San José State University  
Psychology Department  
40795, General Psychology, Section 01, Fall 2012

Instructor: Steven Macramalla
Office Location: DMH 230
Telephone: (831) 234-8451
Email: steven.macramalla@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: Tues-Thurs 1:00-2:30pm

Class Days/Time: Th 6:00-8:45pm
Classroom: Clark Hall 303

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging
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.

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.

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.
Library Liaison

Bernd Becker, email: Bernd.Becker@sjsu.edu, telephone: 408.808.2348.

Required Texts/Readings
Psychology by Schacter, Gilbert & Wegner 2nd Edition
• ISBN-10: 1429237198

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. Students who surf the web during class perform significantly worse in exams, according to recent research, hence frivolous use of technology is strongly discouraged. 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
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 (later exams do not include material from earlier exams). 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, December 13 1715-1930 in our usual room. Plan on writing the exam that day. requests for exam date changes will only be considered with a doctor’s note or if you have more than two exams on the same day.

Extra Credit Assignments: A 1500 word (approx 6 pages double-spaced) paper can be. The paper can add a maximum of 3 points to your final grade. Extra credits will NOT replace exams. Due last day of class. I highly recommend not relying on an extra credit assignment.

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 DECEMBER 6ND. 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+ 79-82%    C+ 67-69%    D+ 57-59%    F<50%
A 90-94%      B 75-78%     C 63-66%     D 52-56%
A- 83-91%     B- 70-74%    C- 60-62%    D- 50-51%

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.

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 (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/.

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<td>Aug 30</td>
<td>History &amp; Themes Schacter-Gilbert-Wegner: Chapter 1</td>
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<td>Psychology and the Brain\nSchacter-Gilbert-Wegner: Chapter 3</td>
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<td>Sept 20</td>
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<td>Review and Complete\nThursday Nov 1 \nEXAM 2</td>
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<td>Nov 8</td>
<td>Personality\nSchacter-Gilbert-Wegner: Chapter 12\npp. 480-488</td>
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<td>Nov 15</td>
<td>Psychological Disorders\nSchacter-Gilbert-Wegner: Chapter 14</td>
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<td>NO CLASSES\nTHANKSGIVING WEEK</td>
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<td>Nov 29</td>
<td>Treatment of Psychological Disorders\nSchacter-Gilbert-Wegner: Chapter 15\np. 594-605</td>
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<td>Dec 6</td>
<td>Social Psychology\nSchacter-Gilbert-Wegner: pp. 507-534</td>
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