SOCI 100W: Writing Workshop Section 04

San Jose State University Spring 2025
Department of Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences
Instructor: Ginevra Scherini, MS
E-mail: ginevra.scherini@sjsu.edu
Telephone: 408-924-5658
Lecture Location: Dudley Moorhead Hall (DMH) 162
Lecture Hours: Tuesdays 6:00 to 8:45 pm
Office Location: DMH 232
Office Hours: Monday 12:00 – 1:00 pm and Thursday 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Course Description

In this class, you will practice and improve writing skills appropriate to the broad field of psychology, including essays, reports, and scholarly communication. The goals of 100W are that students will develop advanced proficiency in college-level writing and appropriate contemporary research strategies and methodologies to communicate effectively to both specialized and general audiences. This class reinforces and advances skills developed in Written Communication IA and IB, and then broadens and deepens these to include mastery of the discourse specific to the discipline in which the course is taught.

Course Format

This course will be taught in-person live (synchronous) and will have assignments and content accessed through Canvas. You are responsible for regularly checking Canvas for any updates regarding assignments, materials, and exams.

Important Note about Course Grade: This course must be passed with a C or better as an SJSU graduation requirement.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

Learning Outcomes (LOs) are specific, measurable goals and objectives that students have demonstrated upon successful completion of the course. 100W is designed to address three levels of Learning Outcomes:

1. **GE/SJSU Learning Outcomes (SLOs):** These are outcomes mandated by General Education.

2. **Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs):** These are outcomes for this specific course. For Psychology 100W, Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) are the discipline-specific ways in which the general GE/SJSU learning outcomes (LOs) for 100W (Area Z) will be fulfilled. The specific CLOs for this course contribute to the overall experience, learning opportunities, and Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) students are exposed to when completing the SJSU Psychology Major.

3. **Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs):** These outcomes refer to the broad goals of the SJSU Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences Program.

GE/SJSU Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

Students shall write complete essays that demonstrate college-level proficiency. Students shall be able to:

SLO 1. Produce discipline-specific written work that demonstrates upper-division proficiency in: language use

grammar

clarity of expression
SLO 2. Explain, analyze, develop, and criticize ideas effectively, including ideas encountered in multiple readings and expressed in different forms of discourse.

SLO 3. Organize and develop essays and documents for both professional and general audiences, according to appropriate editorial and citation standards.

SLO 4. Locate, organize, and synthesize information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose, and to communicate that purpose in writing.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO's)
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:
LO 1: Produce discipline-specific written work that demonstrates upper-division proficiency in language use, grammar, and clarity of expression
Related assignments and activities:
- Grammar & punctuation lectures/activities
- Writing exercises/handouts
- Assignment feedback

LO 2: Explain, analyze, develop, and criticize ideas effectively, including ideas encountered in multiple readings and expressed in different forms of discourse
Related assignments and activities:
- Research paper and related lectures/activities

LO 3: Explain, analyze, develop, and criticize ideas effectively, including ideas encountered in multiple readings and expressed in different forms of discourse
Related assignments and activities:
- Research paper and related workshops

LO 4: Organize and develop essays and documents for both professional and general audiences
Related assignments and activities:
- Professional academic audiences: Research paper

LO 5: Organize and develop essays and documents according to appropriate editorial and citation standards
Related assignments and activities:
- All major assignments
- APA workshops
- Professional writing workshops

LO 6: Locate, organize, and synthesize information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose and to communicate that purpose in writing
Related assignments and activities:

- • Research paper
- • Library workshop

Department of Sociology Program Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to think sociologically about the relationship between social structure, interaction, identities, and inequalities.
2. Students will be able to identify and explain major sociological theories and apply them to everyday life.
3. Students will be proficient in qualitative and quantitative research design, data collection, and data analysis.
4. Students will be proficient in oral and written communication skills appropriate to the discipline.
5. Students will be able to practice sociology as educated and civically engaged persons.

GE requirements for 100W stipulate that students shall write a minimum of 8000 words over the course of the semester and that they shall be provided with frequent practice and feedback for improving their communication skills.

Additional Recommended Readings and Resources

- • APA's Academic Writer (AW). Can be purchased through the SJSU bookstore website: Please search for "Academic Writer" and buy "APA ACADEMIC WRITER-ACCESS CODE"
- • American Psychological Association (2020). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th Ed.).
- • Condensed version of the American Psychological Assoc. (2020). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th Ed.)
- • APA Style website: https://apastyle.apa.org/
- • APA Style Tutorial at https://extras.apa.org/apastyle/basics-7e/
- • Purdue Owl APA Style Resource at https://owl.purdue.edu/

Other Readings

All other readings such as journal articles will be posted on Canvas.

Other Technology Requirements/Equipment/Material

- • Regular access to a computer and internet connection.
- • SJSU Library: Psychology-specific tutorials, database search, resources

Library Liaison

Michael Aguilar is the Reference Librarian assigned to assist SOCI students in using databases, helping with keyword searches, etc. He will be available throughout the semester to meet with individual students. email: michael.aguilar@sjsu.edu

Course Canvas Site

The course Canvas site is your online resource for this course. This site includes:

• Course announcements
• Links to web pages that will be of use to you throughout the course
• Lecture slides, handouts, and articles
• Assignment submission inboxes
• Rubrics and feedback for major assignments
• Your grades

Course Requirements and Assignments

The assignments in SOCI 100W are designed to gradually build the writing and research skills necessary to write scholarly papers appropriate for the discipline of psychology.

Details for each assignment are provided in lectures and in assignment descriptions on Canvas. Assignment descriptions (as well as other useful resources) can be found on the course Canvas site. The major skills and associated assignments include (but are not limited to):

● **Basic skills review** (e.g., plagiarism tutorials, research skills tutorials, APA formatting)
● **Evaluating information sources**
● **APA style**
● **Article summaries and evaluations**
● **Literature review on a topic of your choice, including the following components:** Multiple incremental assignments to complete parts of the final Literature Review Instructor meetings to review progress and clarify questions Peer Reviews at incremental stages.

Literature Review

You will be able to revise and resubmit your work in response to feedback from the instructor, Writing Tutor, and peer reviewer (and peer) feedback and resubmit.

Incremental Literature Review Assignments
To prepare you for the major paper for this course (a literature review -see description below), you will write various drafts that will help you to learn how to read, understand, and accurately report psychological research findings, develop synthesis skills by describing how studies build upon one another, and apply APA style to your writing.

Peer Reviews
The best way to become a better writer is to review other people's writing -I know this from experience. Therefore, a regular part of our class will involve reviewing each other's work and giving constructive feedback. You will be amazed at how helpful this is!

Major Paper for this Course The major paper you will be writing for this course is an **APA-style literature review** (at least 2000 words including title page and references, with 10 or more scholarly, peer-reviewed references). The goal of a literature review is to *answer a*

research question by describing and *synthesizing* relevant theory and research findings relevant to the question. You will be developing your final literature review in several assignments, including (but not limited to):

- **Literature Review Proposal** in which you develop, with help from the instructor and Writing Tutor, a research question appropriate to the discipline of psychology and to the requirements of the course.
- **Microsummaries Assignment** in which you summarize and compare two scholarly, peer-reviewed sources relevant to your literature review topic using databases and other resources appropriate to psychological research.
- **Literature Review Preliminary Drafts** in which you receive instructor/tutor feedback and revise your paper as needed:
  - Draft 1: 600 words, synthesizing 3-4 scholarly resources
  - Draft 2: 1200 words (including your revised Draft 1), synthesizing 6-7 scholarly resources total
  - Draft 3: 1800 words (including your revised Drafts 1 & 2), synthesizing 9-10 scholarly resources total
- **Peer Reviews** in which you receive feedback from your in-classmate partner and revise your paper as needed.
- **Literature Review Final Draft:** Must be at least 2000 words (including title page and references list) with at least 10 scholarly, peer-reviewed sources

Success in this Course

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.

Grade Break Down

Assignments	% of grade
In-Class Assignments	30%
Homework Assignments	20%
Lit Review Assignments	20%
Final Paper	30%

Final Letter Grade Scale

Grade	Percentage
A	93 to 100%
A minus	90 to 92%
B plus	86 to 89 %
B	83 to 85%
B minus	80 to 82%
C plus	76 to 79%
C	73 to 75%
C minus	70 to 72%
D plus	66 to 69%
D	63 to 65%
D minus	60 to 62%

Plagiarism and Use of AI

Due to the nature of this course, the use of Generative AI in assignments is strictly prohibited. Course assignments are opportunities for developing writing skills, critical thinking, and applying your acquired knowledge. Your individual effort and creativity are essential in demonstrating your understanding of the course material. Dependence on AI in this writing workshop undermines these objectives and compromises the integrity of the learning process. All assignments turned in should be your original work, therefore the use of generative AI (such as ChatGPT and Gemini) to create text that will be used directly in your assignments, will be considered plagiarism. You may use AI tools to help summarize articles as a study tool, or to generate ideas during discussions to explore different perspectives. However, it is important to ensure that AI use remains within the boundaries of academic integrity by **only turning in your own writing**.

University Policies

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 at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/.

Course Schedule

Assignments are subject to change. Any changes will be posted and updated on Canvas, please check Canvas regularly for announcements and updated deadlines.

Date	Topic:	Assignments:
Week 2 Tuesday Jan 28	Syllabus, Course Intro, Identifying Reliable Sources	Poropat Article Questions
Week 3 Tuesday Feb 4	Searching for Academic Articles, Using 'et al.' in Citations	Review SJSU SOCI Library Research Guide
Week 4 Tuesday Feb 11	Active vs. Passive Voice, Objectivity in Scholarly Writing	Paramedic Method Assignment
Week 5 Tuesday Feb 18	Breaking Down a Scholarly Article, APA Citations and References Page	
Week 6 Tuesday Feb 25	How to Write a Microsummary, Introducing the Literature Review	1st Microsummary
Week 6 Thursday Feb 27	Identifying Your Paper Topic	
Week 7 Tuesday March 4	Using the 3-Point Method	
Week 8 Tuesday March 11	Literature Review Proposals, 1-on-1 Instructor Meetings	Literature Review Topic + Subtopics Proposal
Week 9 Tuesday March 18	Creative Writing Workshop, Starting Draft 1	3 Microsummaries for Subtopic 1
Week 10 Tuesday March 25	Signal Sentences and Transitions, Paper Checklist and Grading Rubric	
Week 11 Tuesday April 1	Spring Recess – No Class	
Week 11 Thursday April 3	Spring Recess – No Class	
Week 12 Tuesday April 8	Draft 1 Peer Review, 1-on-1 Instructor Meetings	Draft 1
Week 13 Tuesday April 15	Adding Your Second Subtopic, Review of Writing Resources, Creative Writing Workshop	Review Signal Sentences and Transitions
Week 14 Tuesday April 22	Draft 2 Peer Review and 1-on-1 Instructor Meetings, Professional Writing Workshop	Draft 2 due
Week 15 Tuesday April 29	Adding Your Third Subtopic	

Week 16 Tuesday May 6	Draft 3 Peer Review and 1-on-1 Instructor Meetings, Writing the Conclusion	Draft 3 due
Final Exam: Final Draft of Literature Review Paper will be due on Tuesday, May 20 by 11:59 pm		