Instructor: Dr. Mike Dillinger  
Office Location: DMH 230  
Telephone: (408) 924-5615 [only during office hours]  
Email: mike.dillinger@sjsu.edu  
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:45 - 4:30 PM  
Class Days/Time:  
Lecture: Tues / Thurs, 4:30 - 5:45 PM  
Lab: Tues / Thurs, 6:00 - 8:00 PM  
Classrooms: DMH 348 (Lecture), 339 (Lab)  
Prerequisites: Psyc 1, Stat 95, and especially Psyc 100W. These courses are pre-requisites, not co-requisites.  
Course web site: http://www.mikedillinger.com/joomla

Course materials and communicating with your instructor

You will find the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. on the course web site (see above). You are responsible for regularly checking the web site and your email for information about this course. The best method of contacting me is via my SJSU email address. Please allow 1-2 business days for a response.

Course Description

[From the Course Catalog] Traditional laboratory experimental designs and methodology; experiments illustrating this approach.

How do the “hard” sciences work? Why should we (or shouldn’t we) do experimental research in psychology? What are the parts of an experiment? What are the best ways to plan, execute, and report experimental research?

This course is an intensive, hands-on introduction to the basic experimental tools used in the social and behavioral sciences. Students will develop an understanding of the principles and procedures involved in scientific research in psychology, in particular, a firm grasp on the logic and application of the experimental method.
**Learning Outcomes**

**Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)**

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

1. Plan and execute all parts of an experiment;
2. Report their work orally and in writing in a professional manner;

**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 interpretation.

- **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**

You are not required to *buy* a textbook for this course. However, you are required to *read* the textbook, which is the set of materials on the course website! All the materials for each topic are on the course web site.

I also suggest that you own a book on research methods, especially if you intend to go on to graduate school. I particularly like this one:


**Other equipment / material requirements**

- You may want to purchase a lab coat to look like a scientist, although it’s not required 😊
- You will also need easy access to a computer with word-processing (MS Word), email, spreadsheet, and internet browsing applications. You will also need Adobe Acrobat Reader for reading class materials.
- I strongly recommend that you bring your laptop and/or a USB drive to class with all of your research materials.
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, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

This is a 4-credit class, so expect to spend 12 hours per week studying outside of class plus 4.5 hours per week present and working in class.

Library Liaison

Bernd Becker, Psychology Librarian - Bernd.Becker@sjsu.edu

Bernd can answer your questions about how best to use the library’s resources.
Note: Bernd is very, VERY helpful! Make an appointment with him soon!

Classroom Protocol

This is a hands-on, advanced course, which means that you must take charge of your work and your schedule. In this course, you will plan, execute, and report your own experiment with a partner and your experiment will be the focus of the whole semester. You will also study other experiments and the principles that underlie their design and execution (in lecture).

Lectures will focus on giving you the information you need to make methodological decisions for your experiment. Labs will be hands-on sessions developing the details of your experiment with my supervision.

Effective time management is essential: if you do not follow the schedule and get your assignments in on time, you will feel overwhelmed with the things that you have to do to catch up. Something important will be due each week, so PLAN AHEAD and budget plenty of extra time: the first time you do something, it always takes much longer than expected. Do not miss lectures or labs: it will be doubly difficult for you to catch up.

This is a very intensive course for most students, so I recommend that you take it only when you have a lighter-than-usual course/work/family load.

The course has been organized into several Tasks, each of which focuses on a different part of the research process. For each Task, you’ll have one or more assignments to hand in as part of your grade. You have to hand in each assignment TWICE: first in a draft version, then in a “working” version. The important thing about a draft version is that it has to be COMPLETE: you need to have at least tried to do all of the parts of the assignment. This is so that you will be prepared to ask and understand any questions that come up for discussion. The working version is the version that you will continue to revise as your research progresses and before it gets integrated into your final paper, when it gets graded.
Recording of Class Lectures

Common courtesy and professional behavior dictates that you notify someone when you are recording him or her. You must obtain my permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. This permission will likely allow you to use the recordings only for your private study purposes only. The recordings are my intellectual property; you will not receive any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.

- Ask me in writing for written permission to make any recordings.

The materials that I developed for this course are my intellectual property and cannot be shared publicly without my prior written approval. You may not publicly share or upload my materials for this course such as exam questions, web pages, lecture notes, or homework solutions without my written consent.

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

Your grade in this course depends on two factors: your assignments during the semester (they should be complete and on time) and your final research paper (we will discuss evaluation criteria in detail during class). NOTE that time management has consistently been students’ biggest problems in this course. Stick to the attached schedule as closely as possible. Work ahead whenever possible.

Your assignments have to be both complete and approved or submitted by the beginning of the lab class when they are due. You will not receive credit for late or incomplete assignments. I will provide details about each assignment in class and on the course website.

| 5% | Problem & bibliography approved on time |
| 5% | Lit Review approved on time |
| 5% | Methods Section approved on time |
| 10% | Data collection materials approved on time |
| 5% | Data collection completed on time |
Results section completed on time 5%
Discussion section completed on time 5%
PowerPoint Presentation 10%
Full Research Paper 50%

The Final Exam is required but does not contribute to your grade. It will cover the basic principles of experimental design and execution.

Extra Credit
You can get up to 10 additional points of extra credit if:
1) you request it, and
2) the writing in the literature review of your final Research Paper is not only complete but also visibly better than the draft versions.

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, 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 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. The Department’s computer lab is available during class hours. 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.

**SJSU Peer Connections (Optional)**

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) and the Peer Mentor Program have merged to become Peer Connections. Peer Connections is the new campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring. Our staff is here to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. Students are encouraged to take advantage of our services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit Peer Connections website at http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu 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 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
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.
Psyc 120 / Advanced Research Methods and Design

Spring 2013 Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice via email and/or as posted on the course website.

Table 1. Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>What's happening</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24-Jan</td>
<td>First Day of Class</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29-Jan</td>
<td>31-Jan</td>
<td>Define Research Question</td>
<td>No Class on Thursday, Jan 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-Feb</td>
<td>7-Feb</td>
<td>Work on Lit Review</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12-Feb</td>
<td>14-Feb</td>
<td>Full Draft Lit Review due</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-Feb</td>
<td>21-Feb</td>
<td>Full Draft Materials due</td>
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<tr>
<td>26-Feb</td>
<td>28-Feb</td>
<td>Work on Methods</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5-Mar</td>
<td>7-Mar</td>
<td>Final Materials due: Be ready to collect data</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-Mar</td>
<td>14-Mar</td>
<td>Final Lit Review due</td>
<td>Collect Your Data</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-Mar</td>
<td>21-Mar</td>
<td>Final Data due</td>
<td>SPSS Lecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>26-Mar</td>
<td>28-Mar</td>
<td>Spring Recess: No Classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-Apr</td>
<td>4-Apr</td>
<td>Final Results due</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-Apr</td>
<td>11-Apr</td>
<td>Write up Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>16-Apr</td>
<td>18-Apr</td>
<td>Prepare Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>23-Apr</td>
<td>25-Apr</td>
<td>Full Drafts &amp; Slides are due!!</td>
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<tr>
<td>30-Apr</td>
<td>2-May</td>
<td>EVERYTHING!</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-May</td>
<td>9-May</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>14-May</td>
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<td>Presentations</td>
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<td>Wed, May</td>
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<tr>
<td>120 Final</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2:45 - 5:00 PM</td>
<td>Final Exam; Final Paper due</td>
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</tbody>
</table>