

Psychology of Personality PSYC 139

Spring 2026 Section 02 In Person 3 Unit(s) 01/22/2026 to 05/11/2026 Modified 01/20/2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Brian Oliveira

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Office: DMH 310

Office Hours

Before and After All Classes - Also

Monday, 5:30 PM to 6:00 PM, DMH 310

Please confirm with me the specific date & time that you would like to attend office hours.

Course Information

Course Format

This class is delivered in-person in the indicated classroom on the scheduled days and times. Internet connectivity is required to access the following information in Canvas:

- Faculty contact information
- Course syllabus
- Content review activities
- Grades

Canvas Use and MYSJSU Messaging

You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU on Spartan App to learn of any updates.

Lecture

Monday, 6:00 PM to 8:45 PM, DMH 166

Course Description and Requisites

Current approaches to the study of personality and personality processes.

Prerequisite: PSYC 001.

Letter Graded

* Classroom Protocols

- 1) Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner. This includes coming to class on time and having reading assignments done in advance.
- 2) Class attendance and participation is an important component of this course. Though attendance will not be formally taken, students will be responsible for in-class projects that will require active course involvement.
- 3) Handouts and/or additional readings may be distributed during class. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain copies of course notes and handouts from a colleague. Students will be responsible for content from every class, regardless of attendance.

≡ Program Information

Program learning outcomes (PLOs) are skills and knowledge that students will have achieved upon completion of the Psychology BA degree. Each course in our curriculum contributes to one or more of these PLOs. The PLOs for the Psychology BA degree are:

1. Knowledge Base of Psychology. Students will be able to demonstrate familiarity with 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. 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. Applications of Psychology. Students will be able to apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues.
- Values in Psychology. Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.

▮ Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

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

- LO1: be familiar with six approaches to understanding personality and individual differences in behavioral characteristics,
- LO2: address the strengths and weaknesses of each approach
- LO3: critically examine relevant empirical evidence associated with each the theoretical approaches
- LO4: recognize the application of theoretical concepts into real life issues and into psychotherapy

≡ Course Materials

Theories of Personality

Author: Ryckman, R.

Publisher: Cengage

Edition: 10th

Year: 2013

Availability: NOT AVAILABLE @ Campus Bookstore, AVAILABLE @ ANY OTHER ONLINE BOOKSTORE

Course Requirements and Assignments

Course Requirements and Assignments

"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, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus."

Student Project

To further explore Personality theories in applied contexts, students will select an example(s) of a character (or characters) from a source of media such as a movie, TV show, book, etc. The student project should endeavor to better understand and explain the personality characteristics of that person (people) from the perspective of one of the personality theorists that we will be covering during the class. Each student will prepare a class presentation that will include clips from the movie, TV show, book, etc. that allow us to "see" the personality characteristics you wish to focus on. Each presentation then needs to demonstrate how the person's (people's) personality characteristics could be understood and explained from the perspective of the personality theorist on which the student chooses to focus.

Content Review Activities

Two content review activities (CRA) will be administered during the semester. The CRAs will not be cumulative and will cover the material presented in class and readings. The CRAs will consist of multiple choice questions. The CRAs will be administered in Canvas on the dates indicated in the Course Schedule and will be available from 7:00am in the morning until 11:59pm at night.

Cumulative Final Content Review Activity

"Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment."

As with the other CRAs, the final CRA will cover material presented in class and readings and will be in multiple choice format. The CRA will be administered in Canvas on the date indicated in the Course Schedule and will be available from 7:00am in the morning until 11:59pm at night.

Grading Information

Criteria

<u>Content Review Activity (CRA)</u>	<u>Content Covered</u>	<u>Possible Points</u>
1	Chapters 2, 3, 4, & 6	100
2	Chapters 8, 9, 10, & 12	100
3	Chapters 13, 15, 16, & 17	100
<u>Student Project</u>		
		100
<u>Total</u>		400

Letter Grade Determination

Your letter grade for this class is determined by dividing the total points earned in the class by the total possible points and using the breakdown of grades found below. For example, if a student earned 360 points, that would be divided by 400 possible points, the average would be 90%, and the final letter grade would be A minus.

Breakdown

"This course must be passed with a C- or better as a CSU graduation requirement."

Determination of Grades

Grade Percentage

A 93 to 100%

A minus 90 to 92%

B plus 87 to 89 %

B 83 to 86%

B minus 80 to 82%

C plus 77 to 79%

C 73 to 76%

C minus 70 to 72%

D plus 67 to 69%

D 63 to 66%

D minus 60 to 62%

F 0 to 59%



University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<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 the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

When	Topic	Notes
M 1/26	Chapter 2	Course Overview, Student Projects, CRA's, Grades & Freud
M 2/2	Chapter 3	Jung & Presentation Scheduling
M 2/9	Chapters 4	Adler 1)
M 2/16	PRESIDENT'S DAY	No Class
M 2/23	Chapter 6	Erickson 2)
M 3/2	CRA 1	Chapters 2, 3, 4, & 6 Content In Canvas - No In-person Class Meeting
M 3/9	Chapter 8	Allport 3)
M 3/16	Chapter 9	Cattell 4)
M 3/23	Chapter 10	Eysenck 5)
M 3/30	SPRING BREAK	No Class
M 4/6	Chapter 12	Maslow 6)
M 4/13	CRA 2	Chapters 8, 9, 10, & 12 Content In Canvas - No In-person Class Meeting

When	Topic	Notes
M 4/20	Chapter 13	Rogers 7)
M 4/27	Chapter 15	Skinner 8)
M 5/4	Chapter 16	Rotter 9)
M 5/11	Chapter 17	Bandura
FINAL CRA M 5/18	CRA 3	Chapters 13, 15, 16, & 17 Content In Canvas - No In-person Class Meeting