Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Patrick F. Cravalho, PhD
Office Location: Dudley Moorehead Hall, Room 319
Email: patrick.cravalho@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 11:15am-12:30pm, or by appointment.
Class Days/Time: Monday, Lecture from 12:00-1:00pm, Lab from 1:15-4:15pm
Classroom: Washington Square Hall, Room 208
Prerequisites: PSYC 100W, PSYC 120, plus one of: PSYC 135, PSYC 155, PSYC 158

Course Description

Advanced treatment of research approaches used in Cognition and/or Perception. The primary focus of the course is on traditional laboratory experimental designs and methods. Laboratory-based data collection and analysis facilitate experiential learning.

Course Goal

The goal of this course is to provide you with the practical experiences needed to develop and complete a meaningful cognition and/or perception research project and then disseminate the findings.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

CLO1 – Participate in cognition & perception experiments.
CLO2 – Analyze data from cognition & perception experiments.
CLO3 – Display knowledge of the concepts and theories relevant to research in cognition & perception.
CLO4 – Devise & use a research question as a guide to completing the components of a research project.
CLO5 – Effectively and efficiently search and review a selected research literature.
CLO6 – Develop testable hypotheses.
CLO7 – Design experimental methods for testing one’s hypotheses.
CLO8 – Complete ethics training and an SJSU IRB application.
CLO9 – Disseminate one’s cognitive research review and design via oral presentations.
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.  
   **Psyc 121B meets this PLO**

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.  
   **Psyc 121B meets this PLO**

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.  
   **Psyc 121B meets this PLO**

4. **PLO4 – Application of Psychology** – Students will be able to apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues.  
   **Psyc 121B meets this PLO**

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.  
   **Psyc 121B meets this PLO**

Materials

1. Computer, Internet, and SJSU library access.
2. Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint software. SJSU students can utilize Microsoft Office (which includes Word, Excel, and PowerPoint) for free (see [http://itsdev2.sjsu.edu/services/software/microsoft-students/index.html#instructions](http://itsdev2.sjsu.edu/services/software/microsoft-students/index.html#instructions)).

Library Liaison

Christa Bailey (christa.bailey@sjsu.edu). Libguide: [http://libguides.sjsu.edu/psychology](http://libguides.sjsu.edu/psychology).

Office Hours

Please do your best to contact me before you come to see me during office hours. This will require you to generate a specific agenda and/or questions to guide your office hours visit. Unless I have been contacted by a student letting me know that they plan to visit during my office hours, I may leave my office during office hours.

Email Communication

All email communications need to be addressed to my sjsu.edu address (listed above) and include “Psyc 121B” in the subject line. **DO NOT email me through Canvas as I will not reply.** As a rule of thumb, write separate emails for communicating separate topics, rather than writing about multiple topics under one email subject line, to avoid me missing any important information that you wish to convey.

Checking Canvas regularly

I regularly post announcements and materials via our course Canvas page, so you need to regularly check our Psyc 121B course Canvas page.
Checking your SJSU email regularly

If I need to contact you or send you feedback on an assignment, but I have not received any prior email communication from another one of your email accounts, I will contact you via your SJSU email account. Therefore, you need to regularly check your SJSU email.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S16-9.

Research Proposal Assignments

Initial Proposal

You will submit a brief document that will help guide all of the following research proposal assignments. This document will include a topic in cognition/perception that interests you, a research problem and a research question that are related to each other (and both of which are related to your topic), and keywords to aid your initial literature search. This assignment is worth five points. You will receive feedback from the instructor on your initial proposal.

Literature Review Matrix

You will complete a literature review of 20 articles. We will discuss research problems, “holes” in research literatures, research questions, and testable hypotheses in class as you work on your literature review, as these concepts will shape your literature review and the following research proposal assignments. You will search the prior research literature related to your problem, question, and hypothesis. You will then read and summarize the relevant articles via an Excel matrix. An example matrix will be shared and discussed in class. This assignment is worth 60 points. You will receive feedback from the instructor on your literature review matrix.

Literature Review Poster

You will create a conference style poster to disseminate the results of your literature review. An example poster will be shared in class. This assignment is worth ten points. You will receive feedback from the instructor on your literature review poster.

CITI Ethics Training

You will complete the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) online research ethics training course for social & behavioral science researchers: http://www.sjsu.edu/research/irb/irb-researcher-training/index.html. This is the same training course required to be completed by all faculty researchers at San José State University and most other research institutions. Completing the training is worth five points.

IRB Application

You will complete the San José State University Institutional Review Board (IRB) application and protocol narrative: http://www.sjsu.edu/research/irb/irb-forms/index.html. Completing the application and narrative is worth ten points. You will receive feedback from the instructor on your IRB application.
Research Proposal Presentation

You will give an in-class presentation of the experimental cognition/perception research study you will be designing over the span of this course. You will receive a separate set of instructions for this presentation and we will discuss those assignment parameters in class via an example research project presentation. You will first turn in a draft of your presentation, then you will receive feedback on that draft and will be expected to incorporate edits based on that feedback into your final presentation. The presentation draft will be worth five points and the final presentation will be worth 30 points.

Late Research Proposal Assignment Submission Policy

For each 24-hour period that you submit an assignment after the due date/time, I will automatically subtract 50% off of your grade. No assignment will be accepted 48 hours after the due date/time. If you fail to turn in your presentation draft within the parameters outlined in the “Research Proposal Assignments” and the “Late Research Proposal Assignment Submission Policy” sections of this syllabus, you will not be allowed to give a final presentation and will receive a 0 on your final presentation.

In-class Assignments

You will complete fifteen in-class assignments, worth a total of 75 points (five points each). You will only receive credit for an in-class assignment if you attend the class when we complete that assignment and submit your work on the assignment before the end of the class.

In-class Assignment Make-up Policy

If you have a legitimate reason for missing an in-class assignment, you may be permitted to make up the in-class assignment. However, you will need to contact me before you will miss the class, let me know your legitimate reason for missing the class, and provide documentation verifying the legitimate reason you missed class. If you miss a class due to an unanticipated reason, contact me as soon as you can to explain your reason for missing and to provide documentation of why. If you don’t contact me at least 24 hours after the assignment took place, you will not be allowed a make-up, regardless of whether you have a legitimate excuse for missing the class.

Extra Credit Opportunity

A total of seven extra credit points may be added to your final point total if you turn in ALL the research proposal assignments early. Specifically, you must submit each assignment two days before it is due. For example, if the IRB application is due on 11/21 by 11:59pm, then turning it in any time before 11:59pm on 11/19 would count as submitting the IRB application two days early. This opportunity is meant to encourage you to complete assignments early rather than procrastinate.

Grading Policy

Your grade will be based on the total amount of points (200 possible points) you receive from research proposal assignments (125 possible points) and in-class assignments (75 possible points). Below is a breakdown of the amount of points needed to earn the specified letter grades. (NOTE: Individual assignment totals may change over the course of the semester causing a change in the available total point total.) 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 (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) for more details.

200+ = A+ (100%)  
185-199 = A  (~93-99%)  
179-184 = A-  (~90-92%)  
175-178 = B+  (~88-89%)  
165-174 = B  (~83-87%)  
159-164 = B-  (~80-82%)  
155-158 = C+  (~88-79%)  
145-154 = C  (~73-77%)  
139-144 = C-  (~70-72%)  
135-138 = D+  (~68-69%)  
125-134 = D  (~63-67%)  
120-124 = D-  (~60-62%)  
Less than 117 = F  
135-138 = D+  (~68–69%)  
125-134 = D  (~63–67%)  
120-124 = D-  (~60–62%)  
(59% or less)

NOTE: I will NOT provide any student with an informal grade check at any point of the semester. The only grade checks to be provided are those accompanying official SJSU forms (e.g., athletics, Greek life, probation).

Diversity Statement

As the instructor of this course, it is my goal to create a safe and diversity-sensitive learning environment that respects the rights, dignity, and welfare of all students, faculty, and staff. Diversity means the fair representation of all groups of individuals, the inclusion of minority perspectives and voices, and appreciation of different cultural and socioeconomic group practices. I aspire to foster and maintain an atmosphere that is free from discrimination, harassment, exploitation, or intimidation.

Student Athletes

If you are a student athlete, please inform me at the beginning of the semester of any team obligations. If there are any conflicts between your obligations and class participation/assignment, we may need to figure out alternative arrangements for you to participate or complete an assignment.

Classroom Protocol

It is vital that you complete all scheduled readings and assignments before each class and university policy F69-24 (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) states that students should attend all meetings of their classes. Arrive to class on time. Arriving late disrupts other students and interferes with continuity of the lectures and class activities. If for any reason you cannot avoid being late, please enter the class through the least noticeable door and take a seat quietly. Do not come in late and start a conversation to catch up on information you missed or expect information you missed to be repeated. Leaving early is equally disruptive; please be considerate. Do not carry on conversations during class. Do not sleep during class. Do not work on any other course material during class, including studying or reading for other classes. Be polite and respectful to your classmates.

Classroom participation is expected. Therefore, phones, laptops, tablets, music players, etc. are not allowed to be used during class (i.e., all devices should be put away and set to not make any noise) so that one stays focused on class discussion. DO NOT TEXT DURING LECTURE; you may be asked to leave for the remainder of the lecture. This rule is not only so you will not distract yourself, but also so you will not distract anyone else. Food and drinks are permitted during class, but you must be sure that your space is clean when you leave the classroom. If you miss a class, you are responsible for contacting me or another student to inquire about the information you missed from that class.

Laptops

In-class laptop use is allowed ONLY by permission of the instructor. If you have a legitimate reason (i.e., Accessible Education Center accommodations) to use a laptop for note-taking you must talk to the professor first to get permission to use your laptop. Students allowed to use laptops will be asked to sit in the back or the side of the classroom. Allowed laptop use will be restricted to note-taking. One shall never connect to the internet and use class time to check email, visit social networking sites, surf the web, work on other coursework,
and so forth. If you are given permission to use your laptop and seen engaging in any other activity other than note-taking, your laptop privileges will be revoked for the remainder of the semester.

Links to University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU’s policies and practices via University Policy S90–5 (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf). More detailed information on a variety of related topics is also available in the SJSU catalog (http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html).

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness (http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html). Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document (http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/). The Late Drop Policy is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/. 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. Therefore, neither recording of class lectures or discussions nor distribution of course materials are allowed. Failure to follow this policy will be considered a violation of course academic integrity policy and will result in immediate expulsion from the class, a grade of F in the course, and reporting the student to the University and proper authorities for further sanctions.

Academic integrity

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 (http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/).

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

Presidential Directive 97-03 (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

According to University Policy S14-7 (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf), SJSU 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.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center (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.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, 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 & Counseling Services**

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. To make an appointment or to refer to the online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit their website at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter.

SJSU Counseling Services is located in the Administration Building, Room 201. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit the Counseling Services website at http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling.

**Course Schedule**

We will follow the schedule presented below to the greatest extent possible. However, the schedule is subject to change. You will be given fair notice of any schedule changes via in class announcements, Canvas postings, & MySJSU emails.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assignments &amp; Due Dates</th>
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| M 8-26 | **Lecture**: Course Introduction & Intros  
**Lab**: Identifying Research Problems & work on Initial Proposal | Have read syllabus BEFORE first class!  
**Initial Proposal due by 11:59pm on Thursday (8/29; due by 11:59pm on 8/27 for extra credit)** |
| M 9-2  | LABOR DAY – NO CLASS                                                   |                                                                                         |
| M 9-9  | **Lecture**: *Visit from Psychology Librarian Christa Bailey to help guide our literature searches*  
**Lab**: Work on Literature Review Matrix (LRM) |                                                                                         |
| M 9-16 | **Lecture**: Identifying “Holes” in the Literature  
**Lab**: Experiment Participation, Work on LRM |                                                                                         |
| M 9-23 | **Lecture**: Generating Research Questions  
**Lab**: Experiment Participation, Work on LRM |                                                                                         |
| M 9-30 | **Lecture**: Generating Testable Hypotheses  
**Lab**: Experiment Participation, Work on LRM | **Literature Review Matrix due by 11:59pm on Wednesday (10/2; due by 11:59pm on 9/30 for extra credit)** |
| M 10-7 | **Lecture**: Article Writing  
**Lab**: Work on LRM Article Writing Analysis |                                                                                         |
| M 10-14| **Lecture**: Experimental Research Designs plus Settings, Tasks, Materials, & Procedures  
**Lab**: Work on Experiment Design |                                                                                         |
| M 10-21| **Lecture**: Research Conferences plus Mentors & Peer Collaborators  
**Lab**: Work on Lit Review Poster | **Lit Review Poster due by 11:59pm on Thursday (10/24; due by 11:59pm on 10/22 for extra credit)** |
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assignments &amp; Due Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M 10-28</td>
<td><strong>Lecture</strong>: Research Participants</td>
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<td><strong>Lab</strong>: Work on Participant Recruitment Plan, Course Evaluation</td>
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<td>M 11-4</td>
<td><strong>Lecture</strong>: Research Ethics</td>
<td><strong>CITI Certificate due by 11:59pm on Thursday (11/7; due by 11:59pm on 11/5 for extra credit)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Lab</strong>: Work on CITI Ethics Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>M 11-11</td>
<td><strong>VETERAN’S DAY (OBSERVED) – NO CLASS</strong></td>
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<td>M 11-18</td>
<td><strong>Lecture</strong>: SJSU IRB &amp; NASA HORB</td>
<td><strong>IRB Application due by 11:59pm on Thursday (11/21; due by 11:59pm on 11/19 for extra credit)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Lab</strong>: Work on IRB application</td>
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<tr>
<td>M 11-25</td>
<td><strong>Lecture</strong>: Research Proposal Presentation (RPP) Overview</td>
<td><strong>RPP draft due by 11:59pm on Wednesday (11/27; due by 11:59pm on 11/26 for extra credit)</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Lab</strong>: Work on RPP draft</td>
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<tr>
<td>M 12-2</td>
<td><strong>Lecture</strong>: Research Data Organization &amp; Analysis</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Lab</strong>: Organize &amp; Analyze Exp. Part. Data</td>
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<tr>
<td>M 12-9</td>
<td><strong>Research Proposal Presentations (Round 1)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Final Presentation (R1) due by 11:59pm on Sunday (12/8; due by 11:59pm on 12/6 for extra credit)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Peer Evaluations for Presentations</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>M 12-16</td>
<td><strong>Research Proposal Presentations (Round 2)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Final Presentation (R2) due by 11:59pm on Sunday (12/15; due by 11:59pm on 12/13 for extra credit)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45am-12pm</td>
<td><strong>Peer Evaluations for Presentations</strong></td>
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