESPECTFUL!

### **Recording of Class Lectures**

Common courtesy and professional behavior dictates that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. This permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.

Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor-generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.

### **Dropping and Adding**

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the [current academic calendar](http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/) web page located at [http://www.sjsu.edu/academic\\_programs/calendars/academic\\_calendar/](http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/). The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes. Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

## ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING POLICY

### **EXAMS:**

Exams will be multiple-choice. The tests will have questions from the text, lectures and videos. Each exam will be given on canvas and you will have 60 minutes to complete the exam.

**\*\* Make-up exams will be given ONLY when there is a documented excuse that must be approved by the professor (medical notes, etc.). A make-up exam will not be the same multiple-choice exam that is given in class. The make-up exam will consist of 5 to 8 essay questions on topics covered in the textbook and lecture, and it will be worth the same point value as the original exam. \*\***

**LMS Completion:** Complete the assigned LMS (Learning Management System) assignments through Canvas. From there click the Cengage tab under the class, this will link you to the appropriate website to complete the LMS. There is no time-limit. The assignments are graded based on completion and mastery of the chapter. You must complete an assignment for each of the assigned chapters on the syllabus. There are NO MAKE-UPS on LMS assignments (NO EXCEPTIONS). You must do them during the time period they are assigned. You will complete 10 assignments throughout the session. Each assignment is worth 10 points for a total of 100 points.

### **WRITING PROJECTS:**

#### **Structure for Assignments**

1. ALL OF YOUR WORK NEEDS TO BE UPLOADED ON CANVAS. NO WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED IN ANY OTHER MEDIUM.
2. Your papers need be organized - you should be developing a central idea in each section and the reader should be able to follow the logic of your argument. Each paragraph should have a coherent theme and paragraphs should follow each other in an organized manner. Read over your papers to be sure that there is a logical order to them.
3. Watch for grammatical errors, particularly sentence fragments and run-on sentences. **You will be marked down for these errors.**
4. Your papers will be typewritten, double-spaced, one-inch margins, using Times New Roman font. (APA Format) <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/18/>
5. References included in your paper are to be done according to APA style as described in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition, which is available in the library, the campus bookstore, and on-line. You should have at least 2 references for every paper and they will be listed on a separate page on the back of your assignment.

**Grading will be based on the sum of the following:**

1. Two (2) exams covering lectures, films, guest speakers, outside readings and the text are worth 100 points each (200).
2. 9 quizzes will be worth 10 points each (90).
3. Ted Talk Assignment and Video Sheet will be worth 10 points each (60)
4. Participation Quizzes (Up to 16 points)

**Total Points = 350**

The grade scale is as follows:

A	=	94 – 100%	C+	=	77 – 79%
A-	=	90 – 93%	C	=	73 – 76%
B+	=	87 – 89%	C-	=	70 – 72%
B	=	83 – 86%	D	=	60 – 69%
B-	=	80 – 82%	F	=	< 59 %

**Late Work:** No Late Work Will Be Accepted – **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

**As the session concludes, do not email the instructor or TA asking for “extra points” to raise your grade. The result of such actions will result in a 5% overall grade reduction.**

### **University Policies**

#### **Academic integrity**

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University’s Academic Integrity policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm), located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm>, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

#### **Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Disability Resource Center](http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/) (DRC) at <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/> to establish a record of their disability.

### **Student Technology Resources**

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Clark Hall and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

### **Learning Assistance Resource Center**

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to inspire them to become independent learners. The Center's tutors are trained and nationally certified by the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA). They provide content-based tutoring in many lower division courses (some upper division) as well as writing and study skills assistance. Small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring are available. Please visit [the LARC website](http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/) for more information at <http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/>.

### **SJSU Writing Center**

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/) is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/>.

### **Peer Mentor Center**

The Peer Mentor Center is located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Clark Hall in the Academic Success Center. The Peer Mentor Center is staffed with Peer Mentors who excel in helping students manage university life, tackling problems that range from academic challenges to interpersonal struggles. On the road to graduation, Peer Mentors are navigators, offering “roadside assistance” to peers who feel a bit lost or simply need help mapping out the locations of campus resources. Peer Mentor services are free and available on a drop –in basis, no reservation required. The [Peer Mentor Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/) is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/>

### **Student Success and Wellness**

Attending to your wellness is critical to your success at SJSU. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of the workshops and programs offered through various Student Affairs Departments on campus such as Counseling Services, the SJSU Student Health Center/ Wellness & Health Promotion Dept., and Career Center. See <http://www.sjsu.edu/wellness> or <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling/Workshops/> for workshop/events schedule and links to many other services on campus that support your wellness! You may go to <http://events.sjsu.edu> to register for any one of the workshops.

**Reading Topics, Exams and Dates: Psych155.**

**Note:** This course will follow this syllabus to the extent possible. You are responsible for keeping informed of any changes made to the class syllabus. You are responsible for checking the class web site before each class. Therefore, it is extremely important to **check the website before each class.**

**Table 1 Course Schedule**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b>
1	Jan 2*	Class Business/Syllabus Classical and Operant Video
2	Jan 3	Classical and Operant Video
3	Jan 6*	Introduction, Chapter 1 <b>Video Sheet due</b>
4	Jan 7*	Research Methods, Chapter 2 <b>LMS Ch1 due on Canvas at 9:00AM</b> <b>Quiz Ch2 due on Canvas at 9:00AM</b>
5	Jan 8*	Elicited Behaviors and Classical Conditioning, Chapter 3 <b>LMS Ch3 due on Canvas at 9:00AM</b>
6	Jan 9	Classical Conditioning: Basic Phenomena and Various Complexities, Chapter 4 <b>LMS #4 due on Canvas at 9:00AM</b>
7	Jan 10*	Classical Conditioning: Underlying Processes and Practical Applications, Chapter 5 <b>LMS #5 due on Canvas at 9:00AM</b> <b>TED Talk Analysis and Reflection 1 and 2 Due Sunday Jan 12, 11:59 PM</b> <b>Exam 1 (Chapters 1-5) due at 11:59 PM</b>
8	Jan 13*	Operant Conditioning: Introduction, Chapter 6 <b>LMS #6 due on Canvas at 9:00AM</b>
9	Jan 14	Schedules and Theories of Reinforcement, Chapter 7 <b>Quiz #7 due on Canvas at 9:00AM</b>
10	Jan 15*	Extinction and Stimulus Control, Chapter 8 <b>Quiz #8 due on Canvas at 9:00AM</b>
11	Jan 16*	Escape, Avoidance, and Punishment, Chapter 9: <b>Quiz #9 due on Canvas at 9:00AM</b>
12	Jan 17	<b>TED Talk Analysis and Reflection 3,4, and 5 Due Jan 17, 11:59 PM</b> <b>Exam 2 (Chapters 6-9) Due Saturday, Jan 18, 11:59 PM</b>