San José State University
PSYC 001, General Psychology, Section 03, Fall 2016

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Vince Favilla
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Email: vincent.favilla@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: Mondays/Wednesdays 2:30–3:00pm and by appointment
Class Days/Time: M/W 3:00–4:15pm
Classroom: Morris Dailey Auditorium
GE/SJSU Studies Category: GE-D1

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn of any updates.

Course Description

Study of perception, attention, learning, remembering, thinking, development of the individual, intelligence, aptitudes, emotions, motivation, adjustment and conflict; designed to give insight into oneself and others.

Learning Outcomes

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

Course Learning Outcomes

Students shall be able to identify and analyze the social dimension of society as a context for human life, the processes of social change and social continuity, the role of human agency in those processes, and the forces that engender social cohesion and fragmentation.

This is covered in chapters 5, 13, and 14 of Myers (2015), as well as the “Identity” paper you will write for this class.

General topics addressed: social psychology, persuasion, groupthink, conformity, personality, and stress.

Students will be able to place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts.

This objective is met through material presented in Chapters 1, 5, 7, 9, 11, 14, 15, and 16 in Myers (2015), as well as material presented in lectures and multimedia presentations (e.g., films/videos, internet...
activities/assignments).

General topics addressed: evolution of modern psychology, historical foundations, and current cultural perspectives; the processes of research, psychological measurements, historical and current ethical issues in human and animal research; analyzing psychological research with descriptive and inferential statistics, becoming a wise consumer of research; intelligence and intelligence assessment, basic features of formal assessment, the origins of intelligence testing, the history and politics of intelligence testing, heredity and IQ, environments and IQ, culture and the validity of IQ tests; the nature of psychological disorders, deciding what is normal, historical perspectives of mental illness, etiology of psychopathology, the stigma of mental illness; the therapeutic context, goals and major therapies, historical and cultural contexts, treatment evaluation and prevention strategies, therapies and brain activity.

**Students will be able to identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural, gender/sexual, age-based, class, regional, national, transnational, and global identities and the similarities, differences, linkages, and interactions between them.**

This objective is met through Chapters 1, 4, 5, 13, 14, and 15 in Myers (2015), lectures, and multimedia presentations (e.g., films/videos, internet activities/assignments).

General topics addressed: the biological and evolutionary bases of behavior, heredity and behavior, evolution and natural selection, variation in the human genotype, biology and behavior; cognitive processes, studying cognition, discovering the processes of mind, mental processes and mental resources, language use, language production, language understanding, language, thought and culture, visual cognition, problem solving and reasoning; judgment and decision making; physical development across the life span, cognitive development across the life span, perceiving speck and perceiving words, learning word meanings, acquiring grammar, social development across the life span, gender development, sex and gender, the acquisition of gender roles, learning to age successfully; functions of motivational concepts, sources of motivation, motivation for personal achievement, need to achievement, attributions for success and failure, work and organizational psychology; understanding human personality.

**Students will be able to evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues.**

This objective is met through material presented in Chapters 1, 2, 12, and 13 in Myers (2015), lectures, and multimedia presentations (e.g., films/videos, internet activities/assignments).

General topics addressed: analyzing psychological research, descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, becoming a wise consumer of statistics; the study of learning, evaluating the effectiveness of different learning procedures, the experimental analysis of behavior, observational learning; basic emotions and culture, functions of emotions, stress of living, physiological stress reactions, psychological stress reactions, coping with stress, health promotion, personality and health.

**Students will be able to recognize the interactions of social institutions, culture, and environment with the behavior of individuals.**

This objective is met through Chapters 14 and 15 in Myers (2015) and lectures, and multimedia presentations (e.g., films/videos, internet activities/assignments).

General topics addressed: the power of the situation, altruism and prosocial behavior, constructing social reality, attitudes and attitude change, prejudice, social relationships; deciding who is abnormal, the problem of
objectivity in defining abnormal behaviors, classifying psychological disorders, the etiology of psychopathology, anxiety disorders (types and causes), mood disorders (types and causes), gender differences in depression, suicide, psychological disorders in childhood, schizophrenic disorders, the stigma of mental illness.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

Upon successful completion of the psychology major requirements…

1. **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.

2. **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.

3. **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.

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

5. **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


Other Readings


Library Liaison

Bernd Becker

Phone: (408) 808-2348

Email: Bernd.becker@sjsu.edu

Course Requirements and Assignments

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).

The point breakdown for this course is as follows:

- 150 points: Midterm (10/12/16)
• 250 points: Final Exam (12/19/16 @ 12:15–2:30pm)
• 35 points: Writing Assignment 1 (Due 10/19/16)
• 35 points: Writing Assignment 2 (Due 12/5/16)
• 30 points: Research Requirement

**Total:** 500 points

Your first writing assignment explores the nature of your identity; you’ll complete several exercises that will reveal your personality, your greatest strengths, and the values that are most important to you. Completing this assignment will increase your self-esteem and provide you with direction in terms of your future life plans.

Your second writing assignment explores these future plans. You’ll lay out some goals for yourself, both in the near-term and in the long-term. You’ll then explore the obstacles that may stand in the way, and devise a plan for overcoming these obstacles.

The tests are designed to help you achieve PLOs 1 and 2; you’ll demonstrate your knowledge base of psychology and the process of scientific research. The writing assignments help you achieve PLOs 3, 4, and 5; you’ll use critical thinking to apply psychology to your own life and become a responsible member of society.

The dates for your midterms and writing assignments are subject to change with fair notice.

NOTE that [University policy F69-24](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) states that “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

**Grading Policy**

A+ = 100-99%
A = 98-93%
A- = 92.99-90%
B+ = 89.99-88%
B = 87.99-83%
B- = 82.99-80%
C+ = 79.99-78%
C = 77.99-73%
C- = 72.99-70%
D+ = 69.99-68%
D = 67.99-63%
D- = 62.99-60%
F = 59.99-0%

**Your grade is available to you on Canvas throughout the semester. Except in the case of instructor error, your final grade in the class is non-negotiable. I do not round.**

**It is YOUR responsibility to keep an eye on your grade and to seek help (or study more) if your grade dips below an acceptable level. I will not entertain grade appeals at the end of the semester.**

Extra Credit: There is one planned extra credit opportunity this semester; if you learn (or continue) to meditate, you’ll earn an extra 15 points. Note that this is equivalent to about one letter grade on an exam.
Late assignments: You’ll be penalized by 10% for every day an assignment is late.

Make-up exams: You may only make up an exam in the case of a documented emergency. You’ll be asked to write an essay in place of the exam, and the written assignment will be much harder.

**Classroom Protocol**

You’re expected to arrive on time and participate in lecture, seeking clarification as necessary and sharing your insights.

I welcome your comments and questions during lecture. A lively discussion makes lecture more interesting to everyone.

**University Policies**

**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](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/). The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/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](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/).

**Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material**

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 would like permission to record my lectures, please email me.

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.

**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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) requires you to be honest in all your academic course work.

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.
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/.

**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 their disability.

**Accommodation to Students’ Religious Holidays**

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See University Policy S14-7 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf.

**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. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center
on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to scan this code.)

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 provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or 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.
### PSYC 001 / General Psychology, Fall 2016 Course Schedule

What follows is a tentative outline of the topics we will cover this semester. Note that this schedule is subject to change with fair notice. You’ll be informed of any significant changes in class and via email.

**Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8/24/16</td>
<td>Introduction to Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8/29/16</td>
<td>The Biology of the Mind, Personality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9/5/16</td>
<td>Labor Day September 5th — No class</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9/12/16</td>
<td>Nature vs. Nurture, Developmental Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>9/19/16</td>
<td>Stress &amp; Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>9/26/16</td>
<td>Stress &amp; Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>10/3/16</td>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10/10/16</td>
<td>Sensation &amp; Perception</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Midterm: October 12th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10/17/16</td>
<td>Sensation &amp; Perception</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Writing Assignment 1 Due October 19th</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10/24/16</td>
<td>How We Learn &amp; Memory</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>10/31/16</td>
<td>Thought, Language, &amp; Intelligence</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>11/7/16</td>
<td>Motivation &amp; Emotions</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>11/14/16</td>
<td>Motivation &amp; Emotions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>11/21/16</td>
<td>Psychological Disorders</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td>No class 11/23</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>11/30/16</td>
<td>Therapy</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>12/5/16</td>
<td>Positive Psychology; Writing Assignment 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td></td>
<td>Final Exam (12/19/16 @ 12:15–2:30pm)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>