

Introduction to Psychology PSYC 1

Fall 2026 Section 03 In Person 3 Unit(s) 08/19/2026 to 12/07/2026 Modified 07/27/2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Hannah Suozzi

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Office: DMH 232

Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM, DMH 232

Also available via Zoom through appointment (availability varies)

Course Information

Lecture

Monday, Wednesday, 10:30 AM to 11:45 AM, DMH 348

Course Description and Requisites

Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. The content focuses on the exploration of major psychological theories and concepts, methods, and research findings in psychology. Topics include the biological bases of behavior, perception, cognition and consciousness, learning, memory, emotion, motivation, development, personality, social psychology, psychological disorders and therapeutic approaches to treatment, and applied psychology.

Satisfies 4. Social and Behavioral Sciences (Formerly Area D).

Grading: Letter Graded.

Classroom Protocols

Communication

If you have any questions or concerns please message me either on Canvas messaging or my email

(hannah.suozzi@sjsu.edu (<mailto:hannah.suozzi@sjsu.edu>)). The Subject Line should begin with the class (PSYC 1_03) followed by the topic of the email.
During weekdays, I will try to respond within 24hrs.

Behavior

Students should always attempt to make the classroom a safe place for learning and asking questions. Behavior that may distract or disrupt a student's ability to learn such as talking when someone else is speaking should be avoided.

AI Policy

The use of generative AI to write assignments is strictly prohibited. Attempting to pass off AI generated work as your own is considered plagiarism and shall be treated as such.

AI grammar tools are permitted but all original writing should be done in its own document and not in the AI tool software.

Attendance

According to University Policy F15-12, "Students are expected to attend all meetings for the courses in which they are enrolled as they are responsible for material discussed therein and active participation is frequently essential to ensure maximum benefit to all class members. In some cases, attendance is fundamental to course objectives; for example, students may be required to interact with others in the class. Attendance is the responsibility of the student. Participation may be used as a criterion for grading when the parameters and their evaluation are clearly defined in the course syllabus and the percentage of the overall grade is stated."

Recording Lectures

- Recording Lectures are permitted but must acquire consent from the instructor. The instructor is required to announce the use of recording but will keep students anonymous.
- Lecture recordings are not to be disseminated. This means that they cannot be given to other students or posted online without consent.
 - Recorded material is for study purposes only
- Group discussions are not to be recorded

Program Information

Welcome to this General Education course.

SJSU's General Education Program establishes a strong foundation of versatile skills, fosters curiosity about the world, promotes ethical judgment, and prepares students to engage and contribute responsibly and cooperatively in a multicultural, information-rich society. General education classes integrate areas of study and encourage progressively more complex and creative analysis, expression, and problem solving.

The General Education Program has three goals:

Goal 1: To develop students' core competencies for academic, personal, creative, and professional pursuits.

Goal 2: To enact the university's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and justice by ensuring that students have the knowledge and skills to serve and contribute to the well-being of local and global communities and the environment.

Goal 3: To offer students integrated, multidisciplinary, and innovative study in which they pose challenging questions, address complex issues, and develop cooperative and creative responses.

More information about the General Education Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) can be found on the [GE website \(https://sjsu.edu/general-education/ge-requirements/overview/learning-outcomes.php\)](https://sjsu.edu/general-education/ge-requirements/overview/learning-outcomes.php).

Course Goals

Students learn from Area D courses that human behavior is inextricably interwoven with social, political, and economic institutions. By exploring the principles, methodologies, value systems, and ethics employed in historical and social scientific inquiry, students come to appreciate processes of social change and social continuity, the role of human agency in those social processes, and the forces that engender social cohesion and fragmentation.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Area 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Area 4 courses increase students' understanding of human behavior and social interaction in the context of value systems, economic structures, political institutions, social groups, and natural environments. Through fulfillment of the Area 4 requirement, students develop an understanding of problems and issues from different disciplinary perspectives and examine issues in their contemporary as well as historical settings and in a variety of cultural contexts. Courses that emphasize skills development and professional preparation are excluded from Area 4.

The CSU requires students to complete General Education courses in the Social and Behavioral Sciences in at least two different disciplines. Students may meet this requirement by either 1) taking two lower-division Area 4 courses in different disciplines, or 2) taking two lower-division Area 4 courses in the same discipline and an UD Area 4 upper-division GE course in a different discipline.

GE Area 4 Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of an Area 4 course, students should be able to:

1. demonstrate understanding of the ways in which social institutions, culture, and environment shape and are shaped by the behavior of individuals, both past and present;
2. compare and contrast the dynamics of two or more social groups or social systems in a variety of

- historical and/or cultural contexts;
- 3. place contemporary social developments in cultural, environmental, geographical, and/or historical contexts; and
- 4. draw on social/behavioral science information from various perspectives to formulate applications appropriate to historical and/or contemporary social issues.

Writing Requirement

Students must write a minimum of 1500 words via writing assignments in General Psychology. These assignments are designed to:

1. Comply with the University's General Education course credit writing requirement of a minimum of 1500 words in order to: (a) provide you with practice in writing, (b) provide you with feedback on your writing, and (c) provide you with the opportunity to incorporate the instructor's feedback into your writing assignments.
2. Help students achieve mastery of various aspects of the five Learning Objectives given above.

Course Materials

Psychology: Perspectives and Connections

Author: Gregory J. Feist & Erika L. Rosenberg

Publisher: McGraw Hill

Edition: 2024 Edition

Year: 2024

ISBN: 9781265595395

Availability: McGraw Hill

The book is available to purchase through the First Day program which lowers the cost and makes the textbook eligible for financial aid

Course Requirements and Assignments

Reflection

Each week, write a 150 to 200 word (1 to 2 paragraphs) reflection about the course content of that week in how it relates to your life or to the media you consume.

There will be 13 in total

Percentage of grade: 22%

Quizzes

Quizzes are in person (not open-note/book). They are every other week unless otherwise specified and cover the course material covered since the previous quiz.

They will take place on Mondays (check class schedule) and will take up the first 15 minutes of class.

There will be 7 quizzes in total; lowest grade is dropped

Percentage of grade: 20%

Pre-Reading Questions

Before accessing Chapter reading assignments, complete a short quiz on upcoming topics.

Credit/no credit based on completion and not accuracy

13 in total

Percentage of grade: 4%

Chapter Reading

Questions are asked after reading the weekly chapter.

Credit/no credit based on completion and not score

13 in total

Percentage of grade: 9%

iClicker Questions

Posed questions asked in class will be answered via iClicker and will count as a point for answering and not accuracy.

Percentage of grade: 2%

Research Credit

A total of 4 research credits must be earned before the last Monday of instruction.

Research credits are earned by participating in SONA research studies.

2 of the 4 research credits must be earned through in-person research studies

Instructions for signing up for SONA and completing research credits are available here: <https://www.sjsu.edu/psych/resources/research-pool.php> (<https://www.sjsu.edu/psych/resources/research-pool.php>)

Percentage of grade: 6%

An Alternative Writing Assignment is available. Students need to read an academic article (length of article is based on number of research credits required) and write an essay describing article strengths and weaknesses as well as application to own life.

Research credits and Alternative Writing assignments can be mixed.

Midterms

In person exams that span an entire class period (1 hr 15 min). Include questions based on previous readings

20 multiple choice/True or False/Fill in the Blanks

2 short answer essays (1 to 2 paragraphs in length); handwriting must be legible.

Two Midterms in total

Percentage of grade: 20%

Final Exam

Cumulative, in-person exam.

Includes 30 Multiple choice/True or False/Fill in the Blanks and 4 short answer essays (1-2 paragraphs; writing must be legible)

Percentage of grade: 17%

✓ Grading Information

Grades will be rounded to 2 decimal points

Breakdown

Grade	Range	Notes
A+	96 to 100	
A	93 to 95	
A-	90 to 92	
B+	86 to 89	
B	83 to 85	
B-	80 to 82	
C+	76 to 79	
C	73 to 75	
C-	70 to 72	

Grade	Range	Notes
D+	66 to 69	
D	63 to 65	
D-	60 to 62	
F	Below 60	

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

When	Topic	Notes
Lecture Week 1	Syllabus	
Lecture Week 2	Intro to Psychology (Ch 1)	Due 08/24 - Introduction to Self Due 08/28- Ch 1 Reflection
Lecture Week 3	Pyschological Research (Ch 2)	Due 08/31- Ch 2 Pre-reading and Chapter Reading Due 09/04- Ch 2 Reflection
Lecture Week 4	Biology of Behavior (Ch 3)	No class 09/07 Due 09/09- Ch 3 Pre-reading and Chapter Reading 09/09 - *Ch 1 and 2 Quiz* Due 09/10- Ch 3
Lecture Week 5	Sense and Perception (Ch 4)	Due 09/14- Ch 4 Pre-reading and Chapter Reading Due 09/18- Ch 4 Writing Assignment

When	Topic	Notes
Lecture Week 6	Memory (Ch 7)	09/21- *Ch 3 and 4 Quiz* Due 09/21- Ch 7 Pre-reading and Chapter Reading Due 09/25- Ch 7 Writing Assignment
Midterm 1 Sep 28th 09/28/2026 10:30 AM - 11:45 PM	Chs: 1, 2, 3, 4, & 7	
Lecture Week 7	Consciousness (Ch 6)	Due 09/30- Ch 6 Pre-reading and Chapter Reading Due 10/01- Ch 6 Writing Assignment Due 10/01- 1 Research Credit
Lecture Week 8	Learning (Ch 8)	10/05- *Ch 4 & 7 Quiz* Due 10/05- Ch 8 Pre-reading and Chapter Reading Due 10/09- Ch 8 Writing Assignment
Lecture Week 9	Stress and Health (Ch 12)	Due 10/12- Ch 12 Pre-reading and Chapter Reading Due 10/16- Ch 12 Writing Assignment
Lecture Week 10	Personality (Ch 13)	10/19- *Ch 8 & 12* Due 10/19- Ch 13 Pre-reading and Chapter Reading Due 10/23- Ch 13 Writing Assignment
Lecture Week 11	Intelligence and Creativity (Ch 10)	Due 10/26- Ch 10 Pre-reading and Chapter Reading Due 10/30 Ch 10 Writing Assignment
Lecture Week 12	Motivation and Emotion (Ch 11)	11/02- *Ch 13 & 10 Quiz* Due 11/02- Ch 11 Pre-reading and Chapter Reading Due 11/06- Ch 11 Writing Assignment
Midterm 2 Nov 9th 11/09/2026 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Chs: 6, 12, 13, 10, 11	

When	Topic	Notes
Lecture Week 13	N/A	11/11-No class
Lecture Week 14	Social Behavior (Ch 14)	11/16- *Ch 11 Quiz* Due 11/16- Ch 4 Pre-reading and Chapter Reading Due 11/20- Ch 4 Writing Assignment
Lecture Week 15	Language and Thought (Ch 9)	Due 11/23- Ch 9 Pre-reading and Chapter Reading No class- 11/25 Due 09/18- No Reflection Due
Lecture Week 16	Psychological Disorder and Treatment (Ch 15&16)	11/30- *Ch 14 and 9 Quiz* Due 11/30- Ch 15 & 16 Pre-reading and Chapter Reading (selected pages) Due 12/04- Ch 15 & 16 Writing Assignment
Lecture Week 17	Review	Due 12/07- Research Credits
Final Exam 12/11/2026 10:45 AM - 12:45 PM DMH 348		