

San José State University
Psychology Department
PSYC 018-61, Introduction to Research Methods, Summer 2022

Course and Contact Information

Instructor(s): My Ngoc (Amy) Nguyen

Office Location: DMH 232

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Office Hours: MW 10:30am – 11:30am in-person, via Zoom, or by appointment

Class Days/Time: MW 12:00 – 4:45pm

Classroom: DMH 358

Prerequisites: PSYC 001 or equivalent and STAT 095 or equivalent

Course Description

Psychological research methods and design (experimental, quasi-experimental [correlational], and descriptive investigations) covering observation, instrumentation, and the collection, analysis, interpretation, and reporting of research data as illustrated through a review of original research in a variety of the subdisciplines of psychology.

Course Format

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 section below for more information.

Canvas

Course materials such as the syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#). You are responsible for regularly checking Canvas to learn of any updates. For help with using Canvas, see [Canvas Student Resources page](#) at <https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/software-tools/teaching-tools/canvas/student-resources/index.php>.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

Upon successful completion of the requirements for a major in psychology, students will be able to:

- PLO1 - Knowledge Base of Psychology – demonstrate familiarity with major concepts, empirical findings, theoretical perspectives, and historical trends in psychology.
- PLO2 – Research methods in Psychology – design, implement, and communicate basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretations.
- PLO3 – Critical Thinking Skills – use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to behavior and mental processes.
- PLO4 – Applications of Psychology – apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues
- PLO5 – Values in Psychology – value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- CLO 1 – Demonstrate knowledge of the research process as it relates to behavioral research.
- CLO 2 – Distinguish between non-experimental, experimental, and quasi-experimental research methods.
- CLO 3 – Assess the threats to validity within a study.
- CLO 4 – Analyze a body of research findings.
- CLO 5 – Construct a research design that effectively tests original hypotheses.
- CLO 6 – Develop a research proposal in APA format
- CLO 7 – Discuss the importance of ethical principles when conducting research with human and animal participants
- CLO 8 – Present an oral presentation based on their completed research proposal

Required Readings

Textbook: Cozby, P.C., & Bates, S.C. (2018). *Methods in Behavioral Research* (14th ed.). McGraw Hill. ISBN: 1260205584 (**Textbook chapters can be found on Canvas**)

Suggested reading: American Psychological Association. (2019). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). ISBN: 978-1-4338-3217-8

Course Requirements and Assignments

Readings: Students should read the assigned chapters of the required textbook before the start of each class.

Quizzes (CLO1, CLO2): Students will complete 10 open-book quizzes based on the assigned chapter(s) for that day. Quizzes will be taken every day (unless stated otherwise in the course schedule) at the beginning of class and will contain critical thinking questions. Students will be given approximately 10 minutes to complete the quiz. Each quiz will be worth 12.5 points.

In-Class Assignments (CLO1, CLO2, CLO3, CLO4): Each class session will have two or more in-class assignments due at the end of class. In-class assignments will range from participation in group discussions, turning in reflections, or submitting completed word documents onto Canvas. Students will have a total of 15 in-class assignments with each assignment being worth 5 points. Please review the late policy regarding in-class assignments that are turned in late.

Final Paper: Research Proposal (CLO4, CLO5, CLO6, CLO7): To prepare students for conducting future research, students will be required to turn in a research proposal (**Due: 06/29/22**). A grading rubric for the research proposal can be found on Canvas. The research proposal must be at least 6 pages and **include the following: title page (1 page), abstract (1 page), literature review (2 -3 pages), proposed research (at least half a page), methods section (1 page) and references (1-4 pages)**. To help you stay on track, the aim of several in-class assignments is to help you get started on different sections of your research paper.

Formatting Requirements for Research Proposal: All papers must be typed, double-spaced, use 1-inch margins, 12-point font, Times New Roman, and adhere to APA format (7th edition). Please double-check for grammar and spelling errors before turning in your final paper to avoid having points deducted.

Final Presentation (CLO4, CLO5, CLO6, CLO7, CLO8)

In addition to your final paper, you will also present your research proposal to the class. This assignment is worth 125 points and is broken down into 3 parts: Presentation and slides (75 points) and feedback to peers (50 points).

Grading System

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| Quizzes = 10 quizzes (12.5 pts each, 125 pts total) | 25% |
| In-Class Assignments = 15 assignments (5 pts each, 75 pts total) | 15 % |
| Final Paper = 175 pts | 35% |
| Final Presentation = 125 pts | 25% |
| Total points = 500 | 100% |

Final Letter Grade Scale

| <i>Grade</i> | <i>Points</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| <i>A plus</i> | <i>960 to 1000</i> | <i>96 to 100%</i> |
| <i>A</i> | <i>930 to 959</i> | <i>93 to 95%</i> |
| <i>A minus</i> | <i>900 to 929</i> | <i>90 to 92%</i> |
| <i>B plus</i> | <i>860 to 899</i> | <i>86 to 89 %</i> |
| <i>B</i> | <i>830 to 859</i> | <i>83 to 85%</i> |
| <i>B minus</i> | <i>800 to 829</i> | <i>80 to 82%</i> |
| <i>C plus</i> | <i>760 to 799</i> | <i>76 to 79%</i> |
| <i>C</i> | <i>730 to 759</i> | <i>73 to 75%</i> |
| <i>C minus</i> | <i>700 to 729</i> | <i>70 to 72%</i> |
| <i>D plus</i> | <i>660 to 699</i> | <i>66 to 69%</i> |
| <i>D</i> | <i>630 to 659</i> | <i>63 to 65%</i> |
| <i>D minus</i> | <i>600 to 629</i> | <i>60 to 62%</i> |

- **Late assignments:** In-class assignments that are turned in past the due date will receive a 10% penalty from the earned score per late day. Quizzes cannot be made up or submitted late. However, as noted above, there will be multiple extra credit opportunities to earn back any missed points.
- **Grade changes:** Final grades will not be changed unless there was a clerical error.
- **Academic integrity:** Plagiarism, cheating, and any other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. The [University Academic Integrity Policy F15-7 \[pdf\]](#) requires you to be honest in all your academic coursework. If evidence of academic misconduct is found, you will receive a zero on the assignment(s) in question and I will file a report with the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. Visit the [Student Conduct and Ethical Development](#) website for more information.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](#), 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 [Syllabus Information web page](#) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Additional Information

Writing Center: The SJSU Writing Center offers a variety of free resources to help students become better writers. The center offers writing resources, workshops, and one-on-one and small-group tutoring sessions. Services support writing for students in all disciplines and at all levels. The SJSU Writing Center has two in-person locations, Clark Hall, Suite 126 and MLK Library, 2nd floor. Workshops and tutoring are also available through online platforms. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at [sjsu.edu/writingcenter](https://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter).

Academic Counseling Center for Excellence (ACCESS): ACCESS in the Social Sciences provides General Education advising, academic planning, graduation planning, mandatory freshman advising, probation advising, reinstatement and former student returning advising, career counseling, and tutoring (Statistics & Writing) for undergraduate students majoring or intending to major in any of the departments in the College of Social Sciences (CoSS). To schedule an appointment, visit the ACCESS website at <https://www.sjsu.edu/access/>.

Student Technology Resources: The [SJSU Learn Anywhere](https://www.sjsu.edu/learnanywhere) site (<https://www.sjsu.edu/learnanywhere>) has a number of helpful resources for learning in an online environment, including help with Zoom and Canvas, finding free or affordable internet and computer resources, FAQs, workshops, and more. Additionally, a wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from [Collaboration & Academic Technology Services](#) located in IRC Building. These items include, but are not limited to: Laptops, wifi hotspots, webcams, and wireless microphones.

Counseling and Psychological Services: The SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Carlos in the new Student Wellness Center, Room 300B. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide confidential consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate, or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit the Counseling and Psychological Services website at [sjsu.edu/counseling](https://www.sjsu.edu/counseling), call 408-924-5910, or email counseling.services@sjsu.edu.

Peer Connections: [Peer Connections](#) is your campus-wide resource for mentoring (time management, note taking, learning strategies, adjusting to college, etc.) and tutoring (including over 120 different courses and undergraduate writing). In addition, Peer Connections provides classroom support through Supplemental Instruction Leaders, Learning Assistants, Peer Mentors, and Embedded Tutors. Your instructor will announce if a Peer Educator is in your class. Peer Connections also has space for studying and offers breakfast snacks for students each day while supplies last. All services are FREE to SJSU students. For more information on services, hours, locations, or a list of current student success workshops, please visit the website at peerconnections.sjsu.edu.

SJSU Cares: Students experiencing challenges meeting their basic needs including, but not limited to, access to food, shelter, and a safe space are encouraged to contact [SJSU Cares](#). Students who feel that their class performance may be affected by these challenges are encouraged to notify their professors, if comfortable doing so. Faculty members may be able to provide flexibility within the course for students working with a case manager.

PSYC 018 / Introduction to Research Methods, Summer 2022, Course Schedule

| Week | Date (MW) | Topics | In-Class Assignments | Readings (Read before class) |
|-------------|------------------|--|--|---|
| 1 | Wed. Jun. 1 | Syllabus/Introduction Ch. 1: How do we study behavior? Ch. 2: Important terms/How to get started? Ch. 3: Ethics Ch. 4: Research issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quiz #1: Chapter 3 ● Quiz #2: Chapter 4 ● Assignment #1: Social bingo ● Assignment #2: Brainstorm | Chapter 1, 2, 3,4 |
| 2 | Mon. Jun 6 | Ch. 5: Measurement concepts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quiz #3: Chapter 5 ● Assignment #3: Narrowing down a research topic ● Assignment #4: Literature review outline | Chapter 5 |
| | Wed. Jun. 8 | Ch. 6: Observational methods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quiz #4: Chapter 6 ● Assignment #5: Evaluating references ● Assignment #6: Understanding measurement concepts | Chapter 6 |
| 3 | Mon. Jun. 13 | Ch. 7/Ch. 12: Survey, description, and correlation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quiz #5: Chapter 7/Chapter 12 ● Assignment #7: Quantitative/qualitative ● Assignment #8: Observational methods ● Assignment #9 - Survey research | Chapter 7 & Chapter 12 |
| | Wed. Jun. 15 | Ch. 8: Experimental designs Ch. 11: Single-case, quasi-experimental, developmental research design Ch. 9: Conducting experiments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quiz #6: Chapter 8/11 ● Quiz #7: Chapter 9 ● Assignment #10: Experimental design worksheet ● Assignment #11: Proposed research ● Assignment #12: Research measures/materials | Chapter 8, 11, & 9 |
| 4 | Mon. Jun 20 | Ch. 10: Complex Designs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quiz #8: Chapter 10 ● Assignment #13: Complex experimental designs | Chapter 10 |

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|---|--------------|---|---|------------|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assignment #14: Research procedure | |
| | Wed. Jun 22 | Ch. 13: Understanding Results and Research? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quiz #9: Chapter 13 ● Assignment #15: References | Chapter 13 |
| 5 | Mon. Jun. 27 | Ch. 14: Generalization | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quiz #10: Chapter 14 ● Check-in: Rough drafts | Chapter 14 |
| | Wed. Jun. 29 | Class Presentations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presentations ● Peer reviews ● Research Proposal due ● Presentation Slides due | |

* *The course schedule is subject to change. Any updates will be uploaded to Canvas.*