

San José State University
Department of Psychology
PSYC 100W, Writing Workshop, Sec 10
Spring, 2020

Instructor:	Dr. Sylvia Branca
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Office Hours:	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:00-1:00pm or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00-10:15am
Classroom:	Dudley Moorehead Hall (DMH) 356
Prerequisites:	ENGL 1B (with a grade of C or better) Completion of core GE Satisfaction of Writing Skills Test and upper division standing PSYC 1 STAT 95 or senior standing Psychology Majors/Minors and Behavioral Science Majors only
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Area Z

Course Description

In Psychology 100W students are given the opportunity to develop writing skills appropriate to the broad field of psychology, including essays, reports and scholarly communication.

The general goals of 100W are that students will develop advanced proficiency in college-level writing and appropriate contemporary research strategies and methodologies to communicate effectively to both specialized and general audiences. Written Communication II should reinforce and advance the abilities developed in Written Communication IA and IB and broaden and deepen these to include mastery of the discourse peculiar to the discipline in which the course is taught.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

Learning Outcomes (LOs) are specific, measurable goals and objectives that students have demonstrated upon successful completion of the course. 100W is designed to address 3 levels of Learning Outcomes:

GE/SJSU Learning Outcomes (LOs). These are outcomes mandated by General Education.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs). These are outcomes for this specific course. For Psychology 100W, Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) are the discipline-specific ways in which the general GE/SJSU learning outcomes (LOs) for 100W (Area Z) will be fulfilled. The specific CLOs for this course contribute to the overall experience, learning opportunities, and Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) students are exposed to when completing the SJSU Psychology Major.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs). These outcomes refer to the broad goals of the SJSU Psychology Major program. The SJSU Psychology Major is designed to address 5 broad PLOs. These PLOs are outcomes students should be able to demonstrate after having successfully completed the Psychology Major.

GE/SJSU Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

Students shall write complete essays that demonstrate college-level proficiency. Students shall be able to:

SLO 1. produce discipline-specific written work that demonstrates upper division proficiency in: a. language use b. grammar c. clarity of expression.

SLO 2. explain, analyze, develop, and criticize ideas effectively, including ideas encountered in multiple readings and expressed in different forms of discourse.

SLO 3. organize and develop essays and documents for both professional and general audiences.

SLO 4. organize and develop essays and documents according to appropriate editorial and citation standards.

SLO 5. locate, organize, and synthesize information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose, and to communicate that purpose in writing.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

For Psychology 100W, the general GE student learning outcomes (SLOs) for 100W (Area Z) will be fulfilled in the following discipline-specific Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) [matched GE SLOs indicated in brackets]. Upon successful completion of this course students will:

CLO 1. have developed proficiency at using databases (e.g., PsycINFO and MEDLINE) to locate empirical research and research review articles in an area of psychology [SLO 5]

CLO 2. have demonstrated competency in American Psychological Association (APA) writing style, including grammar, spelling, and syntax [SLO 1, 4]

CLO 3. have summarized and evaluated empirical research articles in an area of psychology [SLO 1, 2, 3, 4]

CLO 4. have written for a general audience [SLO 1, 2, 3]

CLO 5. have organized and developed a literature review, or other appropriate major paper (e.g., research report) in an area of psychology [SLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

CLO 6. have begun to develop critical thinking skills in psychology including the ability to [SLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5]: a. synthesize disparate research findings into a coherent framework which addresses a question or topic relevant to the discipline of psychology, and/or b. compare and contrast differing theories and research findings.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

Upon successful completion of the psychology major requirements...

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.

GE requirements for 100W stipulate that students shall write a minimum of 8000 words in the course of the semester, and that they shall be provided with frequent practice and feedback for improving their communication skills.

Required Texts/Readings

APA Manual

American Psychological Association. (2020) *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th Ed.)*

Equipment/Material Requirements

Regular access to a computer and internet connection.

Other Readings and Resources

APA style tutorial

OWL APA style resource

SJSU Library: Psychology-specific tutorials, resources

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. Check this site regularly for course announcements, articles, assignments, and other course materials.

To access the Canvas site: go to <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/> and 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/>

Course Requirements and Assignments

Details for each assignment are provided in lectures and assignment details (as well as other useful resources) can be found on the course Canvas site.

The written assignments in Psychology 100W are designed to **gradually build the writing and research skills necessary to write scholarly papers** appropriate for the discipline of psychology. The major skills and associated assignments include (but are not limited to):

Basic Skills Review (e.g., plagiarism tutorial, research skills tutorial)

Writing Assignments (including, but not limited to)

- Dissecting a Literature Review
- Article Summaries and Evaluations

- Literature Review* (see description below)
 - Literature Review development (see description below)
 - Peer Reviews
 - Research Report (see description below)

** Students will be given the opportunity to revise in response to instructor feedback and resubmit.*

Mini-Literature Review

One of the major papers for this course is a literature review (see description below). To prepare you for this assignment you will write a “mini-literature review” (app. 800 words) that will help you to learn how to read, understand, and accurately report psychological research reports, develop synthesis skills by describing how studies build upon one another, and apply APA style.

Literature Review

The final major paper you will be writing for this course is an **APA style literature review** (approximately 2000 words including references; 10 or more scholarly references). The goal of a literature review is to answer a research question by describing and synthesizing relevant theory and research findings relevant to the question. You will be developing your final literature review in several assignments, including (but not limited to):

- **Research Question Assignment** in which you develop, with help from the instructor, a research question appropriate to the discipline of psychology and to the requirements of the course.
- **Annotated References Assignment** in which you identify at least 10 – 15 sources relevant to your literature review topic using databases and other resources appropriate to psychological research.
- **Outline Assignment** in which you organize the main points of your literature review and indicate which sources will be used to support the main point, and how it will do so (e.g., full summary of the article vs. “microsummary” of the article)
- **Literature Review Conferences and Drafts** in which you receive feedback and revise your paper as needed.

Research Report

A second major paper you will be writing for this course is an **APA style research report** (approximately 1000 words including references). The goal of a report is to describe the results of an empirical study. We will be conducting a simple study in class, and you will write the research report as if you were the experimenter.

Final Examination or Evaluation

The final evaluation for this course is the oral presentation of students’ literature review. Due to time constraints, these presentations are scheduled over several class periods at the end of the semester – including during the time of the final exam.

Grading Information

Course grades will be based on the number of points accumulated throughout the semester. The table on the next page summarizes the points and percentage of course grade associated with each course assignments. Rubrics for all major assignments can be found on the course Canvas shell. Final grades in this course will be assigned as indicated below.

Percent	Grade
100 - 93	A
92 - 90	A-
89 - 88	B+
87 – 83	B

Percent	Grade
82 - 80	B-
79 - 78	C+
77 - 73	C
72 or less	NC

According to SJSU GE policy, this course must be passed with a C or better as a CSU graduation requirement.

Extensions / Make-Ups

No extensions or make-ups will be given except in cases of reasonable and documented academic reasons, emergencies, serious illness, or similar seriously disruptive events. *If such a circumstance should arise, please contact me as early as possible and be ready to provide documentation.*

Late Assignments

Assignments are due_(turned in during class or uploaded to Canvas) on the day indicated on the course schedule and in the assignment guidelines on Canvas. If due dates are changed, the new due date will be announced in lecture and posted on Canvas in a timely fashion. *No extensions will be given except in cases of reasonable and documented academic reasons, emergencies, serious illness, or similar seriously disruptive events. If such a circumstance should arise, please contact me as early as possible and be ready to provide documentation.*

Extra Credit

Extra credit assignments are given at the *instructor's discretion*. Should extra credit opportunities be extended, the total amount of extra credit points earned by a student cannot exceed 1 – 2 % of the total number of points available in the course. More information about extra credit opportunities will be provided in class. Extra credit will NOT be offered to individual students or upon request.

Course-Embedded Writing Tutor

This semester, we are fortunate to have a Writing Tutor embedded in our classroom! Writing tutors are graduate level (or advanced level) SJSU students who have gone through a rigorous training process and are well prepared to assist all students at all levels to become better writers.

Our writing tutor will (among other things):

- Provide valuable resources to help students' improve their writing skills
- Work directly with students (in and outside class) to help students' succeed on assignments
- Not grade or evaluate student work in any way

Our writing tutor is here for the duration of our semester and a valuable resource for you during all stages of the writing process!

Writing Tutor: [Insert Name Here]

Email: [Insert Email Here]

PSYC 100W Assignment Summary Sheet

Approximate Word Count*	Approximate Pages*	Points	% Course Grade	Assignment	Notes
		5 (R)	2.5%	Research Skills Assessment Pretest	Required
		5 (R)	2.5%	Plagiarism Tutorial	Required Take until you score 85% or better
500	4	5	2.5%	Evaluating Information Sources	Fulfills "General Audience Paper" GE requirement
500	4	5	2.5%	Dissecting a Literature Review	
200	1	5	2.5%	Microsummaries	In-Class Activity
800	6 – 7	10	5%	Mini-Literature Review	
200	1	3	1.5%	Research Question	
500	4	2	1%	Annotated References	
-	2	3	1.5%	Basic Editing APA Style	Edit document (provided) using APA style conventions
500	4	2	1%	Outline Assignment	
2000	11 – 12	10 (R)	5%	Literature Review (Draft 1)	Required - Final draft will not be evaluated unless this draft is turned in
-		5 (R)	2.5%	Literature Review Conference	Required
400	2 – 3	5	2.5%	Peer Review - Literature Review Literature Review (Draft 2)	Conducted In-Class
2000	11 – 12	100	50%	Literature Review (Final)	
1000	6 – 7	20	10%	Research Report	
		10 (R)	5%	Oral Presentation (5-7 min. on Literature Review topic)	Required Part of SJSU GE requirements
		5 (R)	2.5%	Research Skills Assessment Posttest	Required
8600	56 – 62	200	100	Total Words, Pages, and Points	

*Includes title page and references page when applicable. Approx. 250 double-spaced words = one page.

(R) = Required element to complete course

Classroom Protocol and Policies

Contacting Instructor

Please email me (sylvia.branca@sjsu.edu) if you have general questions about the course or course content. Include your name and the course title in all correspondence. I will make every attempt to respond within 24 hours during weekdays. I will not respond to emails on the weekend unless it is an urgent situation. Feel free to meet with me in my office when you have additional questions or need help. I have scheduled office hours (see 1st page of this document) and I am also willing to meet with you for an individual appointment.

Consider emails for this course as professional correspondence. Just as you would communicate with a supervisor or colleague, consider the information you are presenting in your email as professional communication.

Classroom Protocol

Please arrive on time for the start of class. If you need to leave early, avoid disrupting the class. If you have a laptop/tablet, use it for class purposes only. Please turn off your cell phones; if you are expecting an *important* phone call, put your phone on vibrate. If we all show each other courtesy and respect we can maintain a pleasant classroom climate. Thank you.

Regular attendance is necessary to do well in the course. Although the course has an online resource, this resource is not a substitute for attending lectures.

Consent for Recording and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

As per [University Policy S12-7](#), common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material. Permission to record any part of class must be granted in writing by the professor and classmates and is valid on a class-by-class basis. In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.

Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.

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](#). Add/drop deadlines can be found on the [current academic calendar](#). Please see the [Late Drop Policy](#) for information about the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes. Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](#).

Faculty Web Page and Messaging

Copies of the course materials such as major assignment handouts, etc. may be found in the course shell in Canvas. In the event I need to contact you for class purposes, I will send you a message via Canvas.

It is critical to your success in the course to come to class prepared.

You should plan to complete any readings due (assignment guidelines, research reports, etc.) before coming to class and bring your APA manual to all class meetings.

Communication

Use email! Use office hours! Talk to me!! I am here to help you succeed in our class.

Check the course Canvas site regularly

If I become ill, I will inform you right away that I will be absent. Please email me before class if you will not be in class.

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/>

Librarian: Psychology

The SJSU library has a librarian who specializes in psychology (and other social sciences), and this librarian can serve as a very valuable resource for helping you to develop research ideas and locating appropriate research materials. The library also has an abundance of resources for doing psychology research.

Christa Bailey is the Reference Librarian assigned to assist Psychology students in using databases, helping with key word searches, etc. She will be available throughout the semester to meet with individual students. Her phone number is (408) 808-2422 and her email is christa.bailey@sjsu.edu.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the **Academic Success Center** at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

The **ACCESS Success Center** is a resource for College of Social Sciences students, which includes psychology majors. This center provides mentoring, tutoring, and advising especially geared for social science majors. The center provides workshops and presentations on writing, statistics, graduate school applications, and so forth. Visit their webpage for more information, <http://www.sjsu.edu/access/>

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester in Psychology 100W, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections 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

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the **Writing Center** website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>.

SJSU Counseling Services

It is not always easy getting through college! As students, you must all navigate the many demands on your time, resources, and interpersonal relationships. **SJSU Counseling Services** is located on the corner of 7th and San Carlos St. (across from the Event Center) in the Student Wellness Center, Third Floor, Room 300B. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit the **Counseling Services** website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling> or call (408) 924-5910.

100W Course Schedule

Note: This is a tentative timeline. We may find ourselves spending more time on specific topics due to student interest, or the need to clarify further information presented.

WEEK	DAY	DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS DUE / NOTES
1	Th	1/23	Course Introduction	Bring APA Manual to <u>every</u> class Log onto course Canvas site
2	T	1/28	Discuss “ <i>Evaluating Sources of Information</i> ” APA Style Basics	Research Skills Assessment Pretest due
	Th	1/30	Discuss “ <i>Dissecting a Literature Review</i> ” APA Style Basics	Evaluating Sources of Information due
3	T	2/4	Types of Sources (empirical studies, theoretical articles, literature reviews, dissertation abstracts, etc.) Developing a “ <i>Research Question</i> ”	Dissecting a Literature Review due
	Th	2/6	Understanding Research Reports APA Style Basics	Research Question due <i>Practice with Aronson & Mills (1959) in class</i>
4	T	2/11	Research Skills & Database Search Tutorial Summarizing Articles	Plagiarism Tutorial due
	Th	2/13	Discuss “ <i>Mini-Literature Review</i> ” Transitions and Microsummaries Discuss “ <i>Annotated References & Basic Editing</i> ”	Microsummaries (in class)
5	T	2/18	Research Question Feedback and In-Class Literature Search	Basic Editing due
	Th	2/20	Research Question Feedback and In-Class Literature Search	Mini-Literature Review due
6	T	2/25	Discuss “ <i>Outline</i> ” assignment In Class - Beginning Organization of Literature Review	
	Th	2/27	**Dr. Branca at Lilly Conference - Self Study Day** (Work on Annotated References assignment)	Annotated References due
7	T	3/3	Mini-Literature Review Feedback	
	Th	3/5	Writing Your Literature Review: Next Steps	Outline due
8	T	3/10	Literature Review Development Meetings	
	Th	3/12	Literature Review Development Meetings	
9	T	3/17	Literature Review Development Meetings	
	Th	3/19	Literature Review Development Meetings	
10	T	3/24	Research Report Demonstration – Do not miss! APA Style Basics	Literature Review (Draft 1 due)
	Th	3/26	Literature Review Individual Conferences	

100W Course Schedule, cont.

This is a tentative timeline. We may find ourselves spending more time on particular topics due to student interest, or the need to clarify further information presented.

WEEK	DAY	DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS DUE / NOTES
11	T	3/31	<i>*SPRING RECESS – NO CLASS *</i>	
	TH	4/2	<i>*SPRING RECESS – NO CLASS *</i>	
12	T	4/7	Literature Review Individual Conferences	Must be signed up for an individual meeting time with Dr. Branca
	Th	4/9	Literature Review Individual Conferences	
13	T	4/14	Literature Review Individual Conferences	Research Skills Assessment Posttest due
	Th	4/16	Literature Review Individual Conferences	Research Report due
14	T	4/21	Literature Review Individual Conferences	
	Th	4/23	In-Class Peer Review* – Literature Review	Literature Review (Draft 2 due In Class) *Bring 1 <u>hard copy</u> of Lit Review to class
15	T	4/28	Oral Presentations	
	Th	4/30	Oral Presentations	Presentation Materials due for ALL: 4/30 Attendance Mandatory
16	T	5/5	Oral Presentations	Attendance Mandatory Literature Review (Final due)
	Th	5/7	Oral Presentations	Attendance Mandatory
	T	5/19	Course Wrap-Up and Oral Presentations 7:15-9:30am DMH 356	Attendance Mandatory Have a wonderful summer break! 😊

*“Your present circumstances don’t determine where you can go.
They merely determine where you start.”*
– Nido Qubein

*“The greatest weapon against stress is our ability to choose
one thought over another.”*

– William James