

San José State University
Department of Psychology
Introduction to Psychobiology, PSYC 030-01
Summer 2024 (30912)

Instructor: Jill Citron, PhD

Office Location: DMH room 352

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Office Hours: Mondays and Tuesdays, 11:15 pm – 12:15 pm & by appointment

Class Days/Time: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 am -11:05 am

The class will meet synchronously.

Virtual Classroom:

Prerequisites: PSYC 01, BIOL 021 or BIOL 065

Canvas: Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the [Canvas learning management system](http://sjsu.instructure.com) course website at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. Messages to the class may be sent through Canvas or MYSJSU. You are responsible for regularly checking Canvas for updates.

Description: Biological psychology is a significant subdivision that systematically studies behavior and mental processes. Bio-psychologists try to understand the biological basis for brain and behavior. This discipline examines many aspects of human functioning through the mechanisms of evolution, genetic, neural, and hormonal influences on normal and abnormal behavior. This class aims to pursue a greater understanding of the brain and behavior from the smallest unit of the human nervous system, brain structures, and interconnections with the nervous, endocrine, and immune systems.

Course Format: This course will combine class lectures, assignments/discussions, and readings from the textbook and scientific journals. Lectures will expand upon reading assignments, and we will investigate additional sources not covered in the readings. We will use Zoom for lectures and Canvas for quizzes, discussions, and assignment submissions. Your presence in class is required for success in this course. Coming to class prepared and ready to engage in material is essential to learning.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes (CLO)

PSYC30-Introduction to Psychobiology explores the biological basics of cognition and behavior. This course examines the structural and functional components of the nervous system, from the cellular level to the system level. It will consider how information from the internal and external environment can direct and influence adaptive behavior.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, Psych 30 students will be able to:

CLO1 – *Students will be able to* –identify, describe, and communicate the major concepts related to basic neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, and psychopharmacology. *Assessment for this will be in quiz 1, quiz 2, and discussions.*

CLO2 – *Students will be able to* –describe, and communicate the major transduction mechanisms, neuroanatomical pathways and theoretical perspectives associated with vision and nonvisual sensory systems, motivational systems and learning processes. *Assessment for this CLO will be conducted in quizzes 3, 4, and 5, Hypothesis.is #1.*

CLO3 – *Students will be able to* –identify, describe, and communicate experimental approaches and associated empirical findings for various methodological approaches in biopsychology. *Assessment for this CLO will be conducted primarily in Hypothes.is assignments, and discussions.*

CLO4 – *Students will be able to* think critically and creatively about biopsychological approaches to address behavioral and mental health issues. *This CLO will be assessed in Hypothes.is quizzes, discussions*

CLO5 – *Students can* apply biopsychological principles to individual, interpersonal and group behavioral and mental health issues. *This will be assessed by quizzes, Discussions, and Hypothes.is*

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

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.

Library Liaison:

The SJSU librarian specializes in social sciences and may serve as a resource for the development of research ideas and for finding the most appropriate research materials.

Psychology Librarian: Bailey, Christa

Phone: 408-808-2422

Email: christa.bailey@sjsu.edu

<http://libguides.sjsu.edu/psychology>

Required Textbook: Watson, N.V and Breedlove, S.M. (2020). Minds Machine (4th edition). Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9781605357300

- If may use the 3rd edition

Other Required Readings: Other required readings are available on CANVAS.

Requirements: This class requires the completion of chapter quizzes, and two discussions. There will be two Hypotheses. These activities will be based on assigned scientific articles and follow-up conversations on discussion boards.

The format for quizzes and exams will be objective (multiple choice.) You may use your textbook or other written sources, but you may NOT consult with other persons or online sources that are not your textbook. Quizzes and other course materials will be available Canvas Learning Management System course login website at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. [University policy S17-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf>) states that "Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment." Quizzes are taken during the second half of class on Thursday sessions.

During the semester, you will have the opportunity to read and summarize three scientific articles. The articles will be connected to the topic covered in class and facilitate class conversation and activities. All materials and assignment details are available on Canvas.

Class Protocols: To promote an inclusive learning environment that encourages collaboration and active participation, students will arrive on time and refrain from engaging in distracting behaviors during class time (preparing lunch, dyeing your hair, texting, etc.). We will respect the opinions and contributions of class members. Be prepared to engage in class activities. Be respectful of your peers and open to new concepts and ideas.

Attendance: To succeed in this course, attendance and active participation is critical. If you must miss class, **you** are responsible for obtaining lecture notes from a classmate and reading PowerPoint slides. After checking the syllabus, getting the notes, and doing the readings (i.e., doing your due diligence), if you have additional questions or concerns about the class you missed, bring them to the Question Cafe. We will meet 17 times during this summer session. Our class will not be held on Juneteenth (June 19th) or Independence Day (July 4th).

[University policy F69-24](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf> states, “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to ensure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

SJSU wants students to succeed. “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 practicum. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

"As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU's policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises." To learn important campus information, view [University Policy S16-15](#) and SJSU current semester's [Policies and Procedures](#)

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](#) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](#) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](#) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material [University Policy S12-7](#), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course:

Academic Integrity: Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> 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/>.

Academic integrity is essential to the mission of San José State University. *As such, students are expected to perform their own work (except when collaboration is expressly permitted by the course instructor) without the use of any outside resources. Students are not permitted to use old tests, quizzes when preparing for exams, nor may they consult with students who have already taken the exam. When practiced, academic integrity ensures that all students are fairly graded. Violations to the Academic Integrity Policy undermine the educational process and will not be tolerated. It also demonstrates a lack of respect for oneself, fellow students and the course instructor and can ruin the university's reputation and the value of the degrees it offers. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](#) is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.*

Violators of the Academic Integrity Policy will be subject to failing this course and being reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action which could result in suspension or expulsion from San José State University.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

“If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. 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 special needs”.

Accessible Education Center (AEC) at SJSU:

The AEC provides comprehensive services in support of the educational development and success of students with disabilities. Use the central office link to find all types of information concerning available services and how to register. <https://www.sjsu.edu/aec/>

Student Technology Resources:

The SJSU Computing Center has gone online, <https://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services/student-computing-services>. Computers and resources needed to participate in class are available for student loan.

The Student Success Center: has gone online. Visit their website to schedule appointments for tutoring, academic advising, and so much more.

<https://www.sjsu.edu/education/studentsuccesscenter/>

SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS):

CAPS will help you adjust to college, meet developmental needs, create meaningful relationships, improve academic performance, and cope with life crises. We are the mental health service provider for you here at SJSU. <https://sjsu.edu/counseling/students/index.php>

SJSU Writing Center is available online this summer, <https://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/>. At this site, you will find different ways of connecting with tutors and the type of writing support that you need. The SJSU Writing Center is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Their writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition, there are all types of resources available, <https://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/writingresources/index.html>

Determination of Grade

Grading Scale	Assignment	Points	Approximate %
A (90-100%)	NYTimes (1) Name Coach (1)	2 2	1% (2) 1% (2)
B (80 - 89%)	Quizzes (11)	10	54% (110)
C (70 - 79%)	Infographic (3)	10	15% (30)
D (60 - 69%)	Hypothes.is (2)	15	15% (30)
F (0 - 59%)	Discussions (2)	15	15% (30)
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	Total	204 total points	

.The instructor reserves the right to relax (but not stiffen) this criterion, depending on the actual distribution of grades.

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>”

Important Dates

	Assignment	Due at 11:59 pm
Section 1 Ch 1-3	NYTimes	6/6 due at 11:59 pm
	Name Coach	6/9
	Self-Introduction Discussion	6/11
	Quiz 1	6/16
	Quiz 2	6/23
	Quiz 3	6/23
	Neura Link Discussion	6/23
	Infographic #1	6/23
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Section 2 Ch 5-7	Quiz 5	6/23 due at 11:59 pm
	Quiz 6	6/23
	Quiz 7	6/23
	Hypothes.is #1	6/23
	Infographic #2	6/30
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Section 3 Ch 8-11	Quiz 8	7/5 due at 11:50 pm
	Quiz 9	7/5
	Quiz 10	7/5
	Quiz 11	7/5
	Infographic #3	7/5
	Hypothes.is #2	7/5

During multiple class periods, there will be an exit assignment worth one point.