San José State University  
Psychology Department  
26015, General Psychology, Section 08, Spring 2011

Instructor: Steven Macramalla  
Office Location: DMH 230  
Telephone: (831) 234-8451  
Email: smacram@yahoo.com  
Office Hours: Thurs 4.30 – 6:00 pm  
Class Days/Time: Thursday 6:00 – 8:45pm  
Classroom: DMH 355

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging (Optional)

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found on my faculty web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/people/steven.macramalla or accessible through the Quick Links>Faculty Web Page links on the SJSU home page. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor).

Course Description

We are examining the research methods, history and area topics of psychology including cognitive, social, developmental, and clinical psychology. We will be answering such questions as what makes good people evil, how much do we really remember, the stages of language learning, how you can be happier, and the effects of drug and addiction.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

Goal 1. Knowledge Base of Psychology: Students will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in cognitive psychology.

Goal 2. Research Methods in Psychology: Students will understand basic methodological approaches used in cognitive psychology, including research design, analysis, and interpretation.

Goal 3. Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology: Students will understand and be able to use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to behavior and mental processes.

Goal 4. Application of Psychology: Students will understand and be able to apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues.
Goal 5. Values in Psychology: Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.

• Students completing this course will recognize and respect the role of human diversity as it impacts research into, and application of, cognitive psychology.
• Students completing this course will value intellectual curiosity and skepticism.
• Students completing this course will recognize how their knowledge of psychology can inform their roles and responsibilities as members of society.

Required Texts/Readings
Psychology by Schacter, Gilbert & Wegner
Class Website: http://www.sjsu.edu/people/steven.macramalla/courses/c2/

Classroom Protocol
All students are expected to display professionalism and respect for others. This explicitly includes arriving on time, participating in class, engaging in civil dialog, and paying attention to classroom activities. Please turn off your cell phones and refrain from activities that disrupt the class. If you have to arrive late, seat yourself quietly and near the door. If you have to leave early, be sure to let me know in advance and sit by the door.

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 section at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic calendar web page located at http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/. The Late Drop 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 at http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/.

Course requirements and Grading Policy
3 exam x 50 pts each..........................150
2 Writing Assignments x 25 pts each ..........50
Total..................................................200
Research Requirement ...........Pass/Fail

Exams There will be 2 in-class exams and the final exam composed entirely of multiple-choice questions. The exams will be non-cumulative (they will only include material
covered in the most recent segment of the course). All exams will be closed book and closed notes. No electronic devices (cell phones, PDAs, laptops, calculators, etc.) may be used during examinations. Please turn off your cell phones during class, and refrain from using your laptop for anything unrelated to class. Final exam is Thursday May 20th 5:15 pm – 7:30 pm.

Writing assignments: There will be two writing projects throughout the semester. Papers should be 750 words minimum in length (double-spaced, single sided), but no more than 1000 words. Proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation is expected and will be factored into your grade. Plagiarized papers will result in a failing grade for the course (i.e., a grade of “F”) and the student will be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs. More details regarding the structure of the paper will be provided in class. Papers will be turned in electronically via e-mail and edited electronically and returned electronically on Turnitin.com (more about this later). Therefore, papers must be submitted as Word documents or WordPerfect documents (.doc or .wpd). If you do not have Word or WordPerfect, please submit the paper as an ASCII, .txt, or .rtf file. You can rewrite the first paper to improve your grade. The final score will be the average of the two scores. If you do rewrite your first paper, your final grade for the first paper becomes the average score on your first version and rewrite (e.g., 30 + 44 = 74/2 = 37).

Extra Credit Assignments: A 2500 word (approx 10 pages double-spaced) paper can be done to replace an exam score. The paper will be graded out of 50, and the score will replace that of the exam. Due last day of class.

In addition to the above grading criteria, in order to pass this class each student

MUST: Complete the research-participant requirement (this requirement will be

addressed in class by the Psychology Department Research Coordinator). Get more information and the Research Credit Sheet which you need to print out and bring with you to all studies at http://www.sjsu.edu/psych/Undergraduate/subjectpool.htm. You will submit to ME your SIGNED CREDIT SHEETS NO LATER THAN MAY 13TH. Failure to do results in failure in the class. DO NOT LEAVE THIS TO THE LAST MINUTE.

Course Grading Scale (% of Total Points):
A+ 95-100%  B+ 87-89%  C+ 77-79%  D+ 67-69%  F<60%
A  92-94%   B  82-86%   C 72-76%   D  62-66%
A-  90-91%   B-  80-81%   C- 70-71%   D- 60-61%
University Policies

Academic integrity

Students should know that the University’s Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/faculty_and_staff/academic_integrity/index.html. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University’s integrity policy, require 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 is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

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 in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy F06-1 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 (DRC) at http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/ to establish a record of their disability.

Learning Assistance Resource Center (Optional)

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 motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. The LARC website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/.

26015/ General Psychology Section 08, Spring 2011

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jan 27</td>
<td>Intro Schacter-Gilbert-Wegner: Chapter 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Feb 3</td>
<td>Methods Schacter-Gilbert-Wegner: Chapter 2</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Feb 10</td>
<td>Psychology and the Brain Schacter-Gilbert-Wegner: Chapter 3</td>
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| 4    | Feb 17 | Cognition & Perception  
Schacter-Gilbert-Wegner: Chapter 4  
Writing Assignment #1 DUE |
| 5    | Feb 24 | EXAM 1                                                           |
| 6    | March 3 | Memory  
Schacter-Gilbert-Wegner: Chapter 5 |
| 7    | March 10 | Learning  
Schacter-Gilbert-Wegner: Chapter 6 |
| 8    | March 17 | Consciousness  
Schacter-Gilbert-Wegner: Chapter 8 |
| 9    | March 24 | Language & Thinking  
Schacter-Gilbert-Wegner: Chapter 7 |
| 10   | March 31 | SPRING BREAK -- NO CLASS |
| 11   | April 7 | EXAM 2                                                           |
| 12   | April 14 | Development  
Schacter-Gilbert-Wegner: Chapter 11 |
| 13   | April 21 | Personality  
Schacter-Gilbert-Wegner: Chapter 12  
Thursday April 21 Writing Assignment #2 DUE |
| 14   | April 28 | Psychological Disorders  
Schacter-Gilbert-Wegner: Chapter 13 |
| 15   | May 5  | Psychotherapy  
Schacter-Gilbert-Wegner: Chapter 14 |
| 16   | May 12 | Social Psychology  
Schacter-Gilbert-Wegner: Chapter 16 |
| Final Exam | May 19th | Thursday May 19, DMH 355  5:15pm – 7:30pm |