San José State University
Department of Psychology
PSYC 190, Sec. 3
Current Issues Capstone: Modern Manifestations of Behaviorism
Fall, 2012

Instructor: Dr. Steven Del Chiaro

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Office Hours: Monday 8:15 am – 9:45 am

Class Days/Time: Tuesday/Thursday 9:00 am – 10:15 am

Classroom: Clark Hall 231

Course Description
The catalog description of the course is as follows: Integrative survey of current viewpoints and issues in psychology, how they developed and likely future directions of psychology. In this class, this goal is to use the medium of film to discuss the different portrayals and corresponding intellectual and emotional narratives of human suffering or psychopathology. The primary goal is to refine student’s critical thinking skills applicable to the study of abnormal behavior and to appreciate this in a broad cultural context.

Learning Outcomes
Specifically, our course objectives are as follows:

1. To review and develop skills in understanding/applying behaviorism and to critically evaluate its use in our culture

2. To focus, refine, and provide evidence of critical thinking skills in the evaluation of behavioral techniques with a specific emphasis on application

3. To demonstrate competence in oral presentation and communication

4. To demonstrate competence in written communication by analyzing, synthesizing, and integrating existing psychology literature relevant to this topic

5. To demonstrate an integration of knowledge and skills developed across the psychology major including an appreciation of contextual variables such as gender and ethnicity as they relate to psychological principles and human behavior

6. To provide evidence of skills in researching the psychology literature (including accessing electronic and print journal articles in libraries and beyond)
7. To thoughtfully apply these skills to topics of interest

**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.

- **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.

- **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.

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

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

**Required Texts/Readings**

**Textbook**

There are no required textbooks for this course. However, there will be extensive literature review and you will need to purchase a thumb/jump drive.

Other readings will be required and will be available for download from the course website.

**Definition of a Credit Hour**

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

As an example, the expectation of work for a 3-credit course is 150-minutes of direct faculty instruction and six hours of out-of-class student work each week.

**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 in advance if possible. 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.

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. However, students are responsible for everything that is said and done in class. This is a seminar, and my role is as guide and facilitator. I am not a lecturer for this course; you are the group leaders. As such, your attendance is essential to do well and get the most out of the course.

It is important to note that it is the student’s responsibility to withdraw from a course they do not wish to take. 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. If you are late to class, please take a seat in the row of desks/seats closest to the door in order to prevent disruption to the class. I hope you will take advantage of this policy only when absolutely necessary. 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 (e.g., arriving early to avoid traffic/parking problems).

**Classroom Courtesy and Disruptions**

Class disruptions are not tolerated. Students will be asked to leave if they are being disruptive to fellow students or the professor. Disruptions include but are not limited to cell phones and pagers going off for any reason (even accidental), talking when not participating in an instructor-assigned activity, and not paying attention (e.g., reading the newspaper, sleeping). In addition, please place electronic communication devices (e.g., pagers, cell phones) on silent mode during class. If you must make or answer a call, please excuse yourself from class for such activity. In accordance with university policies on student conduct, it is expected that you will treat other students and the instructor with courtesy and respect. Additionally, this class is conducted where you have wireless Internet access, please do not “surf” the web. You may use your computer to take notes, but you must sit in the back of the classroom or along the wall with your screen out of other students’ view. In addition, if other or I students deem “keyboard noise” distracting, you will have to stop using the computer. This policy is in existence so that you do not distract me or other students. I reserve the right to ask you to put the computer away at any time. Failure to do so may result in you being asked to leave the classroom and dropped from the course.
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/. Assignments and Grading Policy

Major Assignments (all major assignments submitted by group):

Group Selection – 15 points.
The class will be divided into eight groups comprised of approximately 3 individuals. Each group will be able to choose a name for the group and the topic of most interest to them. The group needs to function autonomously. Please act respectful to your group members. I cannot and will not provide supervision for your group, if there are group problems, use your critical thinking skills and psychology background to be productive. Please only use my wonderful and magical skills as a last resort. Be aware there will be a fee for my services.

Topic Proposal – 25 points.
This assignment should be 2-3 pages in length and address the following questions:
1) What is your research question? Is it debatable? 2) What is your personal relationship to this question? What drew you to this question? How will your relationship to it affect your research and writing process? 3) What is the larger significance of your topic? Who or what could benefit from your research? 4) Which one or two Program Learning Outcome(s) does your topic address? How does your topic/question address these PLOs? 5) What research sources will you use and where will you find them? Will you need to look outside of the SJSU Library? Who are the original sources and key experts you will need to cite?

Annotated Bibliography – 30 points.
For this assignment, submit an annotated bibliography for 10 scholarly sources mostly published within the past 10 years. Original sources/founding authors can be older than 10 years. Web sites are not acceptable unless they are online versions of print academic journals. For each source, include a correct APA reference citation. Under each reference citation, provide a paragraph of 5-8 sentences that: 1) summarizes the main argument of the source; 2) evaluates the credibility of the author; 3) identifies the intended audience; and 4) explains how this source will be helpful in answering your research question. These sources should be used in the final project.

Research Paper – 100 points.
Final paper must include the following:

1. Ten to fifteen pages of text, not including the title page or references pages.
2. A focused, arguable, and thoughtful research question and literature review that involves challenging significant research.
3. Comparisons and/or contrasts information from a wide range of relevant sources, both print and electronic which are relevant, balanced, and critically evaluated for credibility and objectivity.
4. Logical organization with unity developed from the thesis and clear connections, synthesis, among ideas.
5. Paraphrased and quoted material with all conclusions clearly supported by relevant, convincing evidence.
6. Results of research convey an original understanding (researcher’s voice) with clear, unified concluding ideas.
7. Clear writing that exhibits mostly proper grammar, word choice, spelling, and consistently accurate APA format and citation style.

**PowerPoint Presentation – 75 points.**
The group will present a PowerPoint presentation to the class and have the entire class period. Each team member will be graded individually, but included in that grade is how well the team as a whole performed. Be aware that if you shine and your partners falter, your grade will fall. Each presentation will take about 60 minutes with questions and discussion following the presentation. Presentations that are significantly less than 60 minutes will receive appropriate grade reductions. Also, inaccuracies, editorializing, or false answers to questions will also result in grade reductions. In addition, each group must turn in to Dr. Del Chiaro a hard copy of their presentation and five (5) multiple choice questions about their topic the afternoon of their seminar prior to starting. These will not be accepted over email.

**Group presentation guidelines**
- Be professional!
- Time should be equally divided among team members.
- Discuss the impact of the topic on society.
- Avoid slang and colloquialisms.
- Be aware that by using a Power Point presentation you will need a laptop, a projector, speakers, your presentation, and yourselves, properly dressed and in front of the classroom before the class begins. Make sure your technology works. Our suggestion to you is to practice with the equipment you plan on using during your presentation.
- Do not read your presentation. Individuals who read their presentation will earn no higher than a C.
- Rehearse, rehearse, rehearse!!!! Make it a smooth presentation!
- Wear appropriate attire.
- Video should not account for more than 15 minutes of presentation.
- Set a mood! Make it interesting! Be creative! Do not bore the class.

**Requirement for audience members**
1. Come on time
2. Do not leave early
3. Do not sleep or work on other material during the presentation
4. Complete evaluation of presentation and submit following class.
Students are allowed to, but not encouraged to have one absence from presentations.
After one absence, a **20 - point deduction** per class will be incurred.

Students will lose points if audience member requirements are not met.

**Submission of work – 15 points**
All groups will have a thumb/flash/jump drive that will be submitted at the time of their presentation. It will contain the following items:
1. The drive will be labeled with the group name.
2. There will be a folder titled “Modern Manifestations of Behaviorism: (INSERT GROUP TOPIC).

3. In the folder you will have the following:
   a. Group Selection page (will contain the names of the group members and a detailed evaluation of why the group functioned well or why it did not).
   b. Topic Proposal
   c. Annotated bibliography
      i. MUST HAVE DOWNLOADED FULL TEXT ARTICLE.
   d. Research Paper
   e. PowerPoint Presentation

**Evaluation of Presentations – 15 points**
All students will complete an evaluation of the presentations they attended. Evaluations will offer thoughtful feedback. Evaluations will be distributed on March 21st.

**Final Exam – 25 points**
Each group will submit five multiple-choice questions for their presentation. Of the 40 questions submitted by the class, the 25 best questions will be chosen for the final exam. The final exam is Thursday, May 19 at 8 am.

**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 (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 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd 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.

**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 1st 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/writingcenter/about/staff/) 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.
#### Table 1 Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>August 23</td>
<td>Introduction to Course/Class Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>August 28</td>
<td>Behaviorism Overview</td>
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<td>August 30</td>
<td>Behaviorism Overview</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>September 4</td>
<td>Behaviorism Overview</td>
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<td>September 6</td>
<td>Behaviorism Overview</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>September 11</td>
<td>Behaviorism Overview</td>
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<td></td>
<td>September 13</td>
<td>Topic Brainstorm</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>September 18</td>
<td>Group Selection/Topic Finalization</td>
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<td></td>
<td>September 20</td>
<td>Behaviorism Overview</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>September 25</td>
<td>Group Meet</td>
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<td></td>
<td>September 27</td>
<td>Group Meet</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>October 2</td>
<td>Topic Proposal Due/Present to class</td>
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<td></td>
<td>October 4</td>
<td>Group Meet</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>October 9</td>
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<td>October 11</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>October 16</td>
<td>Group Meet</td>
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<td></td>
<td>October 18</td>
<td>Annotated Bibliography Due (All Students Required to Attend)</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>October 23</td>
<td>Group Meet</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<td>November 1</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>November 6</td>
<td>Group Meet</td>
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<td></td>
<td>November 8</td>
<td>Research Papers Due at time of Presentation</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>November 13</td>
<td>Group Presentation 1</td>
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<td>November 15</td>
<td>Group Presentation 2</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>November 20</td>
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<td>Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>Tuesday, December 18</td>
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**Summary of Grading**

Group Selection          15 points.
Topic Proposal            25 points.
Annotated Bibliography    30 points.
Research Paper            100 points.
PowerPoint Presentation   75 points.
Submission of work        15 points
Evaluation of Presentations 15 points
Final Exam                25 points

Total: 300 points

The grade scale is as follows:

- **A** = 94 – 100%
- **A-** = 90 – 93%
- **B+** = 87 – 89%
- **B** = 83 – 86%
- **B-** = 80 – 82%
- **C+** = 77 – 79%
- **C** = 73 – 76%
- **C-** = 70 – 72%
- **D+** = 67 – 69%
- **D** = 60 – 66%

*Unbeknownst to most students of psychology, Pavlov’s first experiment was to ring a bell and cause his dog to attack Freud’s cat.*