

Careers in Psychology Section 02

PSYC 196

Spring 2025 Section 02 In Person 3 Unit(s) 01/23/2025 to 05/12/2025 Modified 01/27/2025

Contact Information

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Office Hours

Thursday, 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM, DMH 323

Course Information

Lecture

Tuesday, Thursday, 1:30 AM to 2:45 PM, DMH 356

Course Description and Requisites

Examination of various career paths in psychology and related fields. Skills for pursuing these careers, and experience writing career search materials.

Prerequisite(s): PSYC 1

Program Information

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.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

CLO1 – Students will be able to describe three career positions they may like to have, as well as the practical experience and (if relevant) graduate training to get there.

CLO2 – Students will be able to identify three post graduate resources that will enhance their career aspirations, and prepare an application for one of these resources. This may include applying to graduate school, licenses, professional certificates, additional trainings, internships, or any other competency training that advances their career interests.

CLO3 – Students will be able to write a cover letter for a job relevant to their career. CLO4 – Students will be able to write a resume for a job relevant to their career.

CLO5 – Students will identify the knowledge, skills, abilities, prior experiences, and coursework needed for jobs within their interests.

CLO6 – Students will demonstrate awareness of a range of career options.

Course Materials

Careers in Psychology: Opportunities in a Changing World

Author: Kuther, T. L. & Morgan, R. D.

Publisher: Sage Publications

Edition: 6th

ISBN: 9781071852293

Availability: Canvas (Course Materials)

Course Requirements and Assignments

Assignment: Reading Reflections

To assess your engagement with the readings and knowledge retention, you are expected to write reading reflections of ~200 words that demonstrate you have read the material and have reflected on how it helps (or does not help) you in your pursuit of possible careers in psychology. Thus, submitting a summary of your readings is insufficient, and generic reflections (e.g., I learned sooooo much! It was

suuuuper helpful to get to know the readings.) do not demonstrate the required depth of reflection. Reading Reflections will be assigned each week that reading is assigned, and will be due before class on Tuesday of that week. (aligned with CLO 5 & 6; PLO 4)

Your reflections will be posted onto Packback. Packback Questions is an online community where you can be fearlessly curious and ask open-ended questions to build on top of what we are covering in class and relate topics to real-world applications.

Career Prep: Career Modules (Career Center)

These modules are from the SJSU Career Center and will be available through our course's Canvas site. (aligned with CLO 1-6; PLO 4)

Career Prep: Career Inventory Assessment (Focus 2)

You will complete the "Focus 2" career interest inventory. This assessment will suggest possible career paths that match your values, interests, and skills. (aligned with CLO 5; PLO 4)

Career Prep: Career Interest Exploration

You will identify three careers that interest you for your long-term goals, and discuss them in a paper of about 5 pages (double-spaced) in length. Be sure to describe the following for each of the three careers: (a) the work done by people in this career, (b) the knowledge, skills and aptitudes required by this career, and (c) the practical experience and/or graduate training necessary for achieving this career. You need to use at least 3 sources, which can include your textbook, other books, and periodicals. Websites can be used as sources only with approval by the instructor. (aligned with CLO 1, 5; PLO 4)

Career Prep: Career Scan, Prep, and Training Plan

You are expected to find three post-graduate options in which a baccalaureate degree in psychology will allow you access. Options may include graduate programs, professional certifications, internships, and service/industry jobs. You can identify multiple options in a single domain or across domains. For example, you may choose three graduate options like a Ph.D., Psy.D., a Master's Program, a professional certification in Behavior Analysis, and a job as a paraeducator. The three post-graduate options may not actually be pursued by you (you may plan on following through with one of your post-grad options) but your task will be to see the range of options available to you.

Once you identify your three options, you will then research what steps are required to pursue these options. This could range from taking entrance exams, extra classes, volunteer hours, or simply providing a resume and a successful interview. The point is that you are able to clearly see the path forward to reach your options.

Finally, you will take what you have learned and complete a training plan for each option. Specifics will be posted in Canvas but common components will include what your options are, a summary of what

you have ready (relevant courses, work experience, references) for those options, and a plan for what you need to prepare (gaining volunteer experience, lab work, professional references) for these options. A successful training plan will clearly demonstrate thoughtful selection of postgrad options and a clearly laid-out plan for pursuing those options. (aligned with CLO 1, 2, 5, & 6; PLO 4)

Career Prep: Informational Interview

Insight from someone in your field of interest is invaluable! You are expected to interview someone from the career or field of interest and gain their insights. You will write a paper of about 3 pages in length, summarizing the responses of the person you interviewed. More specific instructions and a grading rubric will be provided later. If a student is unable to find someone to interview, the student may complete an alternative, such as attending a career fair or webinar about the career, to be discussed individually with the instructor. (aligned with CLO 5 & 6; PLO 4)

Final: Grad Program Application or Job Application (Final Portfolio)

After you have selected your three post-grad options, you will then choose one specific program or job to submit an application. You will save the job ad or link to the specific program. Then you will prepare application materials needed for the jobs/programs. More detailed instructions and a grading rubric will be provided later in the semester. Your application materials will include the following:

Cover Letter

No matter the postgraduate option, it is highly likely that you will need a cover letter to an employer or program. Thus, you will be writing an effective cover letter that clearly demonstrates your fit with the job or program. (aligned with CLO 3; PLO 4)

Resume and/or CV

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Accurate representation of your skills, knowledge, and experience is essential for any post-graduate pursuit. Thus, you will be completing a resume and/or CV for your relevant postgraduate options. (aligned with CLO 4; PLO 4)

Other Materials for the Application

Depending on the type of job, graduate program, etc. that you are applying for, other materials in addition to the cover letter and resume/CV may be necessary. These may include unofficial transcripts, work sample/writing sample, other statements, etc. You will complete all other materials necessary for applying to this opportunity.

Job Posting/Grad Program Plan

Write a description of the process/steps that you need to take to complete and submit the application.

Include a copy of the job listing or graduate program overview.
(aligned with CLO 2; PLO 4)

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: Oral Presentation

Each student will make a brief (2-3 minute) oral presentation to the class about the career path that most interests them. Topics to cover include the work done by people in this career, and the experience or training necessary for entering this career. Also discuss why you personally are choosing this career path. The oral presentations will occur during the final exam period. A grading rubric will be provided closer to the presentation day. (aligned with CLO 1 & 5; PLO 4)

Interview Prep: Interview Clinic

Interview clinics will be held during the second week of instruction and the last three weeks of instruction. Each interview clinic is a chance for you to improve your interviewing skills! Each clinic will have a different theme and will be updated on Canvas.

✓ Grading Information

Breakdown

Grade	Range	Notes
A+	480 to 500	
A	465 to 479	
A-	450 to 464	
B+	430-449	
B	415 to 429	
B-	400 to 414	
C+	380-399	
C	365 to 379	
C-	350 to 364	

Grade	Range	Notes
D+	330 to 349	
D	315 to 329	
D-	300-314	
F	<299	

Criteria

Determination of Grades

Course Grade Breakdown

Assignments	Points	Percentage of Total Grade
Packback Reading Reflections	7 X 10 points = 70	14%
Canvas Career Modules	2 X 25 points = 50	10%
Interview Clinics	4 X 25 points = 100	20%
Career Inventory Assessment (Focus 2)	1 X 40 points = 40	8%
Career Interest Exploration	1 X 40 points = 40	8%
Career Scan, Prep, and Training Plan	1 X 50 points = 50	10%
Informational Interview	1 X 50 points = 50	10%
Final Portfolio	1 X 100 Points = 100	20%
<i>Cover Letter</i>	50 points	-

<i>Resume/CV</i>	30 points	-
<i>Other Materials</i>	20 points	-
<u>Totals</u>	500 Points	100%

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

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading Due	Assignments Due
1	01/23	Introduction to the Course	Explore the following websites: https://psychologydegreeguide.org/resources/careers-in-psychology/ https://www.apa.org/education-career/guide/careers.pdf https://www.apa.org/education-career/guide/paths	
2	01/28	Broad Overview of Careers in Psychology	Ch. 2	Reading Reflection 1 due before class (Chapter 2)
	01/30	Interview Clinic 1 Introductions & Orientation Disclosure		

3	02/04	Clinical and Counseling Psychology <i>Visit by a Clinical Psychologist</i>	Ch. 3	Reading Reflection 2 due before class (Chapter 3 & 4)
	02/06	School and Educational Psychology <i>Visit by a School Psychologist</i>	Ch. 4	
4	02/11	Asynchronous Work		Canvas Career Module 1 (Explore Your Options)
	02/13	<i>Asynchronous work</i>		Submit all Assignments: Occupation Exploration Worksheet Focus 2 Results
5	02/18	Psychology and the Law	Ch. 5	Reading Reflection 3 due before class (Chapter 5-7)
	02/20	Health Psychology Sport & Performance Psychology	Ch. 6-7	
6	02/25	<i>Asynchronous work</i>		Canvas Career Module 2 (Informational Interviews and Job/internship Searches)

	02/27	<i>Asynchronous work</i>		Submit all assignments: Interview Questions Career Scan, Prep, and Training Plan
7	03/04	Biopsychology	Ch. 8	Reading Reflection 4 due before class (Chapter 8 & 12)
	03/06	Developmental Psychology <i>Visit by a Developmental Psychologist</i>	Ch. 12	
8	03/11	I/O Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Human Factors Psychology <i>Visit by a Human Factors Psychologist</i>	Ch. 9	Reading Reflection 5 due before class (Chapter 9 & 11)
	03/13	Social, Consumer, and Media Psychology <i>Visit by a Social Psychologist</i>	Ch. 11	
9	03/18	Finding a Job with Your Bachelor's Degree	Ch. 13	Reading Reflection 6 due before class (Chapter 13 & 14)
	03/20	Graduate-Level Careers in Psychology	Ch. 14	Career Scan, Prep, and Training Plan Due Friday 3/21
10	03/25	Applying to Graduate School in Psychology	Ch. 15	Reading Reflection 7 due before class (Chapter 15)

	03/27	Graduate Student Day! <i>Visit by current graduate students</i>		
11	04/01 04/03	SPRING BREAK		
12	04/08	Cover Letters, Professional Communication		Interview Write-ups due before class on Tuesday.
	04/10			
13	04/15	Resumes, CVs, Letters of Recommendation		Cover Letter Rough Draft Due
	04/17			
14	04/22	Interview Clinic 2		Resume and/or CV Draft Due
	04/24			
15	04/29	Interview Clinic 3		
	05/01			
16	05/06	Interview Clinic 4		
	05/08			
Final Exam Period	05/20 1-3pm	Oral Presentations		All oral presentations due at 1PM! Final Portfolio due by 11:59pm.