San José State University

College of Social Sciences
Department of Psychology

PSYC 139 (1) Psychology of the Person, Section 20255

Spring 2021

Instructor: Naomi Wagner, PhD

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On Line via ZOOM

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Office Hours: Upon request online via zoom

Class Days/Time: Wed 3:00 PM- 4:15 PM

Classroom: On Line

Prerequisites: PSYC 100

On Line Hybrid Mode: We are going to meet once a week on Wednesday at 3:00-4:15 PM

Course on Canvas
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Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, chapter lecture notes, major assignment or handouts and study guides are posted on the class webpage on Canvas, under Modules.

You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through the Canvas in box (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor).
Please send me mail via the Canvas mailbox rather than via the SJSU mail

Canvas:
The course Canvas site is an online resource supplement for this course. Use of this site and the information provided is not a substitute for attending lectures. The site will be updated regularly throughout the semester.

To access the Canvas site go to http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/
click on “Log in to Canvas”
Username = SJSU 9-digit ID
Password = your current SJSUOne password
For additional information or help with logging in:

Canvas Student Tutorial:
http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/

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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 review questions
• The exploration of yet unknown issues 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 theoretical approach
LO4: recognize the application of theoretical concepts into real life issues and in psychotherapy

Measurement of the course learning outcomes will be achieved via evaluation of the student’s performance on chapter review questions, the midterms online quizzes, and a final exam.

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:  (Previous edition OK)

Jerry Burger: Personality, 10th Edition
ISPN # 978-1337-55901-0
Cengage Publishers

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

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.

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_Calendar/ . 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/.

Chapter Review Questions:

- At the end of each chapter we will respond to review questions that are posted as power-points under Modules on Canvas. These questions are aimed at helping you process and retain the information. Part of the questions will be covered in class, as time permits, and the rest please do on your own. This activity is also very important as preparation for the tests.

On-Line Quizzes: 10% of your class grade

- Upon the completion of each chapter there will be an on-line quiz. We will cover 10 chapters and we will have 10 quizzes, one for each chapter. Each quiz has 10 questions and each question is worth 1 point, so each quiz can give you maximum 10 points, and the 10 quizzes maximum 100 points. You need to take the quiz on-line at the conclusion of each chapter. Dates and times are specified on Canvas. The questions on the quiz will be very similar to the questions on the test. You have 40 minutes to take a quiz, and you can take it only once. It is important you read before you respond. Please check for the quiz due dates because you won't be able to take it
after that date. You may take it BEFORE the due date. Please pay attention to the dates!!

• The purpose of this assignment is to help you master the information in a timely manner rather than cramming before a midterm.

Multiple-Choice Exams: 60% of your class grade.

• We will have 3 midterms and a final. Each midterm will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions and will cover 2-3 chapters. The questions are factual (specific information), conceptual (assigning a concept to a scenario), and applied (use the information to offer solution to a problem).

• The Final is selectively cumulative and is worth 25% of your grade

• You will receive study guide for each exam.

My personality in pictures: 5% of your class grade

• You have an opportunity to prepare a slide show describing yourself. Topics include what you perceive as your traits, strengths, challenges, events that might have shaped your behavior, and future plans. **At the end of the presentation you will discuss the extent to which your future plans are expressions of your personality, and to what extent there are realistic limitations for such expression** (that is, you may not be able to do what comes naturally for you).

• You will ask 5 people who know you to provide 5 traits that in their view describe you best, and provide a summary across the five people (see detailed instructions on Canvas.).

• See Instructions.

• The slide show needs to contain at least 15 slides- you may put photos, graphic displays, and of course written material.

• Just presenting photos is not enough. There needs to be narrative.