San José State University  
Department of Psychology  
PSYC 121A, Research Methods in Personality  
Fall 2014

Instructor: Dr. Gregory Feist

Office Location: DMH 313

Telephone: (408) 924-5617

Email: greg.feist@sjsu.edu

Office Hours: Wed 9-10am; Thursday 10:30-11:30am

Class Days/Time: Lecture: Wed, 10:30-11:30; Lab Wed 11:45-2:45

Classroom: DMH 339

NOTE: There is a lot of information on this syllabus but READ the WHOLE thing before next class. Know it--I won’t answer questions that are found on this document.

Course Description
The purpose of this course is to provide students advanced treatment of research approaches used in personality psychology. Students will learn about and evaluate classic and contemporary methods used in the domain of personality psychology. Students’ main activities in this course will be to design, implement, and communicate original research conducted in the area of personality psychology. Students will develop research designs appropriate to the hypotheses being tested, with an emphasis on experimental, quasi-experimental, or correlational designs. Data collection, statistical data analysis, and interpretation are an essential aspect of this process. Students will communicate the results of their research using appropriate professional disciplinary standards (i.e., APA style).

Students will be expected to know basic statistical research design concepts encountered in the pre and co-requisite classes for this course. Resources will be made available for students to review these concepts as needed throughout the course.

Course Web Page

Course Website
Class Website: https://sjsu.instructure.com/ .

The course Canvas site is an online resource supplement for this course. Use of this site and the information provided is not a substitute for attending lectures. The site will be updated regularly throughout the semester. This site contains:
- Discussion Board (Course Announcements, student questions)
- Links to webpages that will be of use to you throughout the course
- Handouts and articles
Lecture slides (generally posted after lecture is presented)
Assignment submission
Assignment feedback from instructor
Grade roster

Check this site regularly for course announcements, articles, assignments, and other course materials.

Logging Into Canvas
Canvas Login URL: https://sjsu.instructure.com/. Please note that it should NOT have the "www" at the start of the URL like many other websites.

All students and faculty must set up an SJSU One account before accessing Canvas. To do so, go to http://its.sjsu.edu/services/sjsuone/. The Username for Canvas then is your 9-digit SID or Employee ID and your PW is the one you chose when you established your SJSUOne account. You will see the courses you taking (assuming the instructor is using Canvas).

Further Assistance with Canvas
Students should go first to http://guides.instructure.com/m/4212 with problems and then to the University Help Desk for Canvas problems, including logging in (http://www.sjsu.edu/helpdesk/).

Required Materials
Personality (8th edition), ISBN 9780495813965, Jerry Burger
(note: there is a 9th edition, but we are using the 8th!)
Don't buy new (too expensive); rent an e-copy (about $55 see below) or buy used for about $60-$65 on Amazon.

Recommended Materials

Important and Useful Materials
Another APA tutorial: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/
Personality Theory and Research Website: http://www.personality-project.org/
Personality Questionnaire Item Pool: http://ipip.ori.org/
Great Ideas in Personality: http://www.personalityresearch.org/

Other Materials
I will post readings on CANVAS regularly for lab. You must read and/or print out these materials and bring to lab.

Course Learning Outcomes
This course builds upon the research skills developed in prior psychology research methods classes. Upon successful completion of this course:

CLO1 – Knowledge of Social and Personality Psychology Methods – Students will be able to identify, describe, and communicate major classic and contemporary methods used in the domain of personality psychology.

CLO2 – Research Methods in Social Psychology – Students will be able to conduct all phases of a substantial personality-related study, including:
   - (a) idea development, synthesis of research literature, and hypothesis generation,
   - (b) developing a research design that appropriately tests the hypothesis and implementing the design (data collection),
   - (c) conducting appropriate statistical analyses and correctly interpreting results,
   - (d) communicating the results in written and verbal modes, using appropriate professional disciplinary standards (i.e., APA style), and
   - (e) recognizing and communicating the strengths and limitations of one’s study.

CLO3 – Critical Thinking Skills in Social and Personality Psychology – Students will be able to use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to social and personality psychology (e.g., evaluate the validity of research studies, theories, applications research applications)

CLO4 – Values in Social and Personality Psychology Research – Students will be able to identify, evaluate, and discuss ethical issues as they relate to the practice of social and personality psychology research (e.g., informed consent process).

Program Learning Outcomes
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.
**Course Structure**

**Seminar**
Seminar time will be used to cover material needed for successful completion of the course. Activities will include, but are not limited to, lectures of relevant concepts (e.g., basic principles and areas of research in social and personality psychology, classic and contemporary methods used in the discipline, statistical analysis), discussions (e.g., critical evaluation of research), and in-class demonstrations.

**Laboratory**
Lab time will be used in a variety of ways, including, but not limited to, extended time to complete seminar activities as needed, implementation of projects (i.e., group meetings, data collections), instructor feedback and consultation, and so forth. **Attending all scheduled lab times is essential for successful completion of the course.**

**Assignments and Grading Policy**
SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at [http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf).

**Late Assignments**
Writing assignments are **due midnight the day they are due** (via Canvas). If due dates are changed, the new due date will be announced in lecture and posted on Canvas in a timely fashion. No extensions or make-up assignments will be given except in cases of reasonable and documented academic reasons, emergencies, serious illness, or similar seriously disruptive events. **If such a circumstance should arise, please contact me as early as possible and be ready to provide documentation.**

**Extra Credit**
Extra credit assignments are given at the instructor’s discretion. Should extra credit opportunities be extended, the total amount of extra credit points earned by a student cannot exceed 1 – 2 % of the total number of points available in the course.

**Team Research Project**
You will assist in the design and conduct of a quantitative research project based on measures found in the International Personality Item Pool [http://ipip.ori.org/](http://ipip.ori.org/). This will require you to find relevant articles, contribute to the design of the study, assist with data collection, analyze the data using SPSS, and write a concise and correct summary of the results. You will work in teams of 2-3 students in designing the study, collecting the data, and analyzing the results. **The write-ups, however, have to be done individually.** Reports must be 5-8 pages of text plus a cover page, abstract, reference section, and tables/graphs (typed, double-spaced, 12-point font, 1” margins). Projects must use correct grammar, punctuation, and statistical style (as described in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th ed.). Projects must cite at least 10 relevant peer-reviewed journal articles. More information will be provided in class.

You need to complete the SJSU IRB CITI training before collecting data [https://www.citiprogram.org/](https://www.citiprogram.org/). If any team member has not completed the CITI training prior to data collection, the entire team will not receive credit for this assignment. If you completed CITI in the last couple of years, that counts. But I need the certificate (if you didn’t give it to me last semester).
Oral Presentations (of your study) will take place the last week of the semester and should last about 10-12 min per team, plus 2 min for questions. Team members should generally take ONE section to present (Introduction, Method, Results, Discussion), but one person may have to present two (team size of three). You will be penalized 10% for presentations not in the allotted time range. In other words, present only “need-to-know” or “take-home” information and eliminate “nice-to-know” information.

Assessment of student learning outcomes
The learning objectives will be assessed via quizzes, exam questions, and written assignments.

Make-up Work
Make-up work will only be given if you contact me prior to missing the assignment in question with documented reason for missing it. Any student that fails to contact the instructor by the next class meeting following the missed exam forfeits his/her eligibility to make-up missed assignments.

Grading Policy
Your grade will result from the total number of points that you earn during the semester.

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<th>Assignment</th>
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<th>Pts Per Assignment</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>% of Final Grade</th>
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<td>Literature Search</td>
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<td>Proposal</td>
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<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>Method</td>
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<td>Results</td>
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<td>Discussion</td>
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<td>Final Research Project</td>
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<td>Oral Presentation</td>
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<td>Exams</td>
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Table 2: Grading Scale

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<td>92-94%</td>
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<td>90-91%</td>
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<td>87-89%</td>
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University Policies

Academic integrity
Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf 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 Integrity 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 at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at http://www.sjsu.edu/aec to establish a record of your disability.

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 year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. 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/.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material
University Policy S12-7, http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf, requires students to obtain instructor’s permission to record the course.

“Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”

If you wish to record lectures for your private, study purposes, please discuss this with the instructor. Written permission to record lectures will need to be granted for the whole semester or on a class-by-class basis.
In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.

“Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

**Classroom Protocol**

**Contacting Instructor**

1. I will answer emails generally M - F, 9:00 - 5:00.
2. Through Canvas mail function. Best for private questions and comments.
3. Through Canvas discussion board. Best for questions about the course that need not remain private. Chances are others have the same questions you have.
4. Through regular email. greg.feist@sjsu.edu
5. By phone. Best if you need to contact me quickly and cannot use email at the time.
6. Consider emails for this course as professional correspondence (see sample correspondence at the end of the syllabus).
   a. **Subject Line** should include your class and a brief description of the issue (e.g., Subject: Psych 121A: absence on 10-10-11).
   b. **Greetings** should be formal and use your instructors title (e.g., Dear Dr. Feist or Professor Feist)
   c. **Identify yourself** and the course/section you are in (I don’t only teach this section).
   d. **Issue or question** should be stated clearly, concisely, respectfully, and with attention paid to grammar, complete sentences, and so forth.
   e. **Expect replies within 1 - 3 days**. Polite follow-ups are encouraged if you have not heard from me in a reasonable amount of time.

**Example email correspondence**

**Subject:** Psyc 121A: Assignment due date question

Dear Professor Feist (or Dr. Feist),

My name is Barb Frederick and I am in your T/Th 121A class. I am not sure when the Discussion assignment is due because of conflicting information. The syllabus schedule says Nov. 5, but the assignment sheet itself says Nov 9. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards,
Maggie

**Regular attendance is necessary to do well in the course.**

Although the course has an online resource, this resource is not a substitute for attending seminar and lab.

**Laptops**

In-class laptop use should be restricted to course-related activities (e.g., taking notes). Other activities (e.g., web surfing) distract both the instructor and students and will not be tolerated. You will be asked to turn off your laptop if you are engaged in non-class activities. You will be asked to refrain from laptop use for the duration of the course if this behavior continues.
Cellphones and other electronic devices
Please be certain to turn off or put in silent mode all cell phones, pagers, and any other devices that produce distraction prior to entering the classroom.

Late arrivals
If you must arrive late or leave early, please do so quietly and with a minimum of distraction.

I expect you to come to class prepared
“Prepared” means you have completed the readings and any assignment before class starts, and written down any questions you had from the assignment. You should be as prepared as you expect your professor to be.

Check the course Canvas site regularly
If I become ill, I will inform you the night before that I will be absent. Please email me before class if you will not be in class. Please set your spam controls to accept my email address.

Student Resources
Librarian: Psychology
The SJSU library has a librarian who specializes in psychology (and other social sciences), and this librarian can serve as a very valuable resource for helping you to develop research ideas and locating appropriate research materials. The library also has an abundance of resources for doing psychology research:

Psychology Librarian:
Bernd Becker
408.808.2348
Bernd.Becker@sjsu.edu
http://libguides.sjsu.edu/psychology

Student Technology Resources
Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center at http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/ located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab 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 DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections
Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their 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 Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter.

**SJSU Counseling Services**
The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling Services website at http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling.

**Reading Topics, Exams and Dates: Psych121A, F14**

**Note:** This course will follow this syllabus to the extent possible. The timing and specific nature of topics and activities may change. You are responsible for keeping informed of any changes made to the class syllabus. Such changes will be clearly stated in class and will be posted on the class web site. You are responsible for checking the class web site before each class. Therefore, it is extremely important to check the website before each class.

**Note:** These dates are open to modification and are therefore tentative.

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
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<th>Lab</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Aug 27</td>
<td>Introduction to Course</td>
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<td>Science, Pseudoscience, and Psychological Science and Research Methods</td>
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<td>Descriptive, Correlational, Experimental Methods</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Sept 3</td>
<td>Personality</td>
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<td>Research in Personality: Hypothesis Testing, Methods, Personality Assessment</td>
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<td>Choosing a Research Topic; Writing a Research Proposal (Intro, Method, Data Analysis Plan)</td>
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<td>Read: All “Reference List” Sections at OWL Writing Lab starting at “Basic Rules” [<a href="https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/05/%5C">https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/05/\</a>] and going to “Other Non-Print Sources” [<a href="https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/11/%5C">https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/11/\</a>]</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Sept 10</td>
<td>Trait Theory</td>
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<td>Literature Review and Introduction: APA Style Tutorial:</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<td><strong>Research Ethics</strong></td>
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<td>2 page Research Proposal Due with Bibliography (10 reference minimum)</td>
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<td>Sept 17 Trait Research</td>
<td>8 APA Method Section</td>
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<td>Sept 24 Exam 1</td>
<td>Statistical Analysis of Data &amp; SPSS Basics</td>
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<td>Draft of Research Method Section is Due</td>
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<td>IRB (CITI) Certification Required (Online)</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Oct 8 Cognitive Research</td>
<td>16 Statistics Refresher</td>
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<td>Central tendency, variance, effect size, t-test, correlation, regression (Handouts; Lecture)</td>
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<td>Data Collection</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Oct 15 Biological Theory</td>
<td>9 Results &amp; SPSS</td>
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<td>SPSS Windows &amp; Mac (2010):</td>
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<td><a href="http://web.stanford.edu/group/ssds/cgi-bin/drupal/files/Guides/Using_SPSS_for_Windows_and">http://web.stanford.edu/group/ssds/cgi-bin/drupal/files/Guides/Using_SPSS_for_Windows_and</a>_</td>
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