

**San José State University**  
**College of Social Sciences/Psychology**  
**PSYC 121-A,**

**Advanced Research Methods Social & Personality Seminar & Lab,**

**Section 10/11**

**Fall 2022**

**Course and Contact Information**

Instructor(s):	Sandra Trafalis, Ph.D
Office Location:	DMH 231
Telephone:	(408) 924-5614
Email:	Sandra.Trafalis@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Online: Thursday 1:00 – 2:00pm; Friday 4:30 – 6:30pm
Class Days/Time:	Fridays; 12:30 – 1:20pm; 1:30 - 4:15pm
Classroom:	Online via Zoom with link found in CANVAS
Prerequisites:	PSYC 100W, and PSYC 118 or PSYC 120, and PSYC 139 or PSYC 154.

**Course Description**

*Advanced treatment of research approaches used in social and personality psychology. The course focus is shared between traditional laboratory and fieldwork experimental designs and methods. Data collection and statistical data analysis facilitate experiential learning.*

**Course Format**

**The course is in an online format and there is a lecture and lab component to this course.**

**Program Information**

*Program Learning Outcomes*

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

- ☞ PLO1 – Knowledge Base of Psychology – identify, describe, and communicate the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, 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 in Psychology – use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to behavior and mental processes*
  - ☞ PLO4 – Application 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*
- insert any program or department information here as appropriate.*

## Course Goals

### Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

*The objective of this course is to provide you with a solid introduction to psychological research. We will examine the logic and strategies of scientific research and learn how to use statistics to draw conclusions from data. You will learn what research methods are available, when to use specific research methods, and how to interpret research results.*

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

- *CLO 1 Understand the differences and limitations of experimental and correlational research designs.*
- *CLO 2 Evaluate psychological research as to its reliability, validity, utility, and adherence to ethical guidelines.*
- *CLO 3 Identify threats to validity in research, including confounds and threats to generalizability.*
- *CLO 4: Execute a research project utilizing experimental design , collect data and interpret the results.*
- *CLO 5: Perform statistical analyses on data including descriptive statistics and inferential statistics .*
- *CLO6: Draw valid conclusions about the social phenomena studied based on the data collected.*
- *CLO7: Write a scientific research report to present the findings of your research study.*

*The learning objectives will be assessed via written assignments and exam questions. The learning objectives will be assessed via written assignments, presentations, discussion posts, and exam questions*

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

1. *Design and Conduct a research study in the area of Social & Personality Psychology*
2. *Discuss the strengths and limitations of their research study*
3. *Prepare a professional APA style empirical report*
4. *Analyze data appropriate to the experimental design and draw valid conclusions about the research data.*

## Texts/Readings

### Recommended Textbook

*Bordens, K. S. & Abbott, B. B. (2022). Research Design and Methods: A Process Approach. (11 ed.). McGraw Hill. 978-1-260-83701-8*

*American Psychological Association. (2019). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.*

### Other Readings

*Additional Readings will be posted to CANVAS*

### Other technology requirements / equipment / material

*SPSS (most current version)*

### Library Liaison

*Christa Bailey [christa.bailey@sjsu.edu](mailto:christa.bailey@sjsu.edu)*

## Course Requirements and Assignments

### Lab Activities

*There will be a total of 10 lab activities that are designed to complete critical milestones in the research project and practice research-related skills (e.g. how to develop an operational definition) and concepts (e.g., what is an operational definition). The lab activities will directly contribute to your ability to complete the final project. These activities will be worth 40%. Specific prompts for each of the lab activities are available online and achieve*

Please bear in mind that 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, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

### Final Evaluation

*Your final research project will be the final assessment of the course learning outcomes (CLO 1-7). This project is worth 60% of your grade. The final project will be an APA-style research paper that involves developing a literature review, designing a methodology, collecting data, analyzing the data, and reporting the results. This project is considered the culminating assignment for the course and is due on the day of the final exam.*

### Grading Information

Lab activities and the final research project will be assessed according to how well they align with mastery of the course learning objectives. Students will be given detailed feedback according to the course rubric and given the opportunity to revise their work and resubmit based on peer feedback and feedback from the instructor.

#### Determination of Grades

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

#### Rounding is Included in the Grading Scale

*The point totals reflect rounding up to the nearest percentage. For example, an A- would normally require 900 points (or 90% of 1000 points). With rounding, it only requires 896 points (or 89.6% of 1000 points). Because rounding is built in to the grading scale, your grade will be based on your final point total, rounded to the*

nearest whole point (so, 895.6 points is an A-, but 895.4 points is a B+). To be fair to everyone in the class, these are firm cutoffs.

### **Make-Up and Extension Policy**

*Make-ups or extensions for any graded assignment will only be given when:*

☞ *You notify me immediately after you become aware of the circumstances requiring a make-up*

☞ *The reason is exceptional, unforeseen, and/or unavoidable. Some examples of exceptional unforeseen circumstances are but not limited to getting sick, health emergencies, religious obligations, and military service.*

### **Classroom Protocol**

*How to be Successful in this Course*

§ *Review the current week's module*

§ *Read all material assigned in the module*

§ *Complete all activities and assignments assigned in the module;*

§ *Complete project related assignments and activities, individual activities & group activities*

§ *Complete the final research project*

§ *Participate in weekly lab meetings with your research group*

§ *Ask questions when you get stuck, I will do my best to answer them or refer you to university resource, as needed.*

§ *Utilize the lab to complete individual and lab group assignments and obtain instructor feedback*

§ *Email me through CANVAS or at the Email on the syllabus above*

### **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) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). **Please make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.**

### **Additional Information**

#### **Academic Integrity**

*Please don't cheat. I will not tolerate academic dishonesty in my courses. You can expect me to follow all University policies and protocols regarding the handling of suspected academic dishonesty. Penalties may include expulsion from SJSU. Software and statistical analysis may be used to detect academic dishonesty.*

#### **About Diversity**

*Consistent with the mission of San José State University, I welcome persons of differing backgrounds and experiences including but not limited to age, disability and health status, ethnicity and race, family structure, geographic region, language, religious/spiritual and secular beliefs, resident status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, and socioeconomic status.*

*It is my goal to foster an environment in which diversity is recognized and embraced, and every person is treated with dignity, respect, and justice. I hope that your academic experience in this course and at San José State University will provide the opportunity to gain knowledge and experiences necessary to thrive in a diverse, global environment.*

**PSYC 121A / Advanced Research Methods Social &  
Personality Seminar & Lab, Fall 2022  
Course Schedule**

The course schedule is tentative and likely to change; modifications will be announced in class and posted to Canvas.

<b>Module</b>	<b>Module Topic</b>	<b>Reading Assignment</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
1	Developing your topic	Handouts/Prompts	Weekly Lab Assessments Lab-Project Related Activities
2	Developing a Testable Idea	Handouts/Prompts	Weekly Lab Assessments Lab-Project Related Activities
3	Hypothesis development	Handouts/Prompts	Weekly Lab Assessments Lab-Project Related Activities
4	Designing the study & Materials	Handouts/Prompts	Weekly Lab Assessments Lab-Project Related Activities
5	Collecting the data	Handouts/Prompts	Weekly Lab Assessments Lab-Project Related Activities
6	Analyzing the data	Handouts/Prompts	Weekly Lab Assessments Lab-Project Related Activities
7	Communicating the Results	Handouts/Prompts	Weekly Lab Assessments Lab-Project Related Activities
8	Writing Up Your Project	Handouts/Prompts	Weekly Lab Assessments Lab-Project Related Activities

Module	Module Topic	Reading Assignment	Assignment
Final Evaluation	<b>Final Projects Due (12/13)</b>		