San José State University
Department of Psychology

PSYC 1: General Psychology
Summer 2016

Instructor Information

Instructor: Olga Rosito, PhD
Office Location: Clark Hall
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Email: olga.rosito@sjsu.edu
For a faster reply, please feel free to email me at my home email address at olga.rosito@gmail.com
Office Hours: Online or in person by appointment
Class Days/Time: Online on CANVAS
GE/SJSU Studies Category: GE Area D1 Human Behavior

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a comprehensive review of current topics in general psychology. Psychology is a diverse field that seeks to describe, predict, and influence human behavior, cognition, and emotions. Students from any background are welcome to take this class, whether to fulfill the required GE units, to gain insights into human experience, or to learn more about the field of psychology. For many, this course will serve as a foundation of the path to careers in social and behavioral sciences. To address the needs of a diverse student body, this course will cover “the study of perception, attention, learning, memory, thinking, development of the individual, intelligence, aptitudes, emotions, motivation, adjustment and conflict” (SJSU course catalog).

Students taking this course can expect to develop and demonstrate general knowledge and working familiarity with current and classical research methods in psychology, current issues
in the field of behavioral science, and the application of the scientific method to the study of human behavior, cognition, and emotion. Through text reading, interactive exercises, PowerPoint presentations, and by completing a writing requirement, students can gain a deeper understanding of the issues affecting individual behavior. Students in this course will be encouraged to think critically about the content of the course and observations they make in their daily lives. The approach of this course is designed to develop a scientist-practitioner model of learning: students will be encouraged to use scientific method in collecting, analyzing, and interpreting behavioral data and apply theoretical concepts and principles to facilitate the understanding of everyday life, individual development and growth, personality factors, and the larger sociocultural context.

### Learning Outcomes

#### Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

This course encourages the acquisition and application of critical thinking skills to improve understanding of human behavior.

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

1. CLO 1 – Identify the contemporary issues in the study of human behavior
2. CLO 2 – Use critical thinking skills to evaluate the experimental evidence and assess psychological theory
3. CLO3 – Read, understand, and synthesize complex theoretical concepts and learn their application in the study of human behavior
4. CLO4 - Recognize the interaction between personal development and sociocultural contexts, such as ethnic, cultural, gender/sexual, age, class, regional, national, translational, and global identities
5. CLO5 – Utilize the components of the scientific method to evaluate different points of view in contemporary social sciences
6. CLO6 – Communicate findings using APA style report writing guidelines

#### Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

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 and Recommended Readings

**Textbook (required)**


**Additional Publications (recommended)**

DSM-5 is available in electronic format for SJSU students through the library subscription.


Other Readings and Resources

All other readings will be distributed electronically. The electronic holdings for this class will be made available on CANVAS.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation 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. This is a three unit course, so please expect to spend at least 9 hours per week in course preparation and course activities, including assigned readings, review of lectures, and completion of written assignments. This is self-paced course, with all the materials posted on CANVAS. Students are expected to work through all posted readings and activities each week and complete a written assignment as indicated on the Course Schedule. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf.

Weekly Quizzes (20 points per assignment; each quiz is 4% of the grade)

Each week, students will be expected to complete an online quiz to serve as a check for incorporating that week’s reading and lecture material. Online quizzes will be posted on Monday of each week and are expected to be completed by the end of the day on Sunday (please plan accordingly). Each quiz is a multiple-choice, 10 questions, closed-book, timed test – time limit is 30 minutes.

There will be a total of 7 quizzes in Weeks 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9. Five quizzes with the highest scores will be counted toward the grade for a total of 100 points. Week 1 quiz will be completed for extra credit and there will be no quizzes in Weeks 5 and 10. To take the online quiz, students will need to use LockDown Responder, a program provided by the SJSU to ensure a closed-book, timed environment is maintain for all testing in this class. You will be provided with specific instructions about LockDown Responder and the first week’s extra credit quiz will serve as a practice run to make sure all students have adequate access to online quizzes and LockDown Responder.

Midterm and Final Written Exams (100 points per exam; each exam is 20% of the grade)

At the completion of the first half of the course, students will be expected to complete a midterm written exam, consisting of 50 multiple-choice questions assessing mastery of material presented in Weeks 1 through 5. The exam will be posted on Monday of Week 5 and be available for completion until the end of the day on Sunday (please plan accordingly). Similarly, a final written exam, consisting of 50 multiple choice questions assessing mastery of concepts presented in Weeks 6 through 10, will be posted online on the last Monday of
the term in Week 10 and will be due at the end of the day on Sunday. Both exams will be timed (time limit is 2 hours) and closed-book, utilizing LockDown Responder. Additional instructions about the exam will be posted on CANVAS.

Exam Requirements:

1. You will be expected to follow an honor code in addition to utilizing LockDown Responder for all written exams and quizzes.
2. No one is allowed to be present when you are taking the online quiz or exam.
3. You are not allowed to communicate with anyone during the exam/quiz time (no phone, text, or in-person communications).
4. You must keep your eyes on the screen at all times.
5. You are not allowed to use any materials (no books, notes, etc.)
6. Failure to comply with the above requirements will be considered a form of academic dishonesty and will result in the punitive actions described in the section on Academic Integrity.

Honor Code:

In order to ensure fairness and have a single standard of representing knowledge acquired, all students participating in online SJSU courses must agree to abide by the following code of conduct (reference: Academic Integrity Policy at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/policies/):

1. My work will be my own in this online course, except if otherwise indicated by the course instructor.
2. I will not give any answers for individually graded assignments to anyone else.
3. I will not engage in any other activities that will misrepresent my own work or improve my results falsely. I will not engage in any activities that will misrepresent others’ work.
4. I will not download, save, or otherwise retain the electronic materials from this course for anything other than personal use.

APA-Style Research Paper (200 points; 40% of the grade)

The most significant requirement to successfully complete this course will be based on your professional written research paper addressing one of the topics covered in this course. You will be expected to identify a topic (based on the domains we cover in this course), find and synthesize relevant published research in peer-reviewed publications, and construct an APA-style paper to present your findings. The topic of your research must be approved by the instructor in advance. Once your topic is selected and approved, you will complete this requirement in the following stages:
- **Research Findings Proposal 1** – you will be expected to find one article published in a peer-reviewed professional psychology publication (no older than 10 years ago) and complete a comprehensive critical review of the article. The required format and components of the critical review will be provided on CANVAS. In general, you will be required to provide the background on the topic, describe the authors’ aim, methods, and findings, and analyze their conclusions. Minimum length is 500 words. Due date provided on the Course Schedule (50 points).

- **Research Findings Proposal 2** – you will be expected to find another article published in a peer-reviewed professional psychology publication (no older than 10 years ago) and complete another comprehensive critical review of the article. Minimum length is 500 words. Due date provided on the Course Schedule (50 points).

- **APA-style research paper** – you will be expected to combine the two completed critical reviews into an APA-style research paper to discuss recent scientific research findings on the topic of interest. In addition to the critical reviews already completed, you will be required to write an introduction to the topic you selected and summarize the findings from your two chosen articles utilizing information we learned in this course. Additional format requirements will be posted on CANVAS. Minimum length is 1500 words. Due date provided on the Course Schedule (100 points).

**Additional Information**

This course will be conducted using SJSU Learning Management System called CANVAS. There will be lectures, content videos, written assignments and other material necessary to complete this class posted on the course’s space on CANVAS. It is very important to check the space frequently and to complete all written posted assignments on time. Please make sure to read this entire syllabus carefully to ensure your understanding of the class’ expectations and requirement.

In addition to the space on CANVAS, we will be utilizing Piazza, an interactive discussion space, to communicate with each other and ask questions about this course. I highly recommend that you post all of your questions or concerns through Piazza so that the entire class could benefit from the answers and explanations. I invite you all to answer each other’s questions and assist each other in completing this course. If you elect to send me a private email that concerns the issues in this course, I will reserve the right to post your question and my response on Piazza so that everyone could benefit. If you need to communicate in private with me, please indicate so in your email.

**CANVAS**

To log into CANVAS, please use the following URL:  [https://sjsu.instructure.com](https://sjsu.instructure.com). You will need your SJSUOne account. The username for CANVAS is your 9-digit Student ID and the password is the same as the password you chose when you set up the SJSUOne account.
On the CANVAS page for this course, you will see the necessary navigation links on the left. “Modules” link organizes the course into weeks of study (as per Course Schedule) and contains all the necessary information for that week. You can also access all written assignments separately by using “Assignments” navigation link. All student grades can be found under the “Grades” link.

REQUIRED TRAININGS

As part of your completing this course, you will be required to complete online tutorials. You are required to complete **three InfoPower tutorials and one Plagiarism tutorial**. All online trainings can be found in the following link:

http://library.sjsu.edu/online-tutorials/online-tutorials

Scroll down on the page and look for tutorial for course credit link. You will need to achieve a score of **85% or above** to complete each tutorial. Proof of completion will be required (you can submit a print screen of your completion status with the percentage score listed or send me a copy of your completion report by email). Please note that these trainings are due prior to the submission of the first written research requirement proposal. Please further note that without these tutorials, your written assignments (two proposals and the final paper) will not be graded.

**Course Grading**

**Grading Elements**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written Quizzes</td>
<td>100 points</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz 1</td>
<td>20 points</td>
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<td>Quiz 2</td>
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<td>Quiz 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written Exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>200 points</td>
<td>40%</td>
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## Written Proposal

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<th>Written Proposal 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written Proposal 2</td>
<td>50 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written Research Paper</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>500 points</strong></td>
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### Tentative Grade Determination

Final course grade will be assigned as indicated below:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>98 – 100</td>
<td>A+</td>
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<tr>
<td>93 – 97</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90 – 92</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>88 – 89</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>83 – 87</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>80 – 82</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>70 – 72</td>
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<td>68 – 69</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>63 – 67</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>60 – 62</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<tr>
<td>59 or below</td>
<td>F</td>
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### Late Assignments

Assignments are due on the date indicated by the course schedule. If due dates change, the new due dates will be announced in a timely fashion. No extensions or make-up assignments will be accepted without prior approval by the instructor; such extensions or make-ups will be granted only in cases of emergency, serious illness, or for other documented academic reasons. If you anticipate being late on an assignment, you are urged to contact the instructor as early as possible to discuss your situation.

### Extra Credit

Extra credit assignments will be given at the instructor’s sole discretion. Should extra credit opportunities be extended, the total amount of extra credit points earned by a student cannot exceed 4% of the total number of points available for this course.
Note that University policy F69-24 at 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.” Note that “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See University Policy F13-1 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf for more details.

Classroom Protocol

Contacting Instructor

Please feel free to use either SJSU email (olga.rosito@sjsu.edu) or my personal email account (olga.rosito@gmail.com) to contact me at any time. I will promptly respond to your emails during normal business hours (Mon-Fri, 8 am to 5 pm). On the weekend or during holiday, please anticipate that it might take me up to 48 hours to respond to your emails.

Please make sure to provide me with the best way to respond to you when you are emailing me. If your request requires urgent attention, please indicate so in the subject line of the email.

Classroom Etiquette

Please be respectful toward each other. We will all share a learning space on CANVAS and Piazza so please take care to create a learning environment conducive to open sharing and safety. Be polite and respectful of each other’s opinions. Do not use profanity or unprofessional language in any of your posts. Please take care to use proper grammar and punctuation in your posts.

Respect for the rights and opinions of others is required in a learning environment. The free and open exchange of ideas is the cornerstone of higher education and we must always remain respectful of others, even when we strongly disagree with their stated opinions. Disagreement is expected, acceptable and, in some ways, encouraged, but discourtesy is not and will not be tolerated. Behavior or conduct that creates a threatening or harassing environment will not be tolerated. Let’s make a great experience for each other!
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 and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “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.”
- “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 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/.
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.

Student Resources

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. 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 (Optional)**

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.
Please note that this schedule is subject to change with fair notice. Changes will be announced on CANVAS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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| 1    | 06/06-06/12| **LECTURE:** Introduction and Research Methods; syllabus review.  
**ASSIGNMENTS DUE:** extra credit quiz (due on 06/12)  
**REQUIRED READINGS:** Chapter 1 and other posted materials  
**ACTIVITIES:** Begin thinking about possible topic for your paper |
| 2    | 06/13-06/19| **LECTURE:** Neuroscience and Biological Foundations  
**ASSIGNMENTS DUE:** Quiz 1 (due on 06/19)  
**REQUIRED READINGS:** Chapter 2 and other posted materials  
**ACTIVITIES:** Formalize possible topic for your paper |
| 3    | 06/20-06/26| **LECTURE:** Sensation and Perception  
**ASSIGNMENTS DUE:** Quiz 2 (due on 06/26); InfoPower & Plagiarism tutorials (due 06/26)  
**REQUIRED READINGS:** Chapter 4 and other posted materials  
**ACTIVITIES:** Approval of topic for research paper (due 06/26) |
| 4    | 06/27-07/03| **LECTURE:** Consciousness  
**ASSIGNMENTS DUE:** Quiz 3 (due on 07/03); Proposal 1 (due 07/03)  
**REQUIRED READINGS:** Chapter 5 and other posted materials  
**ACTIVITIES:** work on proposal 1 (due on 07/03) |
| 5    | 07/04-07/10| **LECTURE:** Learning and Memory  
**ASSIGNMENTS DUE:** Midterm Exam (due on 07/10)  
**REQUIRED READINGS:** Chapter 6 and 7; and other posted materials  
**ACTIVITIES:** Review for midterm (covers chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7) |
| 6    | 07/11-07/17| **LECTURE:** Cognitive Abilities  
**ASSIGNMENTS DUE:** Quiz 4 (due on 07/17)  
**REQUIRED READINGS:** Chapter 8 and other posted materials  
**ACTIVITIES:** none |
| 7    | 07/18-07/24| **LECTURE:** Life Span Development  
**ASSIGNMENTS DUE:** Quiz 5 (due on 07/24); Proposal 2 (due 07/24)  
**REQUIRED READINGS:** Chapter 9 and other posted materials  
**ACTIVITIES:** work on proposal 2 (due on 07/24) |
| 8    | 07/25-07/31| **LECTURE:** Motivation and Emotion  
**ASSIGNMENTS DUE:** Quiz 6 (due on 07/31)  
**REQUIRED READINGS:** Chapter 10 and other posted materials  
**ACTIVITIES:** Start working on final paper |
| 9    | 08/01-08/07| **LECTURE:** Personality Psychology  
**ASSIGNMENTS DUE:** Quiz 7 (due on 08/07)  
**REQUIRED READINGS:** Chapter 11 and other posted materials  
**ACTIVITIES:** Continue working on final paper |
| 10   | 08/08-08/14| **LECTURE:** Psychological Disorders and Therapy  
**ASSIGNMENTS DUE:** Final Exam (due 08/12); Final Paper (due 08/14)  
**REQUIRED READINGS:** Chapters 12 and 13; and other posted materials  
**ACTIVITIES:** Final APA-style paper (due on 08/14) |
Quizzes and exams will be posted on CANVAS and become open at 7 am on the Monday of the week in which they are due. While you will have that entire week to complete the assignment online, it might be best to tackle the quizzes once you have reviewed that week’s recommended readings. The testing period will close at midnight on Sunday so please plan accordingly. If you are taking an exam, which has a time limit of 2 hours, you cannot start it any later than 10 pm on Sunday to complete before the deadline.