

Introduction to Research Methods

PSYC 18

Spring 2026 Section 02 In Person 3 Unit(s) 01/22/2026 to 05/11/2026 Modified 01/10/2026

Contact Information

Instructor(s): My Ngoc (Amy) Nguyen

Office Location: DMH 232

Email: myngoc.nguyen@sjsu.edu

Student Advising Hours: Monday and Wednesdays 1:30 - 2:30pm in person; Tuesday, Thursday, and Fridays 8:30 - 9:30am via Zoom. Please email me for the Zoom link.

Course Information

Class Days/Time: Monday and Wednesdays 12:00 - 1:15pm

Classroom: Engineering Building 338

Classroom Protocols

Assignments will be submitted on Canvas so you will need a mobile device. If you need a working laptop, please see the Student Technology Resources section below for more information. Course materials such as the syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#). You are responsible for regularly checking Canvas to learn of any updates. For help with using Canvas, see [Canvas Student Resources page](#) at <https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/software-tools/teaching-tools/canvas/student-resources/index.php>.

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)

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

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

- PLO1 - Knowledge Base of Psychology – demonstrate familiarity with major concepts, empirical findings, theoretical perspectives, 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 – use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to behavior and mental processes.
- PLO4 – Applications 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 (CLO)

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

- CLO 1 – Demonstrate knowledge of the research process as it relates to behavioral research.
- CLO 2 – Distinguish between non-experimental, experimental, and quasi-experimental research methods.
- CLO 3 – Assess the threats to validity within a study.
- CLO 4 – Analyze a body of research findings.
- CLO 5 – Construct a research design that effectively tests original hypotheses.
- CLO 6 – Develop a research proposal in APA format
- CLO 7 – Discuss the importance of ethical principles when conducting research with human and animal participants
- CLO 8 – Present on completed research proposal and/or research topic

Course Materials

Required Readings

Textbook

Cozby, P.C., & Bates, S.C. (2018). *Methods in Behavioral Research* (14th ed.). McGraw Hill. ISBN: 1260205584 (Chapters will be provided, no need to purchase).

Suggested reading

American Psychological Association. (2019). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). ISBN: 978-1-4338-3217-8

Course Requirements and Assignments

- **Readings:** Students should read the assigned chapter of the required textbook before the start of class.
- **Quizzes (CLO1, CLO2):** Students will complete 14 open-book quizzes based on the assigned chapter for that week and 1 quiz (About you). Quizzes will be taken every Monday at the beginning of class (unless stated otherwise) and will contain 5 critical thinking questions. Students will be given approximately 10 minutes to complete the quizzes. Each quiz will be worth 10 points. Students will get a chance to retake their lowest three quizzes. The highest score out of the attempts will be kept.
- **In-Class Assignments (CLO1, CLO2, CLO3, CLO4):** Each class session will have an in-class assignment due at the end of the day at 11:59pm (unless stated otherwise in the course schedule). In-class assignments will range from participation in group discussions, turning in reflections, or submitting completed word documents onto Canvas. Please note that these assignments cannot be made up or turned in late. Students will have a total of 25 in-class assignments with each assignment being worth 4 points.
- **Final Paper: Research Proposal (CLO4, CLO5, CLO6, CLO7):** To prepare students for conducting future research, students will be required to turn in a research proposal (Due: Tuesday, May 12 @ 11:59pm). A grading rubric for the research proposal can be found on Canvas. The research proposal must be at least 6 1/2 pages and include the following: title page (1 page), abstract (1 page), literature review (2 -4 pages), proposed research (at least half a page), methods section (1-2 pages), and references (1-4 pages). To help you stay on track with turning in your final paper, you will turn in four separate milestone assignments throughout the semester.
- **Milestone Assignments (CLO4, CLO5, CLO6, CLO7):** These assignments will be rough drafts of the different sections in your research proposal. These assignments will be turned in before the research proposal so that you can receive feedback and incorporate the feedback into your final paper. Each milestone assignment will be worth 50 points.
 - Literature review (50 points) (Due: 3/11/26 at 11:59pm)
 - Proposed research (50 points) (Due: 4/15/26 at 11:59pm)
 - Methods (50 points) (Due: 4/29/26 at 11:59pm)
 - References (50 points) (Due: 5/6/ 26 at 11:59pm)
- **Formatting Requirements for Milestone Assignments and Research Proposal:** All papers must be typed, double-spaced, use 1-inch margins, 12-point font, Times New Roman, and adhere to APA format (7th edition). Please double-check for grammar and spelling errors before turning in your final paper to

avoid having points deducted.

Final Presentation (CLO4, CLO5, CLO6, CLO7, CLO8): In addition to your final paper, you will also present your research proposal to the class. This assignment is worth 250 points and is broken down into 3 parts: Presentation (150 points), slides/file (50 points), and feedback to peers (50 points). There are several submission options that you can choose from for the final presentation. Regardless of the option you choose, you will need to be present in class for final presentations to answer questions from your classmates. Your presentation can be any of the following: A) Live presentation, B) Video recording of your presentation, C) Podcast, D) Documentary, E) Poem/Song/Rap, or F) Art Piece

✓ Grading Information

Grading System

Quizzes (150 points)	15%
In-Class Assignments (100 points)	10%
Final Paper (300 points)	30%
Final Presentation (250 points)	25%
Milestone Assignments (200 points)	20%
Total = 1,000 points	100%

Final Letter Grade Scale

Grade	Points	Percentage
A plus	960 to 1000	96 to 100%
A	930 to 959	93 to 95%
A minus	900 to 929	90 to 92%
B plus	860 to 899	86 to 89 %

<i>B</i>	<i>830 to 859</i>	<i>83 to 85%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>800 to 829</i>	<i>80 to 82%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>760 to 799</i>	<i>76 to 79%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>730 to 759</i>	<i>73 to 75%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>700 to 729</i>	<i>70 to 72%</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>660 to 699</i>	<i>66 to 69%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>630 to 659</i>	<i>63 to 65%</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>600 to 629</i>	<i>60 to 62%</i>

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

- **Extra credit opportunities:** *Extra credit assignments will be made available throughout the semester and will be announced in class (20 points maximum)*
- **Requests for extensions:** You may find yourself facing unanticipated, emergency situations outside of your control that impact your schooling. When these situations arise, please reach out ASAP so that I can work with you to find a successful path forward. **The first step is to request an extension, please fill out this [Google Form](https://forms.gle/cJVRSBFA9Ygb8w7M6):** <https://forms.gle/cJVRSBFA9Ygb8w7M6>. Please submit requests 48 hours before the due date of any milestone assignment or the research proposal. **Extensions are not guaranteed**, but I take all requests seriously and will work with you to find appropriate resources.
- **Late assignments:** If you did not request or receive an extension, milestone assignments that are turned in past the due date will receive a 10% penalty from your earned score per late day. In-class assignments and quizzes cannot be made up or submitted late. However, as noted above, there will be multiple extra credit opportunities to earn back any missed points.
- **Grade changes:** Final grades will not be changed unless there was a clerical error.
- **Academic integrity:** Plagiarism, cheating, and any other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. The [University Academic Integrity Policy F15-7 \[pdf\]](#) requires you to be honest in all your academic coursework. If evidence of academic misconduct is found, you will receive a zero on the assignment(s) in question and I will file a report with the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. Visit the [Student Conduct and Ethical Development](#) website for more information.

- **AI use policy:** You may use AI programs (e.g. ChatGPT) to help generate ideas and brainstorm. However, please be aware that the material generated by these programs may be inaccurate, incomplete, or problematic. It is your responsibility to double-check that the information that comes from these programs are accurate. Please note that you **may not submit any work generated by an AI program as your own**. If you include material generated by an AI program, it should be cited like any other reference material and paraphrased. Any plagiarism or other form of cheating will be dealt with severely under relevant SJSU policies.

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

[PSYC 018-02 / Introduction to Research Methods, Spring 2026, Course Schedule](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SXlaifhwGQUYvlsmrRIBW7woguFLoNtAFWG3VmE40IM/edit?usp=sharing) (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SXlaifhwGQUYvlsmrRIBW7woguFLoNtAFWG3VmE40IM/edit?usp=sharing>) is linked here (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SXlaifhwGQUYvlsmrRIBW7woguFLoNtAFWG3VmE40IM/edit?usp=sharing>)

Week	Date (M/W)	Topics	In-Class Assignments	Assignments Due (Before Class)	Readings (Read before Monday's class)	Learning Outcomes
1	Jan. 26	Syllabus Community Agreements	Quiz #1: About you		Chapter 1	CLO 1, 2, 3, & 4
	Jan. 28	Lecture 1 - How do we study behavior?	Assignment #1			

2	Feb. 2	Lecture 2: Important terms/How to get started?	Quiz #2: Chapter 2		Chapter 2	CLO 1, 2, 3, & 4
	Feb. 4		Assignment #2			
3	Feb. 9	Lecture 3: Ethics	Quiz #3: Chapter 3		Chapter 3	CLO 1, 2, 3, & 4
	Feb. 11		Assignment #4			
4	Feb. 16	Library Visit - Christa Bailey - Meet in King 213	Assignment #5			CLO 1, 2, 3, & 4
	Feb. 18		Asynchronous (No class) - Work on Assignment #5 (due at 11:59pm)			
5	Feb. 23	Lecture 4: Research Issues	Quiz #4: Chapter 4		Chapter 4	CLO 1, 2, 3, & 4
	Feb. 25		Assignment #6			
6	Mar. 2	Lecture 5: Measurement concepts	Quiz #5: Chapter 5		Chapter 5	CLO 1, 2, 3, & 4
	Mar. 4		Assignment #8			
7	Mar. 9	Lecture 6: Observational methods	Quiz #6: Chapter 6		Chapter 6	CLO 1, 2, 3, & 4
	Mar. 11		Assignment #10			
			Assignment #11	Milestone #1: Literature review		

8	Mar. 16	Lecture 7: Survey, description, and correlation	Quiz #7: Chapter 7 Assignment #12		Chapter 7	CLO 1, 2, 3, & 4
	Mar. 18		Quiz #8: Chapter 12 Assignment #13		Chapter 12	
9	Mar. 23	Lecture 8: Experimental design	Quiz #9: Chapter 8 Assignment #14		Chapter 8	CLO 1, 2, 3, & 4
	Mar. 25		Assignment #15			
10	Mar. 30 - Apr. 1	No class - Spring Break				
11	Apr. 6	Lecture 9: Conducting experiments	Quiz #10: Chapter 9 Assignment #16		Chapter 9	CLO 1, 2, 3, & 4
	Apr. 8		Assignment #17			
12	Apr. 13	Lecture 10: Complex Designs	Quiz #11: Chapter 10 Assignment #18		Chapter 10	CLO 1, 2, 3, & 4
	Apr. 15		Assignment #19	Milestone #2: Proposed research due		

13	Apr. 20	Lecture 11: Understanding Results and Research	Quiz #12: Chapter 13		Chapter 13	CLO 1, 2, 3, & 4
	Apr. 22		Assignment #20			
14	Apr. 27	Lecture 12: Generalization Review Final Presentations criteria	Quiz #13: Chapter 14		Chapter 14	CLO 1, 2, 3, & 4
	Apr. 29		Assignment #22			
15	May 4	APA Citation	Assignment #23	Milestone #3: Methods due	Chapter 11	CLO 1, 2, 3, & 4
	May 6		Put together Methods section			
16	May 11	Final paper check during class (optional)	Quiz #14: Chapter 11	Assignment #24	Milestone #4: References due	CLO 1, 2, 3, & 4
			Assignment #25			
			Quiz #15: Reflection (open all day)	Research Proposal due on Tuesday, 5/12 11:59pm		
				All extra credit due on Tuesday, 5/12 11:59pm		

Final	Mon. May 18th 10:45am - 12:45pm	Class presentations		Final presentation need to be uploaded before start time Peer reviews due at 11:59pm		CLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8
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