

Introduction to Psychology

PSYC 1

Fall 2025 Section 62 In Person 3 Unit(s) 08/20/2025 to 12/08/2025 Modified 08/18/2025

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Bianca Hinojosa

Email: bianca.hinojosa@sjsu.edu

About me

My name is Dr. Bianca Hinojosa, and I received my PhD in Health Psychology at the University of California Merced. I am the child of Mexican immigrants and was born and raised in Fresno, CA. I have a bachelors degree in cognitive science and a masters degree in experimental psychology. My research focuses on how intergroup processes influence peoples' health and well-being. In particular, I am interested in how healthcare workers' implicit attitudes towards Latinx people influence medical decision making for their Latinx patients.

What to call me?

Please refer to me as Dr. Hinojosa.

CANVAS AND EMAIL

Canvas will be a critical source of course-related information throughout the term. Consequently, so will your email account. Any changes to the lecture or course schedule will be posted on this site. In addition, lecture slides, grades, and other materials will be posted there. You are expected to check the Canvas website and/or your email account at least once a day, and ideally more, for course related materials and announcements. Failure to do so will not be a valid excuse for missing critical information.

How to email me:

Email Header: "PSYC 1"

Body of email:

"Hello Dr. Hinojosa,

I hope you are doing well. I have a question about ... Thank you for your time.

Best,

Student name (Student ID)"

When to email me:

- clarification on an assignment (at least 48 hours before the due date)
- setting up an appointment for office hours
- to inform me of a school sponsored activity that prevents you from attending class or taking an exam
- to inform me of an emergency/medical/family situation that will prevent you from taking an exam or turning an assignment in on time

When NOT to email me:

- to ask about due dates for an assignment (this information is in the class schedule)
- to ask when an exam is scheduled (this information is in the class schedule)
- to tell me you are missing class

Office Hours

Tuesday, Thursday, 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM, DMH 319

Or by appointment

Course Information

Lecture

Tuesday, Thursday, 3:00 PM to 4:15 PM, DMH 358

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.

GE Area: D (formerly GE Area D1)

Letter Graded

* Classroom Protocols

LATE WORK

I understand that sometimes circumstances such as illnesses, family emergencies can make it difficult or impossible to complete an assignment on time. If you need an extension, please contact me as soon as possible. Late assignments will receive a 10% point reduction for each day they are late, up to 5 days (50% off). After 5 or more days, assignments will not be accepted and the student will receive a 0 for the assignment.

ONE TIME 24-HOUR EXTENSION

Each student has the option to use a one time 24-hour extension from the due date and time for either Assignment 1, 2, or 3, no questions asked. You must leave a comment in the assignment submission that you are using your one time 24-hour extension or I may dock you the 10% late penalty. You do not need to email me you are using the extension. You may not use this for annotating textbook chapters, the final poster assignment, SONA, or extra credit.

GRADE REVIEW POLICY

If you believe that you have unfairly missed points on an exam or assignment, you must make an appointment with the professor to go over the exam or assignment within one week of receiving your grade. If you do not make an appointment within one week of receiving your grade, the grade will be considered final.

AI POLICY

"Use of an AI Generator such as ChatGPT, MidJourney, DALL-E, etc. is explicitly prohibited... by the instructor. The information derived from these tools is based on previously published materials. Therefore, using these tools without proper citation constitutes plagiarism. Additionally, be aware that the information derived from these tools is often inaccurate or incomplete. It's imperative that all work submitted should be your own. Any assignment that is found to have been plagiarized or to have used unauthorized AI tools may receive a zero and / or be reported for academic misconduct." Tara Perrin, Middle Tennessee State University

All written assignments will be submitted in Canvas through Turnitin. Turnitin is a plagiarism detection software that also detects the use of AI. **Any student found to be using AI in their assignments will receive a zero.** AI includes AI generated content, paraphrased content, using it to check grammar, using it to check spelling, submitting your paper into any AI tool to get feedback. Many grammar checkers use AI to edit grammar and spelling. This is still considered AI use and will result in a zero. If you have any questions please contact the professor at least 24 hours before your submission to talk about AI. As a rule of thumb, do not put your writing into any portal asking for it to give you edits, 99.9% of the time this is AI.

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT

Some of the materials in this course are possibly copyrighted. They are intended for use only by students registered and enrolled in this course and only for instructional activities associated with and for the duration of the course. They may not be retained in another medium or disseminated further. They are provided in compliance with the provisions of the Teach Act.

Program Information

SJSU Cares

[SJSU Cares \(https://www.sjsu.edu/sjsucares/\)](https://www.sjsu.edu/sjsucares/) "provides comprehensive support for students facing financial crises, including emergency assistance, housing and food resources, and access to mental health services. Our goal is to ensure every student has the resources needed to succeed academically and personally. Connect with us for personalized guidance and support through life's challenges."

University Policies/Resources

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University's Academic Integrity policy, located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm>, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>. Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act:

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec/> to establish a record of their disability.

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:

Psychology Librarian:

Christa Bailey christa.bailey@sjsu.edu 408-808-2422

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs and other technological resources for students can be found in various places on campus such as:

- [Student Computing Services \(MLK Library\)](https://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services) (<https://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services>)
- [Associated Students Print and Technology Center](https://www.sjsu.edu/as/departments/print-shop/index.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/as/departments/print-shop/index.php>)

Academic Advising

[Academic Advising](https://www.sjsu.edu/socsci-ssc/academic-advising/index.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/socsci-ssc/academic-advising/index.php>)

SJSU Peer Connections

[Peer Connections](https://www.sjsu.edu/peerconnections/index.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/peerconnections/index.php>) website “offers free mentoring, tutoring, and supplemental instruction services for students at SJSU. Peer Educators are students just like you; they understand the triumphs and challenges of being a student at San José State University.”

SJSU Writing Center

The [SJSU Writing Center](https://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/>) “offers a variety of resources to help students become better writers, and all of our services are free for SJSU students.”

SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services

[SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services](https://www.sjsu.edu/wellness/access-services/counseling/index.php?utm_source=counseling&utm_medium=301&utm_campaign=wellnessrelaunch) (https://www.sjsu.edu/wellness/access-services/counseling/index.php?utm_source=counseling&utm_medium=301&utm_campaign=wellnessrelaunch) invites “all students to come into Counseling and Psychological Services, located at the Student Wellness Center, room 300B, for any support needed.”

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

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

Psychology in the Real World

Author: Jennifer Harper

Publisher: Soomo Learning

Price: 50.00

Course Requirements and Assignments

PARTICIPATION

Each class day during lecture you will complete an in-class participation activity. This activity can take many forms including small groups, discussion, individual work etc. I will drop the 4 lowest participation activities.

TEXTBOOK CHAPTER READINGS

For each chapter in the online textbook you will be assigned in-text questions to complete. Please refer to the class schedule for due dates.

Textbook chapter readings contribute to **Program Learning Outcome 1** (Knowledge Base of Psychology), **Outcome 2** (Critical Thinking Skills), and **Outcome 4** (Applications of Psychology).

TEXTBOOK CHAPTER QUIZZES

At the end of each textbook chapter you will complete an online quiz embedded in the textbook chapter. Please refer to the class schedule for due dates.

Textbook chapter quizzes contribute to **Program Learning Outcome 1** (Knowledge Base of Psychology), **Outcome 2** (Critical Thinking Skills), and **Outcome 4** (Applications of Psychology).

EXAMS

Exams will consist of multiple-choice questions. The exams will cover material from that section of class only; these exams are not cumulative.

Exam questions will cover any materials discussed in class lectures and anything from the reading. There will be material on the exam that we will not discuss in class; therefore, you should complete all assigned readings. Likewise, there will be material on the exam that is not in your textbook. Therefore, it is important that you attend lectures. The emphasis in this class will be on ideas, theories, and research more than on names, dates, and statistics.

Arrive on time for exams. If you arrive after the first student has finished an exam, you may not take the exam. If you must miss an exam for emergency reasons (e.g., illness, family death) or for a university sponsored activity, you must contact me in advance and provide appropriate documentation within 24 hours after the exam. It is your responsibility to learn the time and place of the make-up exam. I reserve the right to create a new exam for anyone who needs a make-up, and that exam will be in essay form.

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment 1 (Covering Ch. 1-4):

50 pts: Psychology in Real Life

Psychology is best understood in-context, and thus you will have the opportunity to apply course concepts to real-life psychological matters.

Your task for this project is to 1) describe a psychological theory or concept from Ch. 1 -4 in our textbook of interest to you and 2) write a short, in-depth response about how that theory/concept relates to your Self, a friend or family member, or life situations.

Entries should be **750 words**, 1" margins size, 12pt times new roman font, and DOUBLE SPACED.

A rubric will be posted in Canvas with exact instructions and point breakdowns.

This assignment will be graded and returned to you 2 weeks after the due date. You will have the opportunity to redo the assignment and turn it in 1 week after receiving feedback. Please refer to the class schedule for due dates.

Assignment 1 contributes to **Program Learning Outcome 1** (Knowledge Base of Psychology) **Outcome 2** (Critical Thinking Skills) and **Outcome 4** (Applications of Psychology).

Assignment 2 (Covering Ch. 5-10):

50 pts: Demonstrate a Psychological Concept

By yourself or with up to four other students (i.e., groups of 2-5) pick your favorite psychological concept from Ch. 5-10 and demonstrate it in a video. You can act it out, interview a few friends, create a newscast, or anything else you can dream up; just be creative. This assignment is meant to be fun, but also to demonstrate your understanding and knowledge of the concept you choose. I should be able to show your video to someone unfamiliar with the topic for him/her to learn about the concept. Videos must be at least 1:30 minutes in length but should not exceed 4:00 minutes. Please make sure that you and your partner(s), if applicable, appear in the video at least once, even if it is just to introduce yourselves and your project.

Videos must be uploaded to Canvas by the due date.

If you do not have access to a video recording device like a phone, digital camera, or a webcam, or you do not know how to upload a video to Canvas, you should team up with a partner who does. If you cannot find a partner, please notify me and I will make an announcement in class.

A rubric will be posted in Canvas with exact instructions and point breakdowns.

Assignment 2 contributes to **Program Learning Outcome 1** (Knowledge Base of Psychology) **Outcome 2** (Critical Thinking Skills) and **Outcome 4** (Applications of Psychology).

Final Assignment Psychology Poster:

100 pts: By yourself you will select a peer-reviewed psychological research article based on a topic discussed in class or in your textbook and create a poster based on the selected research article.

During the last two class sessions we will hold a mock psychology poster session where you will present your poster to your classmates. During a poster session you generally stand by your poster and wait for people to come up and talk to you about what your poster is on. Half of the class will present their poster while the other half walks around and completes a handout about two posters. The professor will randomly select which students are in the first or second presentation days.

The posters must be completed on a cardboard standup poster. These posters can be found at many stores including Dollar Tree, CVS, Walgreens, and big box stores.

We will discuss this assignment in more detail during class time including how to find a research article.

A rubric will be posted in Canvas with exact instructions and point breakdowns.

This assignment contributes to **Program Learning Outcome 2** (Research Methods in Psychology).

Department of Psychology Research Completion (Revised for Fall 2025)

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 4, 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 handout and on the psychology department's website.

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 st .
- 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. 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)

- If you elect to not participate in research, you can consider the alternative assignment option for full or partial credit for your research hours. 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 th .

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.

Extra Credit (Up to 5 points)

Community Building

The purpose of the community building extra credit is so that you can forge connections and build community with other students in this class.

To earn 1 point of extra credit you must attend and support a student at a community building event and document that you attended the event (ideally document it with the student involved in the event. To document the event, you will submit a picture of yourself at the event (ideally including the person who invited you) and the flyer/schedule/brochure/handout of the event to Canvas. These events include but are not limited to club events (outside speaker), dance recital, music recital, sport game or match, library event, theater play or musical.

You can earn up to 5 points of extra credit aka attend 5 events.

The professor will create a discussion board for students to advertise their events so others can go and support.

Grading Information

Your letter grade will be assigned according to the following percentage scale:

A+ = 97.00% or greater

A = 94.00%-96.99%

A- = 90.00%-93.99%

B+ = 87.00%-89.99%

B = 84.00%-86.99%

B- = 80.00%-83.99%

C+ = 77.00%-79.99%

C = 74.00%-76.99%

C- = 70.00%-73.99%

D+ = 67.00-69.99%

D = 64.00%-66.99%

D- = 60.00%-63.99%

F = 59.99% or less

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

	Lectures	Chapter Reading Q's & Quizzes	Assignments
Week 1			
8/21	Syllabus		
Week 2			
8/26	What is Psychology		
8/28	Research Methods		
Friday 8/29		Chapter 1: Introduction to Psychology due 8/29	
Week 3			
9/2	The Brain and the Nervous System		

9/4	The Brain and the Nervous System		
Friday 9/5		Chapter 2: The Brain and the Nervous System due 9/5	
Week 4			
9/9	Consciousness		
9/11	Consciousness		
Friday 9/12		Chapter 3: Consciousness due 9/12	
Week 5			
9/16	Learning		
9/18	Exam 1		
Friday 9/19		Chapter 4: Learning due 9/19	
Week 6			
9/23	Motivation		Assignment 1 due 9/23
9/25	Motivation		
Friday 9/26		Chapter 5: Motivation due 9/26	

Week 7			
9/30	Memory		
10/2	Memory		
Friday 10/3		Chapter 6: Memory due 10/3	
Week 8			
10/7	Development		
10/9	Development		
Friday 10/10		Chapter 7: Development due 10/10	
Week 9			
10/14	Personality and the Self		Assignment 1 redo due 10/14
10/16	Personality and the Self		
Friday 10/17		Chapter 8: Personality and the Self due 10/17	
Week 10			
10/21	Exam 2		
10/23	Social Psychology		

Friday, 10/24			
Week 11			
10/28	Social Psychology		
10/30	Stress and Well-Being		
Friday 10/31		Chapter 9: Social Psychology due 10/31	
Week 12			
11/4	Stress and Well-Being		Assignment 2 due 11/4
11/6	Physical and Mental Health Day, No class		
Friday 11/7		Chapter 10: Stress and Well-Being due 11/7	
Week 13			
11/11	No class		
11/13	Mental Health		
Friday 11/14			
Week 14			
11/18	Mental Health		

11/20	Exam 3		
Friday 11/15		Chapter 11: Mental Health due 11/15	
Week 15			
11/25	No meeting, time to work on poster		
11/27	No class		
Week 16			
12/2	Class Presentations		Poster due in class
12/4	Class Presentations		Poster due in class
Week 17			
<u>Monday</u> , 12/8			SONA due, 12/8 Extra credit due, 12/8