

# Introduction to Psychology

## PSYC 1

Fall 2025 Section 03 In Person 3 Unit(s) 08/20/2025 to 12/08/2025 Modified 08/21/2025

### Contact Information

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Office: Dudley Moorhead Hall 232

#### Office Hours

Monday, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM, DMH 232

### Course Information

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#### Lecture

Monday, Wednesday, 10:30 AM to 11:45 AM, MacQuarrie Hall 324

### Course Description and Requisites

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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.

GE Area: D (formerly GE Area D1)

Letter Graded

### Classroom Protocols

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You are expected to arrive on time to each class meeting and attend to what is going on in the classroom. Each class will begin with a participation opportunity (factored into your grade), such that arriving promptly and attending until the end of each class will directly help you maximize your grade.

You are expected to use laptops and/or tablets in a professional manner, if you choose to do so. This means that you use them for class-related purposes, and not for other things. If I notice this happening, I reserve the right to restrict permission to use these devices, either for an individual student(s) or for the entire class. Lectures should not be recorded without my prior permission; see me if you wish to discuss this.

You are expected to behave in a respectful manner toward your peers and instructor. When differing opinions emerge in class discussions, I expect you to maintain a civil and professional tone. You can expect me (the instructor) to do the same. If you engage in behavior that is overtly disrespectful, disruptive to the class, threatening, or harmful toward others in the room, you may be asked to leave the class for the day.

You are expected to check Canvas and email regularly, and to communicate professionally through this means. Please use Canvas only (not email) for electronic course-related communication. I expect you to communicate professionally via Canvas, just as in class.

## Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

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**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.

### **GE Area D: Social Sciences**

Area D 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. 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.

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

### GE Area D Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of an Area D 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;
4. draw on social/behavioral science information from various perspectives to formulate applications appropriate to historical and/or contemporary social issues.

**Writing Practice:** Students will write a minimum of 1500 words in a language and style appropriate to the discipline.

## Course Materials

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### Essentials of psychology

**Author:** Nevid, J. S.

**Publisher:** Cengage Learning

**Edition:** 5th Edition

**Year:** 2022

## Course Requirements and Assignments

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### Grading Information

Grading will be based on the following assignments:

#### **Syllabus Quiz: 1 point**

A short quiz on the syllabus is the first assignment. This is designed to make sure you are aware of its content as we start this course. You will have until **Monday, August 25th by 11:59 PM** to complete the quiz via Canvas. The quiz will be worth 1% of your final grade.

#### **Canvas Discussion: 9 points (2.25x4)**

There are a total of 4 canvas discussions across the course and each discussion post is worth three points. These discussions are meant to encourage critical thinking and apply the course content to "bigger picture" concepts. The due dates are posted on Canvas for each discussion post and below in

the course schedule.

Over the course of the term, you are required to submit responses to discussion board prompts, to submit your own questions, and to comment on your peers' questions. Therefore, you ought to do the readings in advance of the discussion board postings and come prepared to ask questions and share your thoughts about the materials.

These should be posted to CANVAS in response to questions/posting from me and/or your peers' questions/responses. The quality of your comments is more important than the length of your comments. Keep your remarks concise: no more than 150 words. These comments ought to reflect a thoughtful reading of the material in order to receive full credit. Failure to submit comments/questions on the discussion boards on time will negatively impact this portion of your grade (late comments/questions will not count).

### **Research Participation: (6 points)**

#### **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 45 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.

Over the fifteen-week semester, students are expected to dedicate 135 hours to a three-unit course, inclusive of attending lectures, reading course materials, etc. In other words, students are expected to dedicate 9 hours a week to this course, inclusive of all course activities.

#### **Department of Psychology Research Participation**

An important part of the educational experience of Psyc 1 is not only learning about important facts and findings from scientific research in psychology but also serving as a participant in research in psychology. Broad exposure to a variety of research methodologies (experiments, correlational studies, lab studies, online studies, etc.) will provide experiential knowledge for students. This experience contributes to **Course Learning Objective 2**, as well aligning with **Program Learning Outcome 2** (Research Methods in Psychology).

Thus, it is mandated for Psyc 1 courses that each student obtain a certain number of hours as a participant in research studies in the department. Research participation will count towards your course grade.

You can view available studies offered by the psychology department and sign up for the research participation on the SONA online system: <https://sjsu.sona-systems.com/>

Details on how to set up an account in SONA in order to participate in research is included in the distributed handout and on the psychology department's website: <https://www.sjsu.edu/psych/resources/research-pool.php>

There are several requirements by the department in order to receive full credit for research participation:

- 1) All students should complete at least one hour of their required research hours by October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 2) Half of your research credit participation or 2 credit hours of your 4 hours must be in-person lab studies.

Lab studies are studies that require your physical attendance at an experiment held on campus, as opposed to online studies that include virtual participation in research.

Research participation will be treated as a course assignment worth 6% of the final course grade (i.e., 12 points). But to obtain the full 6%, you will need to complete 4 hours of research participation. Anything less than 4 hours will result in less than 6%. (1.5% per hour):

- For students unable to participate in research studies due to age, lack of time, or missed appointments (see no-show policy), there is an option to complete an alternative assignment that will count towards your research requirement hours for the semester. Please see the distributed handouts on the alternative assignment for details on the requirements.
- All research hours and alternative assignments must be completed by **December 8<sup>th</sup>**.

#### Department of Psychology Policy for Awarding Research Hours for Partial Completion

For psychology students at SJSU, research participation is a requirement for completion of the Psyc 1 General Psychology course. However, it is the view of the department that **proportional credit** can be given in that points awarded should be commensurate with the effort expended by participants in studies.

Consistent with IRB ethical guidelines, participants can always elect to withdraw from a study for any reason. In these cases, credit will be granted in proportion to the amount of the study completed, with a minimum credit of 0.25 hours.

In cases where participants complete a study unreasonably quickly, credit will be granted in proportion to the amount of the study completed, with a minimum credit of 0.25 hours.

#### **Exams: 60 points (4x15) CLOs 1-4**

Four non-cumulative exams will be given during the semester. Exam dates are listed in the Course Schedule section. Exams are multiple choice, covering material from lectures and textbook chapters. Each exam will have several questions from lecture material that is not covered in the text, so it is important to come to class regularly (attendance counts).

Exams will be accessible via Canvas on the due date. A student can start the exam at any time during that time window; from the time that the student accesses the exam, they will have 90 minutes to complete it. Although the exam is open-book, the time limit will make it challenging to consult with notes, the textbook, and lectures for every question. Thus, students should study in advance and be very familiar with the material. **Exams that are not submitted on time will receive a grade of 0.**

Students are not permitted to consult with each other regarding exam questions; any indication that students have shared information about the exam, copied from one another, or engaged in any other form of academic dishonesty will result in a report to the Academic Judiciary

### Final Exam: 24 points CLOs 1-4

The final exam for this course will be held Monday 12/15 10:45 AM -12:45 PM.

Final exams are governed by University Policy S06-4 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S06-4.pdf>) which states that *"There shall be an appropriate final examination or evaluation at the scheduled time in every course, unless specifically exempted by the college dean who has curricular responsibility for the course."* Consistent with this policy, final exams will only be given at alternative times if (a) there are verifiable emergency circumstances or (b) if a student has more than two exams scheduled within a 24-hour period, in which case the student must contact the instructor *at least three weeks before the last regular class meeting* to schedule an alternative exam time.

There will be an in-person final exam worth 24 points. These will be similar in format to chapter exams, but about 1.5-2 times the length. The final exam will be cumulative, and it will assess your knowledge of core concepts and their real-world applications. Prior to the final exam, the instructor will specify which points on each study guide will be emphasized on the final exam.

**Total Points: 100**

## ✓ Grading Information

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Letter Grade	Percent
A+	97 or higher
A	93 to 96.99
A-	90 to 92.99
B+	87 to 89.99
B	83 to 86.99

B-	80 to 82.99
C+	77 to 79.99
C	73 to 76.99
C-	70 to 72.99
D+	67 to 69.99
D	63 to 66.99
D-	60 to 62.99
F	<60

Extra credit opportunities may be provided for students up to 4 grade points (~2 percentage points) of the total course grade. No more than 4 total grade points may be earned from these assignments and extra participation points combined. For opportunities involving attendance at an event held at a fixed time (e.g., attending a research talk), a functionally equivalent alternative will be made available for students who cannot attend due to a conflict with class or work schedules. *All extra assignments will be made available to the entire class; the instructor will not arrange extra credit opportunities for individual students.*

Late work: Late work is not accepted in this class. Students who miss exams for other reasons will receive a zero for that exam.

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to cheating on exams and assignments and turning in work that is not your own (in part or in whole). Notes, textbooks, and other resources may be used on exams. All cases of suspected and/or confirmed academic dishonesty will be reported to the University, per University policy. Penalties for academic dishonesty may range from a grade of zero on the assignment in question to expulsion from the University, depending on severity of the infraction. See University Policies (below) for full info.

## Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

This policy covers any generative AI tool (e.g., ChatGPT, Elicit, etc.) used to produce text, artwork, graphics, video or audio. You are NOT allowed to use AI tools for exams, assignments or extra credit opportunities UNLESS given direct permission from your instructor to do so. You may use AI tools to help generate ideas, but note that the material generated by these programs may be inaccurate, incomplete, or otherwise problematic as AI tool use may stifle your independent thinking and creativity. Please contact your instructor if you are unsure or have questions BEFORE using AI for this class. If after discussion with your instructor, AI is permitted to be used, you must indicate what part of the assignment was created by AI and what was created by you. No more than 20% of an assignment should be created with AI. Any AI tool use without the permission of the instructor will be counted as plagiarism. *AI policy was revised from policies by Sandy Fyfe and Holly Fernandez-Lynch.*

## University Policies

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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

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# PSYC1, Introduction to Psychology, Fall 2025 Schedule

This is a tentative schedule of lecture topics, assignment due dates, and quiz/exam dates. The instructor reserves the right to change any aspect of the schedule, topics, readings, and exam dates with fair notice. Any changes in the content or timing of assignments or exams will be given at least one week in advance.

Date	Topic	Textbook Chapter/ Assigned Reading	Due Dates
Wed, 8/20	Introduction to Psychology	Ch. 1	8/25/25
	- Syllabus Quiz		

Mon, 8/25 Wed, 8/27	Biological Bases of Psychology	Ch. 2	
Mon, 9/1	<b>NO CLASS – LABOR DAY</b>		
Wed, 9/3 Mon, 9/8	Sensation & Perception	Ch. 3	
	<i>Discussion Post 1</i>		<b>8/29/25</b>
Wed, 9/10	States of consciousness	Ch. 4	
Mon, 9/15	<i>Exam 1 review session</i>		
Wed, 9/17	<b>Exam 1: Chapters 1-4</b>		<b>ONLINE</b>
Mon, 9/22 Wed, 9/24	Learning	Ch. 5	
Mon, 9/29 Wed, 10/1	Memory	Ch. 6	
Mon, 10/6 Wed, 10/8	Cognitive Psychology	Ch. 7	
	<i>Discussion Post 2</i>		<b>10/10/25</b>
Mon, 10/13	<i>Exam 2 review session</i>		
Wed, 10/15	<b>Exam 2: Chapters 5-7</b>		<b>ONLINE</b>
Mon, 10/20	Motivation and Emotion	Ch. 8	

Wed, 10/22 Mon, 10/27	Human Development	Ch. 9	
Wed, 10/29	Health Psychology	Ch. 10	
	<i>Discussion Post 3</i>		10/31/25
Mon, 11/3	<i>Exam 3 review session</i>		
Wed, 11/5	<b>Exam 3: Chapters 8-10</b>		<b>ONLINE</b>
Mon, 11/10 Wed, 11/12	Personality	Ch. 11	
Mon, 11/17 Wed, 11/19	Social Psychology	Ch. 12	
Mon, 11/24	Abnormal Psychology	Ch. 13	
Wed, 11/26	<b>NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>		
Mon 12/1	Methods of Therapy	Ch. 14	
	<i>Discussion Post 4</i>		12/5/25
Wed 12/3	<i>Exam 4 review session</i>		
Mon 12/8	<b>Exam 4: Chapters 11-14</b>		<b>ONLINE</b>
Mon 12/15	<b>Final Exam</b>		