San José State University
Psychology
Psyc 190, Critical Thinking—Don’t Believe Everything You Think

Section 3, Fall 2017

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Gregory Feist
Office Location: DMH 313
Telephone: (408) 924-5617
Email: greg.feist@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: Tue & Thurs noon to 1pm
Class Days/Time: T TH 3 – 4:15pm
Classroom: DMH 356

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Logging Into Canvas
Canvas Login URL: https://sjsu.instructure.com/. All students and faculty must first set up their SJSUOne account before accessing Canvas. To do so, go to http://its.sjsu.edu/services/sjsuone/. 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/).

Course Description
Integrative survey of current viewpoints and issues in psychology, how they developed and likely future directions of psychology.
Prerequisite: Psyc 001, Psyc 100W, and Senior Standing
Pre/Corequisite: Psyc 120

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO) (Required)
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. understand how critical thinking is conceptualized and defined
2. identify basic logical fallacies
3. understand the core tenets of science and compare and contrast science and pseudoscience
4. identify and apply criteria of a fake photo on the internet
5. critically evaluate sound and valid psychological research methods and statistical analysis
6. identify and lay out reasoning for what makes a fake news article fake
7. identify faulty cognitive processes involved in memory, perception, and attitude formation
8. apply their understanding of critical thinking to real world contexts of photos, stock market trends, news, and
politics
8. create and present a professional oral presentation
9. identify, describe, and communicate in professional level writing an example of a fake news article

This course meets the following Program Learning Outcomes (PLO) of the Psychology Department:

1. Knowledge Base of Psychology
Students will be able to demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.

3. Critical Thinking Skills
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.

5. 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

Textbooks
Buy BOTH of the following:
   ($23-$61 on Amazon $13-$30 on SJSU Textbook site)
   ISBN-10: 1591022408-0 ($6.27+shipping on Amazon; $9 to $19 on SJSU Textbook site)

Other technology requirements / equipment / material
- 50-question Scantron forms (#882)
- Regular access to a computer (with Internet connection), and possession of a word processor program (MS Word, Pages, or Googledocs)
- There will also be a few readings (PDFs) posted online Canvas site.

Course Requirements and Assignments

1. Classes: This class covers a large amount of material, therefore, attending lectures is crucial for your success in this class. There is too much information discussed in class that cannot be found in text and in the slides for you to do well in this course, without you attending regularly. If you want to do well, you will have to attend most every class. If you miss a class, you are responsible for getting the information from that class.

2. Exams: There will 2 exams--. You will have 1 1/4 hrs to complete each unit exam. You have 2 1/4 hrs to complete the final exam. No other make-up exams will be given. No bathroom breaks will be allowed, except under dire situations and even then it may not exceed 3 minutes. In most cases, the exams will require no more than 45 minutes to one hour, so please take care of business before the exam.
No Make-up Exams Allowed: Only with valid written medical excuse will any exam be allowed at a time other than those scheduled for your class.

3. Oral Presentation:
You will give a 10-15 minute oral (PowerPoint) presentation to class on any topic covered during the semester.

4. Paper:
Fake News paper. Due November 30 on Canvas.
The paper is worth 100 points. You will receive a more detailed handout on what is expected with this paper.

Late Papers: I do accept late papers. For every day, however, after Dec 1 paper will be automatically docked 5 points/day. That is ½ a letter grade. So it is in your own best interest to make sure the paper is turned in on time. Papers will be turned in on Canvas (more details later).

5. Weekly discussion questions
• Two weekly typed written questions from the reading turned in each Tuesday class. They can be factual questions about the reading or conceptual questions. You must turn them in in person (no email) to class Tuesday. If you can’t make Tuesday’s class you can turn them in Thursday but with a 2 point deduction. Questions won’t be accepted after Thursday for the week they are due. You do get one “gimme” (i.e., only have to turn in 11 of the 12 weeks). If you turn in all 11 weeks, you get 55 points. Each week missing is minus 5 points. Extra credit: if you turn in all 12 weeks, the last one will be extra credit.

Final Examination or Evaluation
The final exam will be held on Monday Dec 18 from 9:45am to noon in DMH 356.

If you have more than 2 finals in the 24-hour period around our final, you must request from me in writing on or before Dec 1, 2017 a request to move the time up to an earlier time. You must also show me the other two syllabi that lists the final exams and their times.

Grading Information (Required)

Determination of Grades
Your grade will be determined by the total number of points you earn throughout the semester. Points will be assigned as follows: 2 exams, (60, 80 points each); 1 paper worth 100 points; 1 oral presentation worth 80 points; plus 11 weeks of discussion questions worth 5 points each (55 points) \( \Rightarrow 375 \) points for the semester. Calculate your exam grades and final course grades using the following percentages (points):

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
\text{A+} & \text{A} & \text{A-} & \text{A} \\
95\% & 92-94\% & 90-91\% & 90-91\% \\
& 87-89\% & 85-86\% & 83-84\% \\
& (326-336) & (307-325) & (299-300) \\
\text{B+} & \text{B} & \text{B-} & \text{B} \\
77-79\% & 72-76\% & 70-71\% & 70-71\% \\
& (288-299) & (270-287) & (262-269) \\
\text{C+} & \text{C} & \text{C-} & \text{C} \\
67-69\% & 62-66\% & 60-61\% & 60-61\% \\
& (251-261) & (232-250) & (< 232) \\
\end{array}
\]

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Grade</th>
<th>Points of 375</th>
<th>% of Course Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams:</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Discussion Questions</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>21%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper:</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>27%</td>
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</table>

Late papers are accepted at 5 points/day penalty (including weekends)
Classroom Protocol

Attendance is strongly recommended, with careful note taking (no slides are posted on Canvas). Be considerate of others and the instructor if you must show up late or leave early.

Laptops are allowed for note taking only. If I sense you surfing the web or doing something other than taking notes (and I can often tell by how long you look at your screen and facial expressions) I will ask you to stop. However, you should know that lots of research shows that because of the distracting nature of laptops, that students who use them do WORSE in the course than those who take notes by hand [http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2014/09/25/why-a-leading-professor-of-new-media-just-banned-technology-use-in-class/](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2014/09/25/why-a-leading-professor-of-new-media-just-banned-technology-use-in-class/).

Cellphones are NOT allowed at any time.

As a University student, you are encouraged to engage in professional communication with faculty, staff, and your fellow students. This is especially important in electronic mail notes that you might send. When sending email, I would encourage you to create an email account that includes your name (e.g., greg.feist@sjsu.edu). If you do not create such an email, be certain to include your name in the correspondence. Please be sure to follow the following basic guidelines when communicating in a professional capacity:

- Do not leave the “Subject” empty:
- Be sure to identify yourself clearly by stating your full name and the specific course in which you are enrolled. I have other classes with many students.
- If needed, clearly request a reply.
- Do not expect an immediate reply. Electronic communication is available 24/7. This is not true of your instructor or your classmates.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo) at [http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo).

### Psy190 /Critical Thinking Seminar

#### Fall 2017, Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Pages</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aug 24</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Kida: Six Pack of Problems Forshaw: Ch 1</td>
<td>pp. 11-24 pp. 1-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Aug 31</td>
<td>Logic</td>
<td>Kida: Ch 4</td>
<td>pp. 85-100</td>
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<td>3*</td>
<td>Sept 5</td>
<td>Logic Fallacies</td>
<td>Kida: Ch 4 Forshaw: Ch 2</td>
<td>pp. 85-100 pp. 5-18</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Sept 7</td>
<td>Skepticism, Belief &amp; Gremlins</td>
<td>Kida: Ch 2</td>
<td>pp. 45-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>4*</td>
<td>Sept 12</td>
<td>Nature of Science &amp; Rationality</td>
<td>Kida: Ch 3</td>
<td>pp. 67-84</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sept 14</td>
<td>Science v Pseudoscience</td>
<td>Forshaw: Ch 4 Forry (1999)</td>
<td>pp. 54-65 Canvas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topics</td>
<td>Readings</td>
<td>Pages</td>
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<tr>
<td>5*</td>
<td>Sept 19</td>
<td>Science, Pseudoscience, &amp; Antiscience</td>
<td>Feist (2006): Ch 10</td>
<td>Canvas</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sept 21</td>
<td>Sokal Affair: Scholarly BS</td>
<td>Sokal: Revealed Weinberg: Hoax</td>
<td>Canvas</td>
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<tr>
<td>6*</td>
<td>Sept 26</td>
<td>Critical Thinking in Psychology</td>
<td>Forshaw: Ch 4</td>
<td>pp 45-54;</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sept 28</td>
<td>Critical Thinking in Psychology</td>
<td>Forshaw: Ch 4</td>
<td>pp 65-85</td>
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<tr>
<td>7*</td>
<td>Oct 3</td>
<td>Seeing Things that aren’t There</td>
<td>Kida: Ch 5</td>
<td>pp. 101-118</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Oct 5</td>
<td>Believing Things that aren’t There</td>
<td>Kida: Ch 6</td>
<td>pp. 119-132</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Oct 10</td>
<td>EXAM 1</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Oct 12</td>
<td>Predicting the Unpredictable</td>
<td>Kida: Ch 7</td>
<td>pp. 133-154</td>
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<tr>
<td>9*</td>
<td>Oct 17</td>
<td>StockMarkets &amp; Social Trends</td>
<td>Kida: Ch 7</td>
<td>pp. 133-154</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Oct 19</td>
<td>Confirmation Bias</td>
<td>Kida: Ch 8</td>
<td>pp. 155-166</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Oct 26</td>
<td>Faulty Memory &amp; Eyewitness Testimony</td>
<td>Kida: Ch 10</td>
<td>pp. 183-200</td>
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<tr>
<td>11*</td>
<td>Oct 31</td>
<td>Critical thinking in advertising, the law and online reviews</td>
<td>Forshaw: Ch 3</td>
<td>pp. 28-35</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Nov 2</td>
<td>Motivated Reasoning</td>
<td>Klacyinski et al. Kunda</td>
<td>Canvas</td>
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<tr>
<td>12*</td>
<td>Nov 7</td>
<td>Fake Internet Photos</td>
<td>Wan</td>
<td>Canvas</td>
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<td>Oral Presentation Outlines Due</td>
<td>Wen</td>
<td>Canvas</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Nov 9</td>
<td>Fake News</td>
<td>LaCapria Kiely &amp; Robertson</td>
<td>Canvas</td>
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<tr>
<td>13*</td>
<td>Nov 14</td>
<td>Fake News</td>
<td>Donath Higgins et al. Chen</td>
<td>Canvas</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Nov 16</td>
<td>Putting Critical Thinking to Use</td>
<td>Forshaw: Ch 5</td>
<td>pp. 87-108</td>
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<td>Fake News Writing Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Nov 21</td>
<td>Oral Presentations</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Nov 23</td>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Nov 28</td>
<td>Oral Presentations</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Nov 30</td>
<td>Oral Presentations</td>
<td>Fake News Paper is Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Dec 5</td>
<td>Oral Presentations</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Dec 7</td>
<td>Oral Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Mon Dec 18 9:45am-noon</td>
<td>DMH 356</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Discussion questions due

**Internet Readings**


Higgins, A., McIntire, M., & Dance, G.J.X. (2016, November 25). *Inside a fake news sausage factory: ‘This is all about income.’*


Wen, T. (2017, June 30). *The hidden signs that can reveal a fake photo*.