PSYC 100W: Writing Workshop Section 07

San Jose State University Spring 2025
Department of Psychology
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Lecture Location: Sweeney Hall Room 315
Lecture Hours: Monday and Wednesday 12:00 pm – 1:15 pm
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Office Hours: Monday 2:00 – 3:00 pm and Thursday 3:00 – 4:00 pm

Course Description

In this class, you will practice and improve writing skills appropriate to the broad field of psychology, including essays, reports, and scholarly communication. The goals of 100W are that students will develop advanced proficiency in college-level writing and appropriate contemporary research strategies and methodologies to communicate effectively to both specialized and general audiences. This class reinforces and advances skills developed in Written Communication IA and IB, and then broadens and deepens these to include mastery of the discourse specific to the discipline in which the course is taught.

Course Format

This course will be taught in-person live (synchronous) and will have assignments and content accessed through Canvas. You are responsible for regularly checking Canvas for any updates regarding assignments, materials, and exams.

Important Note about Course Grade: This course must be passed with a C or better as an SJSU graduation requirement.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

Learning Outcomes (LOs) are specific, measurable goals and objectives that students have demonstrated upon successful completion of the course. 100W is designed to address three levels of Learning Outcomes:

1. **GE/SJSU Learning Outcomes (SLOs):** These are outcomes mandated by General Education.

2. **Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs):** These are outcomes for this specific course. For Psychology 100W, Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) are the discipline-specific ways in which the general GE/SJSU learning outcomes (LOs) for 100W (Area Z) will be fulfilled. The specific CLOs for this course contribute to the overall experience, learning opportunities, and Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) students are exposed to when completing the SJSU Psychology Major.

3. **Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs):** These outcomes refer to the broad goals of the SJSU Psychology Major program. The SJSU Psychology Major is designed to address 5 broad PLOs.

These PLOs are outcomes students should be able to demonstrate after having successfully completed the Psychology Major.

GE/SJSU Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

Students shall write complete essays that demonstrate college-level proficiency. Students shall be able to:

SLO 1. Produce discipline-specific written work that demonstrates upper-division proficiency in: language use

grammar

clarity of expression
SLO 2. Explain, analyze, develop, and criticize ideas effectively, including ideas encountered in multiple readings and expressed in different forms of discourse.

SLO 3. Organize and develop essays and documents for both professional and general audiences, according to appropriate editorial and citation standards.

SLO 4. Locate, organize, and synthesize information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose, and to communicate that purpose in writing.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

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 in 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 that 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 psychology major requirements…

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.

GE requirements for 100W stipulate that students shall write a minimum of 8000 words over the course of the semester and that they shall be provided with frequent practice and feedback for improving their communication skills.

Additional Recommended Readings and Resources

- APA's Academic Writer (AW). Can be purchased through the SJSU bookstore website: Please search for "Academic Writer" and buy "APA ACADEMIC WRITER-ACCESS CODE"
- American Psychological Association (2020). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th Ed.).
- Condensed version of the American Psychological Assoc. (2020). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th Ed.)
- 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/

Other Readings

All other readings such as journal articles will be posted on Canvas.

Other Technology Requirements/Equipment/Material

- Regular access to a computer and internet connection.
- SJSU Library: Psychology-specific tutorials, database search, resources

Library Liaison

Christa Bailey 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. Phone: (408) 808-2422 Email: christa.bailey@sjsu.edu

Course Canvas Site

The course Canvas site is your online resource for this course. This site includes:

- Course announcements
- Links to web pages that will be of use to you throughout the course
- Lecture slides, handouts, and articles
- Assignment submission inboxes
- Rubrics and feedback for major assignments
- Your grades

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.

Details for each assignment are provided in lectures and in assignment descriptions on Canvas. Assignment descriptions (as well as other useful resources) can be found on the course Canvas site. The major skills and associated assignments include (but are not limited to):

- **Basic skills review** (e.g., plagiarism tutorials, research skills tutorials, APA formatting)
- **Evaluating information sources**

- **APA style**
- **Article summaries and evaluations**
- **Literature review on a topic of your choice, including the following components:** Multiple incremental assignments to complete parts of the final Literature Review Instructor meetings to review progress and clarify questions Peer Reviews at incremental stages.

Literature Review

You will be able to revise and resubmit your work in response to feedback from the instructor, Writing Tutor, and peer reviewer (and peer) feedback and resubmit.

> **Incremental Literature Review Assignments**
> To prepare you for the major paper for this course (a literature review -see description below), you will write various drafts that will help you to learn how to read, understand, and accurately report psychological research findings, develop synthesis skills by describing how studies build upon one another, and apply APA style to your writing.
>
> **Peer Reviews**
> The best way to become a better writer is to review other people's writing -I know this from experience. Therefore, a regular part of our class will involve reviewing each other's work and giving constructive feedback. You will be amazed at how helpful this is!
>
> **Major Paper for this Course** The major paper you will be writing for this course is an **APA-style literature review** (at least 2000 words including title page and references, with 10 or more scholarly, peer-reviewed references). The goal of a literature review is to *answer a research question* by describing and *synthesizing* relevant theory and research findings relevant to the question. You will be developing your final literature review in several assignments, including (but not limited to):
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> - **Literature Review Proposal** in which you develop, with help from the instructor and Writing Tutor, a research question appropriate to the discipline of psychology and to the requirements of the course.
> - **Microsummaries Assignment** in which you summarize and compare two scholarly, peer-reviewed sources relevant to your literature review topic using databases and other resources appropriate to psychological research.
> - **Literature Review Preliminary Drafts** in which you receive instructor/tutor 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 total
>   - Draft 3: 1800 words (including your revised Drafts 1 & 2), synthesizing 9-10 scholarly resources total
> - **Peer Reviews** in which you receive feedback from your in-classmate partner and revise your paper as needed.

- **Literature Review Final Draft:** Must be at least 2000 words (including title page and references list) with at least 10 scholarly, peer-reviewed sources

Success in this Course

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 three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course-related activities.

Grade Break Down

Assignments	% of grade
In-Class Assignments	30%
Homework Assignments	20%
Lit Review Assignments	20%
Final Paper	30%

Final Letter Grade Scale

Grade	Percentage
A	93 to 100%
A minus	90 to 92%
B plus	86 to 89 %
B	83 to 85%
B minus	80 to 82%
C plus	76 to 79%
C	73 to 75%
C minus	70 to 72%
D plus	66 to 69%
D	63 to 65%
D minus	60 to 62%

Plagiarism and Use of AI

Due to the nature of this course, the use of Generative AI in assignments is strictly prohibited. Course assignments are opportunities for developing writing skills, critical thinking, and applying your acquired knowledge. Your individual effort and creativity are essential in demonstrating your understanding of the course material. Dependence on AI in this writing workshop undermines these objectives and compromises the integrity of the learning process. All assignments turned in should be your original work, therefore the use of generative AI (such as ChatGPT and Gemini) to create text that will be used directly in your assignments, will be considered plagiarism. You may use AI tools to help summarize articles as a study tool, or to generate ideas during discussions to explore different perspectives. However, it is important to ensure that AI use remains within the boundaries of academic integrity by **only turning in your own writing**.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/.

Course Schedule

Assignments are subject to change. Any changes will be posted and updated on Canvas, please check Canvas regularly for announcements and updated deadlines.

Date	Topic:	Assignments:
Week 1: Wednesday Aug 20	Syllabus, Course Intro	
Week 2: Monday Aug 25	Identifying Reliable Sources	ADHD and TikTok Article Questions
Week 2: Wednesday Aug 27	Searching for Academic Articles	Review SJSU Psychology Library Research Guide
Week 3: Monday Sep 1	APA Citations and References Page	
Week 3: Wednesday Sep 3	Active versus Passive Voice	
Week 4: Monday Sep 8	Objectivity in Scholarly Writing	Paramedic Method Assignment
Week 4: Wednesday Sep 10	Breaking Down a Scholarly Article	
Week 5: Monday Sep 15	Using 'et al.' for In-Text Citations	
Week 5: Wednesday Sep 17	How to Write a Microsummary	
Week 6: Monday Sep 22	Introducing the Literature Review	1st Microsummary
Week 6: Wednesday Sep 24	Identifying Your Paper Topic	
Week 7: Monday Sep 29	Using the 3-Point Method	
Week 7: Wednesday Oct 1	Literature Review Proposals	Literature Review Topic + Subtopics Proposal
Week 8: Monday Oct 6	1-on-1 Instructor Meetings	
Week 8: Wednesday Oct 8	Creative Writing Workshop	
Week 9: Monday Oct 13	Starting Draft 1	3 Microsummaries for Subtopic 1
Week 9: Wednesday Oct 15	Signal Sentences and Transitions	
Week 10: Monday Oct 20	Paper Checklist and Grading Rubric	

Week 10: Wednesday Oct 22	Draft 1 Peer Review	Draft 1
Week 11: Monday Oct 27	1-on-1 Instructor Meetings	
Week 11: Wednesday Oct 29	Adding Your Second Subtopic	Review Signal Sentences and Transitions
Week 12: Monday Nov 3	Review of Writing Resources; Creative Writing Workshop	
Week 12: Wednesday Nov 5	Draft 2 Peer Review and 1-on-1 Instructor Meetings	Draft 2
Week 13: Monday Nov 10	1-on-1 Meetings continued; Professional Writing Workshop	
Week 13: Wednesday Nov 12	Adding Your Third Subtopic	
Week 14: Monday Nov 17	Draft 3 Peer Review and 1-on-1 Instructor Meetings	Draft 3
Week 14: Wednesday Nov 19	1-on-1 Instructor Meetings continued; Catch Up Work Day	
Week 15: Monday Nov 24	Writing the Conclusion: Final Draft of Literature Review	
Week 15: Wednesday Nov 26	No Class - Thanksgiving Break	
Week 16: Monday Dec 1	Peer Review of Conclusion Paragraph	
Week 16: Wednesday Dec 3	Final Paper Presentations	Final Presentations Due
Week 17: Monday Dec 8	Final Paper Presentations	
Final Exam: Final Draft of Literature Review Paper due Friday, December 12		