San José State University  
Department of Psychology  
PSYC 118: Research Methods  
Section 20 (Lecture), Sections 21 &22 (Lab), 28197  
Spring, 2021

Instructor Contact Information

**Instructor:** Sandra Trafalis, Ph.D.

**Office Location:** Online via Zoom

**Telephone:** 408-924-5614

**E-mail:** Sandra.trafalis@sjsu.edu

**Office Hours:** Online, Fridays at 4:30pm or by appointment.

Course Information

**Classroom**  
Online

**Class Days/Time:**  
M/W 3:00 – 3:50;  
M/W Lab 4:15 to 6:15

**Prerequisites**  
PSYC 001 or equivalent and STAT 095 or equivalent, 100W

Course Description

Descriptive, correlational, quasi-experimental, and experimental approaches: design, methodology, and analysis. Experience designing, conducting, analyzing, and presenting (verbal and written) research findings. Topics include: hypothesis testing, validity, reliability, scales of measurement, questionnaire development, power, statistical significance, and effect size. Prerequisite: Lower division GE complete; STAT 95, PSYC 18, PSYC 100W with a "C" or better (or departmental approval), Upper division standing, Psychology or Behavioral Science majors only.

Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes

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

- CLO 1 Understand the differences and limitations of experimental and correlational research designs.
- CLO 2 Evaluate psychological research as to its reliability, validity, utility, and adherence to ethical guidelines.
- CLO 3 Identify threats to validity in research, including confounds and threats to generalizability.
- CLO 4: Execute a research project utilizing experimental design and interpret the results.
- CLO 5: Perform statistical analyses on data including descriptive statistics and inferential statistics.

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.

Zoom & Class Meetings

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 of class sessions. Weekly sessions will be recorded and there will also be weekly video links and assignments found in CANVAS.

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


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;
• Complete project related lab assignments and activities
• Complete the final research project
• § 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>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>916 to 1,000 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>896 to 915 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B+ 866 to 895 points
B  816 to 865 points
B- 796 to 815 points
C+ 766 to 795 points
C  716 to 765 points
C- 696 to 715 points
D+ 666 to 695 points
D  616 to 665 points
D- 595 to 615 points
F  < 595 points

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

Final Assessments
The final assessments for this class are the final research project which is an empirical, APA-style research paper on an approved topic area. There will also be a final examination assessing the content knowledge of research design and methods. These assessments will evaluate your ability to understand content knowledge in research and apply them to an original research project. The final assessments are 35% of the final grade.
Quizzes,
Each module will contain a quiz depending on the week. 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. Quizzes are 35% of the final Grade.

Project Assignments
Students will complete three assignments requiring them to survey the research, design a survey, construct and implement an ethical research project, and collect original data. These project assignments taken together will culminate in the final research project due at the end of the class. These project assignments allow students to thoughtfully execute each phase of the research project and to understand the steps that go into a final research project including: conducting a literature review, developing testable hypotheses, defining and measuring variables, analyzing data, drawing valid conclusions for the data, and identifying limitations. Project assignments are 30% of the final Grade.

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Module Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>What is the Scientific Method?</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td>Weekly Assessments including Quizzes, Discussion Posts, and Project Related Activities Zoom Meeting see CANVAS for Link</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ethics</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>Weekly Assessments including Quizzes, Discussion Posts, and Project Related Activities Zoom Meeting see CANVAS for Link</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sampling</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>Weekly Assessments including Quizzes, Discussion Posts, and Project Related Activities Zoom Meeting see CANVAS for Link</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Surveys</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td>Weekly Assessments including Quizzes, Discussion Posts, and Project Related Activities Zoom Meeting see CANVAS for Link</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Scales</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
<td>Weekly Assessments Project Activity #1 Research Question &amp; Background Literature Overview &amp; References DUE Zoom Meeting see CANVAS for Link</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Chapter/Assignments</td>
<td>Assessments</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Experimental Designs</td>
<td>Chapter 11&lt;br&gt;Plus assigned readings in CANVAS.</td>
<td>Weekly Assessments&lt;br&gt;Project Activity #2: Proposing Ethical Research, Informed Consent and Survey Questions DUE</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Data Collection</td>
<td>Handout Descriptive Methods</td>
<td>Weekly Assessments&lt;br&gt;Project Activity #3: Survey and Measurement Activity with Live Survey Link DUE</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Data Analysis</td>
<td>Chapter 11&lt;br&gt;Plus assigned readings in CANVAS.</td>
<td>Weekly Assessments&lt;br&gt;Students will complete each other’s surveys. Surveys remain open for data collection.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Communicating your Results</td>
<td>Chapter 8&lt;br&gt;Plus assigned readings in CANVAS.</td>
<td>Weekly Assessments&lt;br&gt;Final Office Hours meeting for the semester</td>
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<td>Final Exam &amp; Projects</td>
<td><strong>Online Final Exam</strong>&lt;br&gt;will be administered in CANVAS due on 5/24&lt;br&gt;Final Projects Due on 5/24</td>
<td><strong>No zoom meeting during final exam week</strong></td>
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