

Careers in Psychology

PSYC 148

Fall 2026 Section 02 In Person 3 Unit(s) 08/19/2026 to 12/07/2026 Modified 08/19/2026



Contact Information

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Office Hours

Thursday, 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM, DMH 323



Course Information

Lecture

Tuesday, Thursday, 1:30 PM to 2:45 PM, DMH 166



Course Description and Requisites

Examination of various career paths in psychology and related fields. Skills for pursuing these careers, and experience writing career search materials.

Prerequisite(s): PSYC 1.

Grading: Letter Graded



Classroom Protocols

Generative AI Policy

The purpose of assignments in this Careers in Psychology course is for you to develop and demonstrate your own thinking about psychological careers, professional identity, and communication skills. For that reason, **you may not use generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, or**

similar tools) to write, rewrite, generate, or substantially complete work that you submit as your own. This includes having AI generate sentences, paragraphs, responses, reflections, cover letters, resumes, or other assignment content for you.

You **may** use AI-powered tools for basic proofreading, such as identifying or correcting **spelling, grammar, punctuation, and typographical errors**, as long as the ideas, reflections, and writing remain your own. In other words, AI may function as a grammar or spelling checker, not as a writer, co-author, or career advisor.

If you would like to use an AI tool for **translation**, please talk with me or let me know **before using it for an assignment**. Translation may be appropriate in some cases, but I want to ensure it supports your learning and the professional communication goals of this course.

If you are unsure whether a particular use of AI is permitted, **ask me before using it**. Using generative AI in a way that is not permitted by this policy may be treated as an academic integrity issue under the course and/or institutional academic integrity policies.

Please see the current academic dishonesty policy here:

<https://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/docs/S26-10%20Academic%20Integrity%20Policy.pdf>
(<https://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/docs/S26-10%20Academic%20Integrity%20Policy.pdf>)

Program Information

Program learning outcomes (PLOs) are skills and knowledge that students will have achieved upon completion of the Psychology BA degree. Each course in our curriculum contributes to one or more of these PLOs. The PLOs for the Psychology BA degree are:

1. Knowledge Base of Psychology. Students will be able to demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.
 2. 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.
 3. Critical Thinking Skills. 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.
 4. Applications of Psychology. Students will be able to apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues.
- Values in Psychology. Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

CLO1 – Students will be able to describe three career positions they may like to have, as well as the practical experience and (if relevant) graduate training to get there.

CLO2 – Students will be able to identify three post graduate resources that will enhance their career aspirations, and prepare an application for one of these resources. This may include applying to graduate school, licenses, professional certificates, additional trainings, internships, or any other competency training

that advances their career interests.

CLO3 – Students will be able to write a cover letter for a job relevant to their career. CLO4 – Students will be able to write a resume for a job relevant to their career.

CLO5 – Students will identify the knowledge, skills, abilities, prior experiences, and coursework needed for jobs within their interests.

CLO6 – Students will demonstrate awareness of a range of career options.

Course Materials

Careers in Psychology: Opportunities in a Changing World

Author: Kuther, T. L. & Morgan, R. D.

Publisher: Sage Publications

Edition: 6th Edition

Year: 2024

ISBN: 9781071852293

Availability: Campus Bookstore

Course Requirements and Assignments

Assignment: Reading Reflections

To assess your engagement with the readings and knowledge retention, you are expected to write reading reflections of 250-500 words that demonstrate you have read the material and have reflected on how it helps (or does not help) you in your pursuit of possible careers in psychology. Thus, submitting a summary of your readings is insufficient, and generic reflections (e.g., I learned sooooo much! It was suuuuper helpful to get to know the readings.) do not demonstrate the required depth of reflection. Reading Reflections will be assigned each week that reading is assigned, and will be due before class on Tuesday of that week. (aligned with CLO 5 & 6; PLO 4)

Each of your reflections will be created or uploaded into Canvas.

Career Preperation: Canvas Career Modules

These modules are from the SJSU Career Center and will be available through our course's Canvas site. (aligned with CLO 1-6; PLO 4)

Career Preperation: Career Inventory Assessment

You will complete the "Focus 2" career interest inventory. This assessment will suggest possible career paths that match your values, interests, and skills. (aligned with CLO 5; PLO 4)

Career Preparation: Career Interest Exploration

You will identify three careers that interest you for your long-term goals, and discuss them in a paper of about 5 pages (double-spaced) in length. Be sure to describe the following for each of the three careers: (a) the work done by people in this career, (b) the knowledge, skills and aptitudes required by this career, and (c) the practical experience and/or graduate training necessary for achieving this career. You need to use at least 3 sources, which can include your textbook, other books, and periodicals. Websites can be used as sources only with approval by the instructor. (aligned with CLO 1, 5; PLO 4)

Career Preparation: Career Scan, Prep, and Training Plan

You are expected to find three post-graduate options in which a baccalaureate degree in psychology will allow you access. Options may include graduate programs, professional certifications, internships, and service/industry jobs. You can identify multiple options in a single domain or across domains. For example, you may choose three graduate options like a Ph.D., Psy.D., a Master's Program, a professional certification in Behavior Analysis, and a job as a paraeducator. The three post-graduate options may not actually be pursued by you (you may plan on following through with one of your post-grad options) but your task will be to see the range of options available to you.

Once you identify your three options, you will then research what steps are required to pursue these options. This could range from taking entrance exams, extra classes, volunteer hours, or simply providing a resume and a successful interview. The point is that you are able to clearly see the path forward to reach your options.

Finally, you will take what you have learned and complete a training plan for each option. Specifics will be posted in Canvas but common components will include what your options are, a summary of what you have ready (relevant courses, work experience, references) for those options, and a plan for what you need to prepare (gaining volunteer experience, lab work, professional references) for these options. A successful training plan will clearly demonstrate thoughtful selection of postgrad options and a clearly laid-out plan for pursuing those options. (aligned with CLO 1, 2, 5, & 6; PLO 4)

Professional Development: Informational Interview

Insight from someone in your field of interest is invaluable! You are expected to interview someone from the career or field of interest and gain their insights. You will write a paper of about 3 pages in length, summarizing the responses of the person you interviewed. More specific instructions and a grading rubric will be provided later. If a student is unable to find someone to interview, the student may complete an alternative, such as attending a career fair or webinar about the career, to be discussed individually with the instructor. (aligned with CLO 5 & 6; PLO 4)

Professional Development: Interview Clinics

Throughout the semester there will 5 interview clinics. In each clinic, you will practice new skills to improve your interviewing. You will take a turn as an interviewer and as an interviewee and will be providing feedback to your peers.

FINAL PORTFOLIO

After you have selected your three post-grad options, you will then choose one specific program or job to submit an application. You will save the job ad or link to the specific program. Then you will prepare application materials needed for the jobs/programs. More detailed instructions and a grading rubric will be provided later in the semester. Your application materials will include the following:

Cover Letter

No matter the postgraduate option, it is highly likely that you will need a cover letter to an employer or program. Thus, you will be writing an effective cover letter that clearly demonstrates your fit with the job or program. (aligned with CLO 3; PLO 4)

Resume and/or CV

Accurate representation of your skills, knowledge, and experience is essential for any post-graduate pursuit. Thus, you will be completing a resume and/or CV for your relevant postgraduate options. (aligned with CLO 4; PLO 4)

Other Materials for the Application

Depending on the type of job, graduate program, etc. that you are applying for, other materials in addition to the cover letter and resume/CV may be necessary. These may include unofficial transcripts, work sample/writing sample, other statements, etc. You will complete all other materials necessary for applying to this opportunity.

Job Posting/Grad Program plan

Write a description of the process/steps that you need to take to complete and submit the application. Include a copy of the job listing or graduate program overview. (aligned with CLO 2; PLO 4)

Final Examination or Evaluation

"Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment."

Your final portfolio will be part of your final alongside the oral presentation outlined below.

Oral Presentation

Each student will make a brief (2-3 minute) oral presentation to the class about the career path that most interests them. Topics to cover include the work done by people in this career, and the experience or training necessary for entering this career. Also discuss why you personally are choosing this career path. The oral presentations will occur during the final exam period. A grading rubric will be provided closer to the presentation day. (aligned with CLO 1 & 5; PLO 4)

✓ Grading Information

Determination of Grades

Course Grade Breakdown

Assignments	Points	Percentage of Total Grade
<i>Reading Reflections</i>	7 X 10 points = 70	14%
<i>Canvas Career Modules</i>	2 X 25 points = 50	10%
<i>Interview Clinics</i>	5 X 20 points = 100	20%
<i>Career Inventory Assessment (Focus 2)</i>	1 X 40 points = 40	8%
<i>Career Interest Exploration</i>	1 X 40 points = 40	8%
<i>Career Scan, Prep, and Training Plan</i>	1 X 50 points = 50	10%
<i>Informational Interview</i>	1 X 50 points = 50	10%
<i>Final Portfolio</i>	1 X 100 Points = 100	20%
<i>Cover Letter</i>	50 points	-
<i>Resume/CV</i>	30 points	-
<i>Other Materials</i>	20 points	-
<u>Totals</u>	500 Points	100%

Grade	Points	Percentage
<i>A plus</i>	480-500	96 to 100%
<i>A</i>	465-479	93 to 95%
<i>A minus</i>	450-464	90 to 92%
<i>B plus</i>	430-449	86 to 89 %
<i>B</i>	415-429	83 to 85%
<i>B minus</i>	400-414	80 to 82%
<i>C plus</i>	380-399	76 to 79%
<i>C</i>	365-379	73 to 75%
<i>C minus</i>	350-364	70 to 72%
<i>D plus</i>	330-349	66 to 69%
<i>D</i>	315-329	63 to 65%
<i>D minus</i>	300-314	60 to 62%

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

PSYC 148 – Careers in Psychology, Fall 2026

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading Due	Assignments Due
1	08/21/2026	Introduction to the Course	Explore the following websites: https://psychologydegreeguide.org/resources/careers-in-psychology/ (https://psychologydegreeguide.org/resources/careers-in-psychology/). https://www.apa.org/education-career/guide/careers.pdf (https://www.apa.org/education-career/guide/careers.pdf%20). https://www.apa.org/education-career/guide/paths (https://www.apa.org/education-career/guide/paths).	None!

2	08/25	The Spartan Edge	https://www.sjsu.edu/about/mission-vision-values.php https://www.sjsu.edu/about/mission-vision-values.php https://www.sjsu.edu/general-education/ge-requirements/overview/index.php https://www.sjsu.edu/general-education/ge-requirements/overview/index.php	Reading Reflection due before class -Read all Mission Values -read all general education requirements -Read article
	08/27	How to Think Straight About Psychology & Your responsibility to society	Introducing Gen Z Psychology Majors: Why They Choose to Major in Psychology (and What They Expect to Learn)	
3	09/01	Broad Overview of Careers in Psychology	Ch 2	Reading reflection due before class Chapter 2
	09/03	Interview Clinic 1		
4	09/08	Clinical & Counseling Psychology	Ch 3	Reading Reflection due before class Chapter 3 & 4
	09/10	School & Educational Psychology	Ch 4	
5	09/15	Interview Clinic 2		Canvas Career Module 1

	09/17	Interview Clinic 3		Submit all Assignments: Occupation Exploration Worksheet Focus 2 Results
6	09/22	Psychology and the law	Ch 5	Reading Reflection Chapter 5-7
	09/24	Health Psychology Sport and Performance	Ch 6-7	
7	09/29	Interview Clinic 4		Canvas Career Module 2
	10/01	Interview Clinic 5		Submit all assignments: Interview Questions Career Scan, Prep, and Training Plan
8	10/06	Biopsychology	Ch 8	Reading Reflection due before class (ch 8 and 12)
	10/08	Developmental Psychology	Ch 12	
9	10/13	I/O Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Human Factors Psychology	CH 9	Reading Reflection Ch 9 and 11
	10/15	Social, Consumer, and Media Psychology	Ch 11	

10	10/20	Finding a Job with Your Bachelor's Degree	Ch 13	Reading Reflection due before class (Chapter 13 & 14)
	10/22	Graduate-Level Careers in Psychology	Ch 14	Career Scan, Prep, and Training Plan Due Friday 3/21
11	10/27	Applying to Graduate School in Psychology	Ch. 15	Reading Reflection due before class (Chapter 15)
	10/29	Graduate Student Day!		
12	11/03	Cover Letters, Professional Communication		
	11/05			Interview Write-Ups
13	11/10	Resumes, CVs, Letters of Recommendation		Cover Rough Draft Due
	11/12			
14	11/17	Peer Review Week		Resume/CV Draft due
	11/20	Peer Review Week		
15	11/24	Portfolio Preparation Day		
	11/26	Thanksgiving!		
16	12/01	Oral Presentations Day 1		
	12/03	Oral Presentations Day 2		

FINALS	12/15			Final Portfolio Due
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Course schedule is subject to change.