

**San Jose State University**  
**Department of Psychology**  
**Syllabus**  
**PSYC139: Personality Psychology — Summer 2023**  
Time and Location: M and W, 9:00am-1:15 pm  
Course Method: Online

**Instructor:**

**Ryan Lundell-Creagh**

Email: [ryan.lundell-creagh@sjsu.edu](mailto:ryan.lundell-creagh@sjsu.edu)

Office hours: After class (MW 1:15-2:15) and by appointment

Class link: Use the “Zoom” tab of the course canvas page

**Overview of the Course**

This course provides an overview of the general theories of personality psychology and their associated research. The course will move through the major domains of personality research (dispositional, intrapsychic, behavioral, biological, cognitive, social, and adjustment), with a focus on the various levels of personality measurement (traits, states, and acts). Students will learn to integrate these perspectives and levels to generate a clear and complete description of who an individual is as a whole.

**Course Format**

A live lecture will be given every Monday and Wednesday starting at 9:00am. The lecture will be divided into four equal portions, with a 15 minute break between each. The final portion of each lecture period will be devoted to class work (i.e., no new material will be presented in the last hour of class)

It is the expectation that, when possible, students will attend this lecture in person. Being in class is the best way to engage with the material, ask questions, and facilitate learning. However, lecture recordings will be provided if class needs to be missed.

**Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)**

**CLO1:** Distinguish among the seven major domains of personality psychology and describe the theoretical frameworks associated with each

**CLO2:** Assess the reliability and validity of various techniques and scales that are used in the field of personality psychology

**CLO3:** Identify various research methods used in personality and learn which situations to apply them to

**CLO4:** Critically apply various theories in personality psychology to complete a comprehensive assessment of personality

**CLO5:** Communicate theories of personality effectively to others

**Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)**

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.

## 5. Values in Psychology

Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.

### **Missing Class**

Please don't stress if you need to miss class! If you are going to miss class, you do not need to notify me, but it is your responsibility to watch the videos and catch up on what you missed. I am also happy to make virtual office hours appointments with anyone who has questions about the material or would like to chat.

### **Office Hours**

Office hours will be held immediately after class, as well as by appointment. Please send me (Ryan) an email if you wish to schedule a one-on-one private meeting. Please come to office hours!!! I want to get to know as many of you as possible, and office hours are a great way to have more personal discussions about how the class is going.

### **Textbook**

Larsen, R., & Buss, D. (2020). *Personality Psychology: Domains of Knowledge about Human Nature* (7th edition). McGraw Hill Publishing.

Note: Previous editions of the textbook are okay, but it is your responsibility to ensure that you are reading the correct chapters (the authors may have reordered the chapters from previous years)

Note 2: The textbook for this class is NOT mandatory. We will not have time to cover the entire content of each chapter in one quarter. I have pulled out the most important information from each chapter for you and will provide it on the slides. You should purchase the textbook if you:

- A) Learn best by reading
- B) Want refreshers of things that were said in class  
and/or
- C) Are looking for extra examples, or different ways of explaining the material covered in class

### **Grading**

**Two exams (50%):** Exam 1 and Exam 2 will combine to be worth 50% of your final grade. These exams are NOT cumulative. Your higher exam score will be worth 30%, and your lower exam score will be worth 20%. These exams are OPEN BOOK! You are encouraged to use your class notes to help you.

**Web Exercises (20%)**

There will be 5 web exercises for this course. These are online surveys, which are designed to help you learn more about your own personality! At the end of each survey, you will receive a personalized feedback screen, which will tell you about how you scored on the test you just took. **IMPORTANT:** There are no right or wrong answers to these! They are designed to help you learn about yourself and show you the most commonly used tools for assessing personality. If you demonstrate effort, you will earn the points. Each survey you complete is worth 4% of your final grade.

**Class Assignments (30%):** There are 5 class assignments for the course. There will be one class assignment due at the end of each week. They are multiple choice questions and OPEN BOOK. These assignments are designed to help you review the material learned in class that week. Your three highest scores on these assignments will count for 10% each.

**Note on Special Circumstances and Make-ups**

Please keep lines of communication open and come to office hours! This is a large class, so please let me know of any special circumstances as soon as you become aware of them. Make-up exams will only be given in cases of illness and documentable personal circumstances (i.e., doctor's note). If you are on a sports team and know that you will miss an exam or quiz, please provide a letter from the coach. As there are a lot of you, it is YOUR responsibility to ensure that a make-up exam is scheduled.

**Grade bins:**

Grades in this class are NOT curved. Grades will be rounded to the nearest whole number (ex: 89.52 is a 90, 89.49 is an 89).

Letters will be assigned according to the following inclusive grade bins:

A+: 97 and above

A: 93-96

A-: 90-92

B+: 87-89

B: 83-86

B-: 80-82

C+: 77-79

C: 73-76

C-: 70-72

D+: 67-69

D: 63-66

D-: 60-62

F: below 60

## PSYC139: Preliminary Schedule of Lectures, Exams, Web Exercises

As this is an abridged summer class, we will cover lots of content in each class period. Please manage your time accordingly and DO NOT wait until the last minute to start studying.

Each class period is divided into four equal parts, with a 15 min break between each. The final part of each class will be devoted to class work (i.e., no new material will be presented in the last 45 mins of class)

NOTE: The schedule below is tentative and subject to change. You will receive advance notice of any changes to due dates

### Important Due Dates:

All work below is due at 11:59pm on the listed day

#### Class Work (CW):

- CW1: Fri July 14
- CW2: Fri July 21
- CW3: Fri July 28
- CW4: Fri Aug 4
- CW5: Fri Aug 11

#### Web Exercises:

- Web 1: Sun July 16
- Web 2: Sun July 23
- Web 3: Sun July 30
- Web 4: Sun Aug 6
- Web 5: Fri Aug 11\*\*\*

\*\*\*NOTE: Unlike the others, this web exercise is due on FRIDAY as this is the last day of the semester

#### Exams:

- Exam 1: Opens Wed Jul 26, due Fri July 28 (Chapters 1-5 + behaviorism)
- Exam 2: Opens Wed Aug 9, due Fri Aug 11 (Chapters 6-8, 9-12)

### Chapter Schedule:

	Mon July 10	Wed July 12	Mon July 17	Wed July 19	Mon July 24	Wed July 26	Mon July 31	Wed Aug 2	Mon Aug 7	Wed Aug 9
9:00am										
9:15am										
9:30am										
9:45am	Intro + 1	2	3	5	Behaviorism	EXAM 1	9	10	11	12
10:00a	BREAK									
10:15a										
10:30a										
10:45a										
11:00a	1	2	3	5	Behaviorism	EXAM 1	9	10	11	12
11:15a	BREAK									
11:30a										
11:45a									6	
12:00p									7	
12:15p	1	2	4	Behaviorism	Q+A Review for Exam 1	EXAM 1	9	10	8	Q+A Review for Exam 2
12:30p	BREAK									
12:45p										
1:00pm										
1:15pm	Web Ex 1 + Class Work (CW) 1	Web 1 + CW1	Web 2 + CW2	Web 2 + CW2	Web 3 + CW3	EXAM 1	Web 4 + CW4	Web 4 + CW4	Web 5 + CW5	Web 5 + CW5

Note: The chapter on behaviorism is NOT in the textbook

### Late Assignments

Late assignments will be penalized 10% per day late. Please let me know ASAP if you believe you will require an extension.

## **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 Resources**

Here are some additional resources which may be useful to you:

### ***Writing Center***

This on campus group provides assistance with assignments such as essay editing and can help match you to a course tutor for this and other courses. You can also borrow a computer here for the semester

Location: MLK Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

More details: <https://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>

### ***Accessible Education Center***

This on campus resource provides various types of assistance to students with disabilities. They can assign you a case specialist who will review and discuss accommodation plans with you, including things like increased time on exams and reduced distraction environments.

Location: Administration Building, room 110

More details: <https://www.sjsu.edu/aec/>

### ***Student Health Center***

This center provides all types of medical assistance, including both physical and mental health.

Appointments are either free or extremely affordable with campus insurance

Location: Student Wellness Center Building

More details:

[https://www.sjsu.edu/medical/index.php?utm\\_source=studenthealth&utm\\_medium=301&utm\\_campaign=studenthealth-reorg](https://www.sjsu.edu/medical/index.php?utm_source=studenthealth&utm_medium=301&utm_campaign=studenthealth-reorg)