San José State University
Department of Psychology
PSYC 018: Introduction to Research Methods
Section 03, 48383
FALL, 2020
Online, Asynchronous

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Sandra Trafalis, Ph.D.
Office Location: Online, Asynchronous
Telephone: 408-924-5614
E-mail: Sandra.trafalis@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: Online, Fridays at 4:00pm or by appointment.

Course Information

Classroom: Online
Class Days/Time: Asynchronous
Prerequisites: PSYC 001 or equivalent and STAT 095 or equivalent

Course Description

The major goal of this course is for you to understand and evaluate claims from the perspective of the social scientist. This course will introduce you to research in psychology and prepare you to design your own research. Skills developed in this course will be useful to critical thinkers in a data-driven society.

From the catalog: Psychological research methods and design (experimental, quasi-experimental [correlational], and descriptive investigations) covering observation, instrumentation, and the collection, analysis, interpretation, and reporting of research data as illustrated through a review of original research in a variety of the subdisciplines of psychology.
Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of the requirements for a major in psychology, students will be able to:

- PLO1 – Knowledge Base of Psychology – identify, describe, and communicate the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology
- PLO2 – Research Methods in Psychology – design, implement, and communicate basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretations
- PLO3 – Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology – use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to behavior and mental processes
- PLO4 – Application of Psychology – apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues
- PLO5 – Values in Psychology – value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society

Course Learning Outcomes
The objective of this course is to provide you with a solid introduction to psychological research. We will examine the logic and strategies of scientific research and learn how to use statistics to draw conclusions from data. You will learn what research methods are available, when to use specific research methods, and how to interpret research results.

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

- CLO1 – Explain the basic principles of the scientific method
- CLO2 – Distinguish between experimental, quasi-experimental, and non-experimental methods
- CLO3 – Strategically select appropriate research designs
- CLO4 – Make inferences from research
- CLO5 – Critique the validity of inferences from research
- CLO6 – Explain the ethical treatment of human and animal participants in research and the institutional requirements for conducting research
- CLO7 – Apply statistical analysis and the logic of hypothesis testing to address research questions
- CLO8 – Demonstrate familiarity with APA style

The learning objectives will be assessed via written assignments and exam questions. The learning objectives will be assessed via written assignments, presentations, discussion posts, and exam questions.
Required Materials

Canvas and E-Mail
Unless otherwise announced in class, all graded assignments will be accepted only in electronic form using the Canvas learning management system assignments page (Canvas is available at https://sjsu.instructure.com/). Having access to the Internet is your responsibility, so have backup plans in case you have problems with your primary computer. I cannot accept excuses about technology problems as valid, unless the entire University network or all of Canvas is offline.

Supplementary course material will be made available on Canvas regularly. Communication regarding the course will be sent via the e-mail address linked to your MySJSU account or posted to Canvas. It is your responsibility to make sure you are enrolled in Canvas and receiving my e-mails.

Occasional class meetings may be held in Zoom, and these are optional for synchronous attendance. All relevant information will be posted from these check-in meetings. The link for attendance is found in CANVAS along with the dates which are also found in the calendar. Here is the link for Zoom Help: https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/zoom/ You do not need a zoom account to participate in any online sessions, only a link from me. If we meet via zoom, you can access the meeting through zoom here: https://sjsu.zoom.us/my/zoomlinksjsu

Required Textbook

Grading Policy

How to be Successful in this Course
§ Review the current week’s module (Click “Modules” on Canvas)
§ Read all material assigned in the module
§ Complete all activities and assignments assigned in the module
§ Complete quizzes and exams as assigned on Canvas;
§ Check Canvas and your e-mail for course announcements and changes
§ Check this syllabus/CANVAS for due dates and upcoming assignments
§ Ask questions when you get stuck, I will do my best to answer them or refer you to university resource, as needed. Email me through CANVAS or at the Email on the syllabus above

Determination of Grades
Grades will be available to you on Canvas throughout the course.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>916 to 1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>896 to 915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>866 to 895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>816 to 865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>796 to 815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>766 to 795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>716 to 765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>696 to 715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>666 to 695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>616 to 665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>595 to 615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 595</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Rounding is Included in the Grading Scale**

The point totals reflect rounding up to the nearest percentage. For example, an A- would normally require 900 points (or 90% of 1000 points). With rounding, it only requires 896 points (or 89.6% of 1000 points). Because rounding is built in to the grading scale, your grade will be based on your final point total, rounded to the nearest whole point (so, 895.6 points is an A-, but 895.4 points is a B+).

To be fair to everyone in the class, these are firm cutoffs.

**Make-Up and Extension Policy**

Make-ups or extensions for any graded assignment will only be given when:

- You notify me immediately after you become aware of the circumstances requiring a make-up
- The reason is exceptional, unforeseen, and unavoidable. Examples of exceptional circumstances are getting sick, health emergencies, religious obligations, and military service.
Course Requirements and Assignments

Activities
Activities are 20% of your final grade.
Activities are worth 30% of your grade. Some of the modules contain activities that require you to do an assigned reading and then complete a response prompt, others might require you to collect some data by running your own study, using yourself as the participant and then looking for trends in the findings, or it might require you to create a video and post to the discussion board.

Project
The Project is worth 10%
For this class, your project will consist of a presentation based on the Stanovich critical thinking concepts in the textbook. You will upload your presentation with detailed speaker notes to the assignment link by the date posted on the CANVAS. You will do a video recording that can be powerpoint with voice over recording.

Quizzes, Exams, and Final Exam
Exams, Quizzes and Final Exam are 70% of your final grade.
Each module will contain a quiz or an exam, depending on the week. There will also be a final exam and this will be considered an exam and counted in the 70% point value of your grade. These assignments will be worth 70% total of your grade. Directions for the exams and quizzes are found in CANVAS. You will not need to use proctoring services, however, you cannot use any live help with the exams. You may utilize a study guide that you create with the resources provided. During any assessment, if you encounter trouble because of online access, please reach out to me via email to make me aware of the issue once you have services restored. We will work together to resolve the issue so that you regain access to the online assessment.

Final Examination
There will be a final exam that will become available during final exam week, and you will complete the exam on CANVAS (See above for grade information).

Zoom Meetings
Because this class is asynchronous, the lectures will be recorded and posted. However, I will hold weekly check in meetings with dates found on the course calendar. These are optional and will be made available online when content is relevant to the entire class. I will mostly answer questions from students. I will also hold office hours on Fridays at 4:00 so you can also attend office hours if you have questions. Zoom link for attending meetings and office hours is found in CANVAS. I do not require the use of cameras, and when sessions are recorded, I do announce this to students and students can anonymize their names on zoom profiles. You may use the chat function to ask questions and/or the raise hand function, either ways is fine!
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 at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/

You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make any audio or video recordings in this class.

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 practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Academic Integrity
Please don’t cheat. I will not tolerate academic dishonesty in my courses. You can expect me to follow all University policies and protocols regarding the handling of suspected academic dishonesty. Penalties may include expulsion from SJSU. Software and statistical analysis may be used to detect academic dishonesty.

About Diversity
Consistent with the mission of San José State University, I welcome persons of differing backgrounds and experiences including but not limited to age, disability and health status, ethnicity and race, family structure, geographic region, language, religious/spiritual and secular beliefs, resident status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, and socioeconomic status.

It is my goal to foster an environment in which diversity is recognized and embraced, and every person is treated with dignity, respect, and justice. I hope that your academic experience in this course and at San José State University will provide the opportunity to gain knowledge and experiences necessary to thrive in a diverse, global environment.
# Course Schedule

The course schedule is tentative and likely to change; modifications will be posted to Canvas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Module Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8/19 – 8/26</td>
<td>What is the Scientific Method?</td>
<td>Chapter 1 Plus assigned readings in CANVAS.</td>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8/27 – 9/2</td>
<td>Understanding the Scientific Method &amp; Ways of Knowing the World</td>
<td>Chapter 2 Plus assigned readings in CANVAS.</td>
<td>Assignment 2 Zoom Check in 8/27 3:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9/3 – 9/9</td>
<td>Operational Definitions</td>
<td>Chapter 3 Plus assigned readings in CANVAS.</td>
<td>Assignment 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9/10 – 9/16</td>
<td>Causality</td>
<td>Chapter 5 Plus assigned readings in CANVAS.</td>
<td>Assignment 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>9/17 – 9/23</td>
<td>Validity &amp; Reliability</td>
<td>Chapter 4 Plus assigned readings in CANVAS.</td>
<td>Assignment 5 Zoom Check in 9/17 3:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>9/24 – 9/30</td>
<td>Hypotheses Testing</td>
<td>Chapter 11 Plus assigned readings in CANVAS.</td>
<td>Assignment 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>10/1 – 10/7</td>
<td>Descriptive Designs: What are they and why do we use them</td>
<td>Handout Descriptive Methods No Stanovich Reading this week.</td>
<td>Assignment 7 Zoom Check in 10/1 3:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10/15 – 10/21</td>
<td>Experiments and Quasi Experimental Designs: What are they and why do we use them</td>
<td>Chapter 6,7 No Stanovich Reading this week.</td>
<td>Assignment 8 Zoom Check in 10/15 3:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Chapter</td>
<td>Assignments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10/22 – 10/28</td>
<td>Evaluating Research</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td>Assignment 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Plus assigned readings in CANVAS.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10/29 – 11/4</td>
<td>Moderators, Mediators, &amp; Confounds</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
<td>Assignment 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Plus assigned readings in CANVAS.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>11/5 – 11/11</td>
<td>Statistics and Effect Size</td>
<td>Chapter 10, 12</td>
<td>Assignment 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Plus assigned readings in CANVAS.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11/12 – 11/18</td>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>11/19 – 12/7</td>
<td>Completing your Conceptual Presentation</td>
<td>Plus assigned readings in CANVAS.</td>
<td>Update your presentations to Assignment link.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>11/30 – 12/7</td>
<td>Evaluating Presentations &amp; Discussion Board Activity</td>
<td>Plus assigned readings in CANVAS.</td>
<td>Submit your discussion board posts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>12/11</td>
<td>2:45 – 5:00; Online Final Exam will be administered in CANVAS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>