

San José State University
Department of Psychology
PSYC 100W-10
Writing Workshop, Fall 2026

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Sisi Dong
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Office Hours: Mon Wed 9:30 - 10:30 pm
Class Days/Time: Mon Wed 12:00 – 1:15 pm
Classroom: DMH 359

Prerequisites: PSYC 001 or equivalent and STAT 095 or equivalent

Course Description

In this class, you will:

- Practice and improve writing skills appropriate to the broad field of psychology, with an emphasis on scholarly communication
- Develop advanced proficiency in college-level writing
- Learn to communicate effectively to both specialized and general audiences
- Improve the skills developed in Written Communication IA and IB, and
- Use these skills to master the discourse specific to psychology

Course Format

This is an in-person course. You are expected to attend the lecture in person. Assignments will be submitted on Canvas so you will need a mobile device. If you need a working laptop, please see the Student Technology Resources for more information.

CANVAS and MYSJSU Messaging

Copies of some course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found on Canvas. Messages to the class may be sent through Canvas or MYSJSU.

WID Learning Outcomes (LOs)

Upon successful completion of a Writing in the Disciplines course, students should be able to:

- WID LO1: Explain, analyze, develop, and critique ideas effectively, including ideas encountered in multiple readings and expressed in different forms of discourse.
 - This LO is satisfied by the following major assignments (there are other assignments that also address this LO): Microsummaries (Research Article Summaries), Literature Review Drafts 1-3 and Final Draft, and Peer Reviews.

- WID LO2: Organize and develop complete discipline-specific texts and other documents for both professional and general audiences, using appropriate editorial and citation standards.
 - This LO is satisfied by the following major assignments (there are other assignments that also address this LO): Microsummaries (Research Article Summaries) and Literature Review Drafts 1-3 and Final Draft.
- WID LO3: Locate, organize, and synthesize information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose, and to communicate that purpose in writing.
 - This LO is satisfied by the following major assignments (there are other assignments that also address this LO): Research Skills Pretest and Posttest, Literature Review Outline, Microsummaries (Research Article Summaries), and Literature Review Drafts 1-3 and Final Draft.
- WID LO4: Produce discipline-specific written work that demonstrates upper-division proficiency in language use, grammar, and clarity of expression.
 - This LO is satisfied by the following major assignments (there are other assignments that also address this LO): Microsummaries (Research Article Summaries), and Literature Review Drafts 1-3 and Final Draft.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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 (PLOs)

Upon successful completion of the SJSU baccalaureate degree program in Psychology:

- *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.

Textbook

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th Ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. ISBN: 1433805618

Online resources:

- APA Style website: <https://apastyle.apa.org/>
- APA Style Tutorial at <https://extras.apa.org/apastyle/basics-7e/>
- Purdue Owl APA Style Resource at <https://owl.purdue.edu/>

Library Liaison

Lauren DeCelle is the Reference Librarian assigned to assist Psychology students in using databases, helping with keyword searches, etc. She will be available throughout the semester to meet with individual students.

Email: lauren.decelle@sjsu.edu

Course Requirements and Assignments

The 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.

Major Project for this Course – Literature Review

Your major project for this course is an APA-style literature review. We'll work on this lit review for the whole semester. The goal of a literature review is to describe and synthesize relevant scholarly research findings about a research topic of your choice.

Literature review requirements:

- At least 2000 words including the title page and References list
- 10 or more scholarly, peer-reviewed references
- Correct APA format

You'll write your final literature review in several assignments, including (but not limited to):

- Proposal for your topic: You'll develop, with help from me, a literature review question appropriate to the discipline of psychology and to the requirements of the course.

- Microsummaries assignment: You'll summarize and compare two scholarly, peer-reviewed sources relevant to your literature review topic using databases and other resources appropriate to psychological research.
- Three preliminary drafts of your lit review to get instructor and peer reviewer feedback and revise your paper as needed:
 - Draft 1: 600 words, synthesizing 3-4 scholarly resources.
 - Draft 2: 1200 words (including your revised Draft 1), synthesizing 6-7 scholarly resources.
- Final Draft: Minimum 2000 words (including title page + References list) and 10 peer-reviewed sources.
- Oral Presentation: A 5-8 minute oral presentation in class

You won't be doing this alone! Throughout the semester you'll get support from:

- ME: We'll have three 1:1 required meetings to discuss topics and drafts, answer any questions, and focus on next steps.
- Writing tutors: One suggested meeting with writing tutors at the [SJSU Writing Center](#): Same as your meetings with me, but with fresh sets of eyes.

Analyzing a research report

The instructor will present a research report to students. Students will be asked to analyze the report by answering the instructor's questions. This is an in-class assignment. The purpose is to help students understand the structure of a research report.

Final Evaluation

We have no final exam in this class. The final draft of your literature review is your final deliverable. Your final presentation of the literature review is also part of your final evaluation.

Requests for extensions: As the pandemic continues, you may find yourself facing unanticipated, emergency situations outside of your control that impact your schooling. When these situations arise, please reach out ASAP so that I can work with you to find a successful path forward. Please email me the requests 48 hours before the due date of any assignment or the research proposal. **Extensions are not guaranteed**, but I take all requests seriously and will work with you to find appropriate resources.

Late assignments: If you did not request or receive an extension, milestone assignments that are turned in past the due date will receive a 10% penalty from your earned score per late day. In-class assignments and exams cannot be made up or submitted late. However, as noted above, there will be multiple extra credit opportunities to earn back any missed points.

Grading Information

Skills and Associated Projects	Activity	Total Points
Research Related Practice	Homework (4*4)	16
Research skills test	Research skills pretest	1
	Research skills posttest	1
Writing and research skills	Topic/subtopics Assignment	4

	References	4
	Microsummaries	6
	Literature Review (Draft1)	8
	Literature Review (Draft2)	8
	Literature Review (Final)	25
	Peer review	5
	Instructor meeting *3	2*3
Analyzing a research report	In-class assignment	8
Final exam	Oral Presentation (5-8 minutes) on your literature review topic	8

Determination of Grades

- A statement of how grades will be determined for the course, including +/- grades if they are used.
- Extra credit options, if available.
- List of the percentage weight assigned to various class assignments.
- Any policies regarding late or missed work.

A = 93 to 100 points

A minus = 90 to 92.9 points

B plus = 87 to 89.9 points

B = 83 to 86.9 points

B minus = 80 to 82.9 points

C plus = 77 to 79.9 points

C = 73 to 76.9 points

C minus = 67 to 72.9 points

D = 60 to 66.9 points

F = 59.9 points or lower

Fall 2026 Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change with notice.

		Topics, Readings	Assignment
Week 1	Wed	Course Introduction & Syllabus	
Week 2 8.24 – 8.30	Mon	What is scientific/scholarly writing? What is a literature review? Different types of sources Evaluating sources	Plagiarism Tutorial
	Wed	Library Tutorial	
Week 3 8.31 – 9.6	Mon	Brainstorming topics & Narrowing it down Google scholar	Sign up for 1:1 meeting
	Wed	Summarizing articles using microsummaries Writing your first microsummary How to start Draft 1: Microsummaries and paraphrasing	Topics Due Sunday
Week 4 9.07 – 9.13	Mon	First 1:1 meeting (a)	
	Wed	Labor Day - No class	
Week 5 9.14 – 9.20	Mon	First 1:1 meeting (b)	Microsummary Due Sunday
	Wed	First 1:1 meeting (c)	
Week 6 9.21 – 9.27	Mon	APA Style Basics	
	Wed	APA Style Basics	
Week 7 9.28 – 10.04	Mon	Writing Styles and APA-AW	
	Wed	Writing Styles and APA-AW	
Week 8 10.05 – 10.11	Mon	Research Questions	Literature review Draft 1 due two days prior to your individual meeting
	Wed	Research Basics	
Week 9 10.12 – 10.18	Mon	Second 1:1 meeting (a)	
	Wed	Second 1:1 meeting (b)	
Week 10 10.19 – 10.25	Mon	Second 1:1 meeting (c)	
	Wed	Second 1:1 meeting (d)	
Week 11 10.26 – 11.01	Mon	Research design and analyzing a research report	
	Wed	Peer review in class	
Week 12 11.02 – 11.08	Mon	Writing Skills	Literature review Draft 2 due two days prior to your individual meeting
	Wed	Prepare for the oral presentations	
Week 13 11.09 – 11.15	Mon	Third 1:1 meeting (a)	
	Wed	Veterans Day - No class	
Week 14	Mon	Third 1:1 meeting (b)	

11.16 – 11.22	Wed	Third 1:1 meeting (c)	
Week 15 11.23 – 11.29		<i>Happy Thanksgiving! - No class</i>	
Week 16 11.30 – 12.06	Mon	Final Presentation	
	Wed	Final Presentation	
Final Week 12.07 – 12.13	Mon	Final Presentation	Literature Review (Final, due Fri, 12/11)