

San José State University
College of Social Sciences



Department of Psychology

PSYC 117-06

Psychology Tests & Measurements (30256), Spring 2023

Instructor:	Jill Citron, PhD
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Phone Number:	(408) 924-5606 - Messages Only
Office Hours:	Monday and Tuesday, 12:15 pm – 1:15 pm and by appointment.
Office Location:	DMH 352 & Zoom link available on Canvas
Class Days/Time/Location:	Tuesday and Thursday, 1:30 pm – 2:45 pm- DMH 357
Prerequisites:	STAT 095

CANVAS and MYSJSU Messaging

Copies of some course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found on Canvas. Messages to the class may be sent through Canvas or MYSJSU.

Course Description

The goal of this class is for you to understand the ways in which testing is conducted, how to evaluate a test, principles of test construction, application of statistical concepts to test construction scoring and evaluation, and the ethical and legal aspects of testing. We will explore testing in clinical, organizational, and educational settings.

Communication with instructor

Use email, office hours, or class time to ask questions. I respond to email M-F 9:00-5:00. Please allow 1-2 days for a response. When emailing, include a relevant title and our course number (117). If you have extensive questions about an assignment or class work, please come to office hours. Do not hesitate to reach out to me during office hours, after class, or via email. I welcome your questions.

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.

Course Learning Outcomes

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:

CLO1 – Recognize the major uses of psychological measurement procedures.

CLO2 - Recognize principles of administering, scoring, and interpreting psychological measures.

CLO3 - Understand basic descriptive statistics as applied in psychological measurement.

CLO4 - Identify and differentiate among the major ways of estimating reliability and validity.

CLO5 - Recognize the major characteristics, advantages, limitations, and proper uses of tests of intelligence, tests of abilities and aptitudes, objective clinical measures, projective clinical measures, observational methods, and rating scales

CLO6 – Recognize and understand basic concepts of test bias and the impact of test bias to individuals and organizations.

Our class meets on campus. We will use Canvas for discussions, assignment submissions, and as a repository for articles, we will use during the semester. Be sure to sign up for notifications in Canvas as I send out announcements during the semester.

It is strongly recommended that students use the Chrome Web Browser when using Canvas. Using Chrome will decrease the number of glitches and errors you experience, as Canvas was developed using the Chrome platform.

In addition, update your Canvas setting to receive messages from this course, as announcements are sent out on a regular basis. **Note:** clearing your cache may help if you have trouble logging into the site.

Accessing Course Canvas site

To access the Canvas site go to <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/> and click on “Log in to Canvas”

Username = *SJSU 9-digit ID*

Password = *your current SJSU One password*

For additional information or help with logging in:

Canvas Student Tutorial: <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/>

Required Textbook

Miller & Lovler. (2020), Foundations of Psychological Testing: A Practical Approach. (6th Ed). Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

Print ISBN: 9781506396408, 1506396402 e-text ISBN: 9781506396392, 1506396399

Required Materials

Please download and install SPSS which is available free for SJSU students. Information on how to download is here: <https://www.sjsu.edu/it/services/collaboration/software/instructions.php>

Library Liaison

The SJSU library has a librarian who specializes in psychology (and other social sciences), and this librarian can serve as a very valuable resource for helping you to develop research ideas and locating appropriate research materials. The library also has an abundance of resources for doing psychology research: Christa Bailey, 408-808-2422, christa.bailey@sjsu.edu, <http://libguides.sjsu.edu/psychology>

Classroom Protocol

As a member of this class, you are part of a community. Students are expected to maintain a level of professional and courteous behavior. You are required to put your cell phone and other distractors away before the beginning of class. We will be respectful of our class members and expect the same respect in return. Do not have side conversations, make unrelated comments in class, or look for deals on eBay during class. You may not realize that your actions are distracting for those around you. Students that do not abide by these policies (after being alerted to their behavior) will be asked to leave the class.

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/>

You must obtain the instructor's permission to make any audio or video recordings in this class. Posted recordings by the professor are copyrighted and may not be used for any other purpose related to the course. They may not be reposted or transmitted electronically for any use.

Diversity Statement

This class strives to be an inclusive community, learning from the many perspectives that come from having differing backgrounds and beliefs. As a community, we aim to be respectful of all. We reject all forms of prejudice and discrimination, including but not limited to those based on age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, and sexual orientation. Together we can create an environment that supports inquiry and self-expression, and respect for diverse viewpoints.

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, <https://catalog.sjsu.edu/>, policy section. The Late Drop Policy is available at <https://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. It is the student's responsibility to make sure classes are dropped <https://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S20-9.pdf>. Visit the Advising Hub at <https://www.sjsu.edu/advising/> with addition questions. This semester the last day to add a class or drop a class without a "W" is February 20th.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings for the courses in which they are enrolled as they are responsible for material discussed therein, and active participation is frequently essential to ensure maximum benefit to all class members. Life happens. If you are going to miss class, please let me know as soon as you are able.

According to University Policy F15-12, "Students are expected to attend all meetings for the courses in which they are enrolled as they are responsible for material discussed therein and active participation is frequently essential to ensure maximum benefit to all class members. In some cases, attendance is fundamental to course objectives; for example, students may be required to interact with others in the class. Attendance is the responsibility of the student. Participation may be used as a criterion for grading when the parameters and their evaluation are clearly defined in the course syllabus and the percentage of the overall grade is stated."

Assignments and Grading Policy

During this course, we will participate in class activities and discussions. SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Anticipate that your grades in Canvas will continue to change throughout the semester. Do not contact me at the end of the semester asking if I will round up your grade. I want all my students to succeed and will always round grades up (not down) when possible. At the end of the semester, refrain from contacting about rounding up your grade. I will know that you have not read the syllabus.

Definition of a Credit Hour

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course. As an example, the expectation of work for a 3-credit course is 150 minutes of direct faculty instruction and six-hours of out-of-class student work each week.

Please review the following sources and policies, as well:

- University Syllabus Policy S16-9 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>
- Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

Make-up Exams and Late Assignments

Please check your schedule to ensure that you have no conflicts with due dates. If you need an extension, contact me as soon as possible so that we can create an alternative plan.

Academic integrity

Academic integrity is essential to the mission of San Jose State University. Familiarize yourself with the SJSU Academic Integrity Policy <https://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-7.pdf>. When practiced, academic integrity ensures that students are graded fairly. Violations undermine the educational process and will not be tolerated. It demonstrates a lack of respect for oneself, fellow students, the course instructor, devalues your degree, and can end your academic career. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at <https://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>. All students must use Turn-It-In to ensure the academic integrity of your writing.

Student Resources

Student Computer Resources –

Computer labs and other technological resources for students can be found in various places on campus:

- For information regarding the loan of laptops, tablets, and other computer materials; <https://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services/student-computing-services>
- For IT Support visit - <https://www.sjsu.edu/it/support/service-desk/index.php>
- For a list of software available to all SJSU students visit - <https://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services/software-available>

ACCESS Success Center

The Academic Counseling Center for Excellence in Social Sciences (ACCESS) Success Center “provides general education advising for undergraduate students majoring or intending to major in any of the departments in The College of Social Sciences.” Visit their webpage for more information and to schedule an online appointment, <https://www.sjsu.edu/education/studentsuccesscenter/advising-and-tutoring.php>.

Accessible Education Center (AEC)

Ability Redefined - Please reach out to me as soon as possible in the beginning of the semester, for any support. **“If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need 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 AEC to establish a record of their disability.”** [Academic Senate Policy F06-2 \[pdf\]](#)

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections website “offers free mentoring, tutoring, and supplemental instruction services for students at SJSU. Peer Educators are students just like you; they understand the triumphs and challenges of being a student at San José State University.” If you have questions about services, contact the Peer Connections at 408-924-2587 or email at peerconnections@sjsu.edu, or visit their webpage for more information, <https://peerconnections.sjsu.edu/programs/tutoring/index.html>

SJSU Writing Center– Check for different ways to access these services.

The SJSU Writing Center “offers a variety of resources to help students become better writers, and all of our services are free for SJSU students.” If you have questions about services, call the Writing Center at 408.924.2308 or email us at writingcenter@sjsu.edu, or visit their webpage to make an online appointment <https://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/>

SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services invites “all students to come into Counseling and Psychological Services, located at the Student Wellness Center, room 300B, for any support.

If you have questions about services, contact CAPS at (408) 924-5910 or email at counseling.services@sjsu.edu

or visit their webpage, <https://www.sjsu.edu/counseling/>

Student Support Services-

Housing Assistance for students that lack stable and adequate housing <https://www.sjsu.edu/sjsucares/get-assistance/housing.php>

Spartan Food Pantry is a walk-in full-service food assistance program for qualifying students.

<https://www.sjsu.edu/sjsucares/get-assistance/spartan-food-pantry/index.html>

CalFresh Foods offers monthly cash assistance to pay for groceries. CalFresh has supported many students who are experiencing budget restraints. <https://www.sjsu.edu/sjsucares/get-assistance/calfresh.php>

Each exam will focus on applying the knowledge learned in the previous part of the course. The third exam is a cumulative final exam. Your cumulative final exam grade will replace any lower grade on previous exams.

GRADING INFORMATION AND MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS:

Your final grade will be based on the number of points that you earn during the semester. The following table provides a breakdown of the points that you can earn during the semester.

Assignment	How Many?	Points Per Assignment	Total Points	% Final Grade <small>Approximate</small>
Assignment	3	10	30	20%
Homework	3	10	30	20%
Assessment Presentation	1	25	25	17%
Section Tests	3	20	60	40%
Name Coach	1	5	5	3%
Total:			150	100%

Grading Scale:

Percent	Grade
100 – 94	A
93-90	A-
89 – 87	B+
86-84	B
83-80	B-
79 – 77	C+
76-74	C
73-70	C-
69-67	D+
66 – 64	D
63 -60	D-
59 or below	F

Major Assignments Due Dates

Note: This schedule is subject to modification (with fair warning, no surprises, promise) as necessary to accommodate flexibility in our class schedule.

Assignment 3

Location

Exercise #1

Date: Tuesday, February 2nd

Canvas

Exercise #2

Date: Thursday, February 9th

Canvas

Exercise #3

Date: Thursday, February 16th

Canvas

Section #1 Test

Date: Tuesday, February 21st

In-Class

Homework #1

Date: Tuesday, March 7th

Canvas

Homework #2

Date: Tuesday, March 14th

Canvas

Homework #3

Date: Tuesday, March 2^{1st}

Canvas

Section #2 Test

Date: Wednesday, March 22nd

In-Class

Assessment Presentations

Date: 5/3, 5/8, 5/10, 5/15

In-Class

Section #3 Test

Date: Tuesday, 5/23, 12:15 pm – 2:30 pm

In-Class

COURSE SCHEDULE

Note: This schedule is subject to modification (with fair warning, no surprises, promise) as necessary to accommodate flexibility in our class schedule.

Date	Topics	Reading Due for Class	Assignment
R- 1/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Introduction • Review of Syllabus • Course Requirements • Study Skills • Review of Covid-19 Safety Protocols 	<i>Always complete chapter reading before class.</i>	
T- 1/31	<i>What are Psychological Tests?</i>	<i>Chapter 1</i>	Name Coach
R- 2/02		<i>Chapter 1</i>	Assignment #1
T- 2/07	<i>Why is Psychological Testing Important</i>	<i>Chapter 2</i>	
R- 2/09			Assignment #2
T- 2/14	<i>What are the Ethical Responsibilities of Test Publishers, Users, and Test Takers?</i>	<i>Chapter 3</i>	
R- 2/16	No Class		Assignment #3
T- 2/21	Test #1		
R- 2/32	<i>How Do Test Users Interpret Test Scores</i>	<i>Chapter 4</i>	
T- 2/28			
R- 3/02	<i>What is Test Reliability/Precision?</i>	<i>Chapter 5</i>	
T- 3/07			Homework #1
R- 3/09	<i>How Do We Gather Evidence of Validity Based on the Content of a Test?</i>	<i>Chapter 6</i>	
T- 3/14			Homework #2
R-3/16	<i>How Do We Gather Evidence of Validity Based on a Test-Criterion Relationship?</i>	<i>Chapters 7</i>	
T- 3/21			Homework #3
R- 3/23	<i>How Do We Gather Evidence of Validity Based on a Test's Relation to Constructs?</i>	<i>Chapter 8</i>	

3/27- 3/31	Spring Break	Play and Rest!	
T- 4/03	Review		Presentation Group Assignment
R- 4/05	Test #2		
T- 4/10	How Do We Construct and Administer Surveys and Use Survey Data?	Chapter 9	
R- 4/12			
T- 4/17	How Do We Develop a Test?	Chapter 10	
R- 4/19			
T- 4/24	How Do We Assess the Psychometric Quality of a Test?	Chapter 11	
R- 4/26			
T- 5/01	Real World Application		
R- 5/03	Presentations	Educational Settings	Team #1, A, B, & C
T- 5/08	Presentations	Clinical & Counseling Settings	Team #2, A, B, & C
R- 5/10	Presentations	Organization Settings	Team #3, A, B, & C
M- 5/23	Section #3 Test - 12:15 pm - 2:30 pm		