San José State University
Department of Psychology

PSYC 139 (1) Psychology of the Person

Summer 2016

Instructor: Vince Favilla

Email: vincent.favilla@sjsu.edu
(I prefer you to message me on Canvas)

Telephone: (408) 924-5643
Class Days/Time: Tuesday & Thursday 11:00am-2:45pm
Classroom: HGH 217
Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 2:45-3:15pm
Prerequisites: PSYC 001

Canvas and MYSJSU Messaging
Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, chapter lecture notes, major assignment or handouts and study guides are posted on Canvas.

You are responsible for regularly checking Canvas for class announcements and due dates.

Course Description
This course introduces the student to theories and research exploring the concept of the “person”—the nature and the sources of our consistent behavioral patterns and intrapersonal processes. We will examine on the one hand historically-relevant theories and on the other hand modern-day theories and assess their current status on the basis of research. We will examine the implementation of theoretical concepts introduced in class into applied contexts—such as psychotherapy, job-market decisions, educational setting and child raising practices, and the dating scenes.
Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives
This class is aimed at acquainting the student with the major theories of personality, with the historical factors related to their emergence, and with their current status as established by empirical findings. The current possible applications into a variety of real-life situations and the importance of such applications to better understand human behavior, will also be addressed. We will follow the textbook sequence of chapters and will allocate two week to each of the theories. The presentation of each theory will introduce its basic concepts, how these concepts are measured, how they are proposed to be applied, and results of studies that evaluated the theoretical concepts.

GE Learning Objectives:

The GE Writing Requirement is met through the weekly writing assignments that are posted on the instructor’s website.

GE learning Outcomes

Upon the completion of this course students should be able to demonstrate

- GELO 1 A broad understanding of issues related to the social sciences
- GELO 2 An ability to communicate ideas effectively both in speaking and in writing
- GELO 3 The capacity for critical and creative thinking;
- GELO 4 The ability to assess information
- GELO 5 The ability for creative and critical thinking

Class activities linked to these outcomes are:

- The identification of the main questions asked by researchers in this area
- The examination of the multiple explanations provided to the questions
- The exploration of yet unknown issue waiting for subsequent research

Course Content Learning Outcomes

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

LO1: be familiar with six approaches to understanding personality and individual differences in behavioral characteristics,

LO2: address the strengths and weaknesses of each approach

LO3: critically examine relevant empirical evidence associated with each the theoretical approaches
LO4: recognize the application of theoretical concepts into real life issues and in psychotherapy

Measurement of the course learning outcomes will be achieved through 2 quizzes, 2 exams, and a written assignment.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)
Upon successful completion of the psychology major requirement:

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

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook
- Larsen & Buss: Personality Psychology (5th edition)

Please view the calendar at the end of this syllabus for assignments, dues dates, and exams.

Assignments: You will have 3 online tests that measure your understanding of the material, as well as 1 written assignment that explores your own personality. In addition to these assignments, your instructor may assign ungraded practice questions to encourage you seek help with topics for which you’re unclear.
NOTE that University policy F69-24, “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.”

**Definition of a Credit Hour**
Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

As an example, the expectation of work for a 3-credit course is 150-minutes of direct faculty instruction and six hours of out-of-class student work each week.

**Classroom Protocol**
This course is based on the active participation of the student, and the main expectations are **READING and ATTENDANCE**. You are expected to read the assigned materials before class, so that the teacher can elaborate and expand. Because of time constraints it may not be impossible to cover all the segments of a given unit. However, you are responsible for all the assigned reading, as the exams will include questions from all part of the reading. Some parts of the chapters will be skipped, please see reading list below.

Students are expected to:

- Maintain polite and considerate behavior toward their fellow students and the instructor.
- Mute their phones to avoid distracting their classmates or instructor
- Avoid using the Internet for personal use

You’re welcome to bring your laptop or take notes on your tablet/phone. Please just don’t allow your screen to become a distraction to other students.

**Recording of Class Lectures**
Common courtesy and professional behavior dictates 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. This 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.

**Attendance:**
Your regular attendance and participation are factors contributing to the successful completion of this course. If you do not attend class you will miss on the opportunity to ask questions and to get clarifications. In addition, please make all effort to come to class on time. Tardiness disturbs the instructor and other students, and also deprives you of the short reviews of the previous lecture that are presented at the beginning of each class.

**If you hold a full time job, please make all effort to attend class regularly, and to study each night for at least an hour and a half.** Cramming before the test has not been very effective for most students. As you read, take notes and go over the material that has been discussed in class, pay attention to concepts, and examples of these concepts. Be familiar with important studies.

**Teacher Availability:**
Do not hesitate to e-mail me or to come by with questions. If you have not done so well on any of the tests, please come to see me ASAP, in order to go over test questions that you missed, so we can understand how you interpreted the questions, and devise strategies for doing better on the next test.

**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 at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/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/.

**Grading Policy**
**Extra Credit:**
Extra credit is granted solely at your instructor’s discretion. It is not a substitute for performing well in class and you should not rely on extra credit assignments to boost your grade.
Grading:
The point distribution for this course is as follows:

- 200 points: Final exam (in class)
- 150 points: Midterm (online)
- 100 points: Quizzes (online)
- 50 points: Essay

Other small assignments (<10 points) may also be assigned with fair notice.

The grading scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>98-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-97.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;60</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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.

Exam Dates:

Midterm: Wednesday June 22nd, 11am

Final: Wednesday, July 6, 2016, 11am

Make up exams:

Please note exam dates and plan your trips and events accordingly. You will be allowed to reschedule an exam ONLY upon the presentation of documented medical reason, or if you have a mandatory, documented school activity.
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 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 their disability.

In 2013, the Disability Resource Center changed its name to be known as the Accessible Education Center, to incorporate a philosophy of accessible education for students with disabilities. The new name change reflects the broad scope of attention and support to SJSU students with disabilities and the University’s continued advocacy and commitment to increasing accessibility and inclusivity on campus.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center at http://www.at.sjsu.edu/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**

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](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) at http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu for more information.

**SJSU Writing Center**

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Suite 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 staff](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/) can be found at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/.
PSYC 139 Personality, Summer 2016 Course Schedule

*Please note: The sequence of the topics will remain, though we may allocate different amount of times to some of the topics.*

Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>June 6</td>
<td>Introduction to personality, measurement of personality</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June 8</td>
<td>Physiology of personality, genetics of personality</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>June 13</td>
<td>Evolution of personality, psychoanalytic approaches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>Maslow, motivation, and humanistic approaches</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>June 20</td>
<td>Trait-based approaches &amp; the “big five”</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June 22</td>
<td>Trait-based approaches &amp; the “big five”</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MIDTERM DUE 6/22 10:30am <em>(before class)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>June 27</td>
<td>Trait-based approaches &amp; the “big five”</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June 29</td>
<td>Interpersonal approaches, sex &amp; gender</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>July 4</td>
<td>Cultural considerations and personality disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July 6</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM JULY 6th 11AM</td>
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