San Jose State University Spring 2026
Department of Psychology
Instructor: Ginevra Scherini, MS
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Telephone: 408-924-5658
Lecture Hours: Tuesday / Thursday 3:00-4:15 pm in DMH 163
Office Location: DMH 232
Office Hours: Monday 3:00-4:00 pm and Tuesday 4:30-5:30 pm

Course Format
This course will be taught in-person live (synchronous) and will have assignments and content accessed through Canvas. You are responsible for regularly checking Canvas for any updates regarding assignments, materials, and exams.

Course Description
In this course, we will learn about the ways in which psychologists systematically investigate the phenomena that make up the discipline. We will cover the principles, topics, and issues of psychological measurements in the first half of the class. This will include scale development, survey research, measurement theory, and scale analysis. We will apply these concepts by developing a scale of our own. In the second half of the class, we will think critically about these concepts by introducing a variety of psychological tests including intelligence tests, personality tests, and employment tests. There will be a culminating project in which students will present their own scale and utilize statistical analysis software to assess their scale.

Learning Outcomes
Course Learning Outcomes
1. Recognize the major uses of psychological measurement procedures.
2. Recognize and apply principles of developing, administering, analyzing, and interpreting psychological measures.
3. Understand basic descriptive statistics as applied in psychological measurement.
4. Identify and differentiate among the major ways of estimating reliability and validity.
5. Recognize the major characteristics, uses, and issues related to different types of psychological tests, including intelligence tests, tests of abilities and aptitudes, objective clinical measures, and self-report measures of personality.
Department of Psychology Program Learning Outcomes
1. *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.
2. *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.
3. *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.
4. *Application of Psychology:* Students will be able to apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues.

5. *Values in Psychology:* Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.

Course Materials

Textbook

Miller & Lovler. (2019), Foundations of Psychological Testing: A Practical Approach. (6th Ed).
Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.
Print ISBN: 9781506396408, 1506396402
eText ISBN: 9781506396392, 1506396399

Computer
We will be using computers in class when learning how to conduct statistical analyses. Laptops can be borrowed from the MLK Library and SJSU IT.

Qualtrics

We will be using the online surveying software Qualtrics for assignments throughout the course. You have access to the program for free by logging in with your SJSU account single sign-on credentials through qualtrics.sjsu.com

Canvas

Check Canvas frequently for grades, materials, and assignments.

Course Requirements

Classes will be interactive, with both the instructor and students sharing in the process. Students are encouraged to read assigned materials prior to the class date and be prepared for discussions and exercises. It is to your advantage to stay current with readings and assignments. During class, we will have lecture time, experiential exercises, writing assignments, group projects, and class discussion.

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Classroom Etiquette

- We are expected to treat each other with respect throughout the semester.
- When in doubt, simply treat others as you would wish to be treated.
- Computers and phones are allowed for note taking and accessing materials online during class, but should be put away during exams.
- Phones and computers should not be disruptive to the learning experience. They should be used for class-related activities. Please refrain from using your devices outside of class purposes as they can distract yourself and others from the learning experience.
- For guidelines on what to do if you miss class, refer to the Missed Class flowchart Canvas page to determine how to catch up before emailing me.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/

Student Resources

Psychology Department Librarian: Christa Bailey christa.bailey@sjsu.edu 408-808-2422
The SJSU library has a librarian who specializes in psychology and other social sciences. This librarian can serve as a very valuable resource for helping you develop research ideas and locating appropriate research materials. The library also has an abundance of resources for doing psychology research: https://libguides.sjsu.edu/psychology

Student Technology Resources
- MLK Library Online Resources: https://library.sjsu.edu/
- STTC's Technology Resource Guide: https://libguides.sjsu.edu/sttc
- eCampus Student Tech Resources: https://www.sjsu.edu/learnanywhere/equipment/index.php

ACCESS Success Center
The Academic Counseling Center for Excellence in Social Sciences (ACCESS) Success Center provides general education advising for undergraduate students majoring or intending to major in any of the departments in The College of Social Sciences. Find out more here: https://www.sjsu.edu/access/

SJSU Peer Connections
Peer Connections offers free tutoring, instruction assistance, and strengths coaching for SJSU students. Find out more on their website: https://www.sjsu.edu/peerconnections/index.php

SJSU Writing Center
The SJSU Writing Center offers a variety of free resources to help students become better writers. Check out their online tutoring and live tutor chat service here: https://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/

SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services
SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services provides personal and clinical counseling as well as clinical case management, workshops, and groups for all SJSU students.
Find out more at: https://www.sjsu.edu/counseling/about/what-we-do.php

Course Assignments

Quizzes: In-class. Will cover material from previous week. Will review quiz responses after quiz in class.
Homework: Assignments will be due throughout the semester. They will be submitted and graded through Canvas.
Exams: There will be two in-class midterms and one final with multiple choice and free-response questions.

Grading

I will be using Canvas for posting grades throughout the semester so that you can keep track of your progress. If you need guidance on your grades in the class, please connect with me via email or Canvas messaging. Extra credit opportunities will be available throughout the semester.

Your course grade will be based upon a weighted combination of scores on the following components:

Assignments	% of grade	Type of Assignment
Homework assignments	20%	Case studies, survey design and evaluation assignments.
In-class quizzes	20%	At the beginning of class.
Midterm #1	20%	Multiple choice, true/false, short answer on Canvas
Midterm #2	20%	Multiple choice, true/false, short answer on Canvas

| Final exam | 20% | Multiple choice, true/false, short answer on Canvas |

Percentage	Letter Grade
90% and above	A
86% - 89%	B+
80% - 85%	B
76% - 79%	C+
70% - 75%	C
60% - 69%	D
below 60%	F

Excused and Late Assignment Policy

If you have an excused absence (for medical reasons or otherwise unforeseen emergencies) please let me know as soon as possible and I will work with you to arrange a solution or makeup assignment. There will otherwise be no make-ups for any missed in-class activities, quizzes, or exams. Late homework assignments will be accepted up to one week after the due date for partial credit, with a decreasing number of points deducted per day late.

Course Schedule

Assignments are subject to change. Any changes will be posted and updated on Canvas, please check Canvas regularly for announcements and updated deadlines. The chapters to read under 'Assignments' cover topics that will be in the next week's lecture.

Week	Date	Topic	Assignments
1	Thursday January 22	**Syllabus, Intro to Psychological Tests**	Read Syllabus and Chapter 1
2	Tuesday January 27	**Intro to Psychological Tests, continued**	Read Chapters 2, 3
2	Thursday January 29	**Scale development:** Constructs	Read Chapter 4
3	Tuesday February 3	**Scale development:** Item development and response format	Read Chapter 9.1-9.4
3	Thursday February 5	**Scale development:** Survey research and sampling	Read Chapter 3
4	Tuesday February 10	**Ethics in Psychometrics**	Read Even the Rat was White chapter
4	Thursday February 12	**Scale development:** Item analysis - descriptive statistics	Read Chapter 10
5	Tuesday February 17	**Scale development:** Item analysis - correlation	Read Chapter 11
5	Thursday February 19	**Qualtrics demo and activity**	Bring Laptop to Class
6	Tuesday February 24	**Midterm #1 Review**	Midterm Study Guide
6	Thursday February 26	**Midterm #1**	
7	Tuesday March 3	**Scale analysis:** Reliability and Precision	Read Chapter 5
7	Thursday March 5	**Scale analysis:** Reliability and Precision (continued)	Read Chapter 5
8	Tuesday March 10	**Scale analysis:** Content Validity	Read Chapter 6
8	Thursday March 12	**Scale analysis:** Content Validity (continued)	Read Chapter 6
9	Tuesday March 17	**Scale analysis:** Criterion Validity	Read Chapter 7
9	Thursday March 19	**Scale analysis:** Criterion Validity (continued)	Read Chapter 7
10	Tuesday March 24	**Scale analysis:** Construct Validity	Read Chapter 8
10	Thursday March 26	**Scale analysis:** Construct Validity (continued)	Read Chapter 8

11	Tuesday March 31	No School – Spring Break	
11	Thursday April 2	No School – Spring Break	
12	Tuesday April 7	**Exam Review**	Exam Review Questions
12	Thursday April 9	Midterm #2	
13	Tuesday April 14	**Intro to Applications of Psychological Tests**	
13	Thursday April 16	**Psychological tests:** Educational Tests	Read Chapter 12
14	Tuesday April 21	**Psychological tests:** Educational Tests activity / guest speaker	
14	Thursday April 23	**Psychological tests:** Organizational Tests	Read Chapter 14
15	Tuesday April 28	**Psychological tests:** Organizational Tests activity	
15	Thursday April 30	**Psychological tests:** Clinical Tests	Read Chapter 13
16	Tuesday May 5	**Psychological tests:** Clinical Tests activity / guest speaker	
16	Thursday May 7	**Exam Review**	
Final Exam: Tuesday, May 19 at 1:00-3:00 PM			