
Current Issues Capstone Section 01 PSYC 190

Spring 2023

3 Unit(s)

01/25/2023 to 05/15/2023

Instructor:	Amy L Caffrey, LMFT
Office Location:	DMH 352
Telephone:	408-504-3487 text only/ SJSU Office Phone 408-924-6181
Email:	amy.caffrey@sjsu.edu (or joclynalc@att.net)
Office Hours:	Mon and Wed 2:45 - 3:45 or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Mon/Wed 12 noon – 1:15 pm
Classroom:	DMH 347

Course Description and Requisites

Integrative survey of current issues in psychology, how they developed and likely future directions. Completion of the research methods requirement prior to enrollment in this course is recommended.

Prerequisite: PSYC 100W and senior standing.

Co/Prerequisite: PSYC 118 or PSYC 120

Letter Graded

Classroom Protocols

This class will use a seminar format with assigned reading and classroom discussion. This classroom is a professional environment and should be treated that way. Please practice the following guidelines to help the class run more smoothly as well as to limit the amount of distractions that occur

You may NOT use your laptops in class unless we are doing a particular assignment which requires a laptop. Connecting to the internet and using class time to check emails, visiting social networking sites, surfing the web will result lowering of grade

If you need to take notes in this class.....you **must** use paper and pen/pencil

Please turn OFF (not on vibrate) all cell phones, pagers, tablets, watches and any other electronic devices before entering the classroom. If found texting during the lecture you may be asked to leave for the remainder of the lecture.

NOTE: Many topics in this course may evoke strong emotions. Within the framework of individual expression, students are expected to show respect for others and their viewpoints, even when those views are opposed to those of the student.

Each student is expected to:

- Attend all classes (*your grade is dependent on your **participation** not your attendance*)
- Complete all assigned readings prior to each class
- Actively participate in all classroom discussions. Pay attention
- Arrive on time // Do not leave early
- Turn off all cell phones, laptops & watch alarms prior to entering Zoom classroom.
- Don't talk when your instructor is speaking or when other students are talking
- Be respectful of the thoughts, opinions, and experiences of others even though you might not agree with what they are saying. Many of the topics in this class may have personal significance to some students. Please make a special effort to listen to them
- Turn in all assignments on time
- Course material will be available on the on Canvas, as well as the articles you will need to read. These materials are not meant to be a substitute for coming to class. This a senior course... my expectation is that you will be very engaged in the material as it is being discussed

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 Goals

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Enhance critical thinking about contemporary LGBTQ+ issues
2. Develop an understanding of the real-world challenges faced by LGBTQ+ individuals, couples and families
3. Demonstrate the ability to focus, refine and present complex theory and research ideas by way of class presentations and class discussions
4. Demonstrate competence in written communication by analyzing, synthesizing, and integrating existing psychology literature relevant to this topic
5. Provide evidence of skills in researching the psychology literature (including accessing electronic and print journal articles in libraries and beyond)

6. Ability to apply these skills to LGBTQ+ topics of interest
7. Awareness of future research needs regarding LGBTQ+ psychology research
8. Become more culturally aware and competent regarding LGBTQ+ issues
9. Demonstrate an integration of knowledge and skills developed across the psychology major

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

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

CLO1 – possess a comprehensive understanding of the major theories and issues related to LGBTQ+ individuals, couples, families and children in the USA

CLO2 – have an extensive knowledge of current research in the LGBTQ+ Psychology field from major areas of psychology and be able to identify bias in research regarding LGBTQ+

CLO3 - develop an understanding of the real-world challenges faced by LGBTQ+ individuals, couples and families and the long-term effects of those challenges

CLO4 – Knowledge Base of Psychology – Students will be able to identify, describe, and communicate the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in LGBTQ+ psychology and apply them to all aspects of Psychology.

CLO5 – 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 LGBTQ+ behavior and mental processes.

Course Materials

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

There is no textbook for this course.

A mandatory reader and additional required reading will be provided via Canvas.

Information and reading due dates will be provided first week of class.

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that you 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 \(Links to an external site.\)](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>. ([Links to an external site.](#))

Research Project and Discussion CLO1, CLO2, CLO3, CLO 4, CLO5

Movie Assignments and Discussion CLO1, CLO3, CLO 4, CLO5

In Class Activities, Writing & Discussions CLO1, CLO2, CLO3, CLO4

Class Participation CLO1, CLO2, CLO3

Research Project:

Each student will choose a LGBTQ+ topic to research (*topic approval by Instructor*)

Each student will research at least 4 articles on the chosen topic relating to LGBTQ+ issues. Students will **lead class discussion** on the topic they choose on the day the topic is scheduled. Each student will write a research paper applying the research to issues related to LGBTQ+ and to Psychology. Your paper must include an APA formatted reference list from published, peer reviewed scientific journals of all articles used.

More details will be discussed in class.

Be sure to write your paper in proper APA format (See APA Publication Manual, 6 Ed. for organizational guidance.)

Movie Assignments:

Each student will be assigned 2 specific LGBTQ+ Historical Documentary movies which address LGBTQ+ history prior to the 1969 Stonewall Uprising

The assignment is to gain additional insight into LGBTQ+ Psychology Issues. You will then write a brief 4-5 page double-spaced paper about the issues addressed in the movie. Students will then discuss the topics addressed in the movie using questions provided.

More details will be discussed in class.

Knowledge Journal Project

Students will turn in Journal write-ups on reflections of specific class topics using given questions.

Total of 4 Journals.

More details will be discussed in class.

In-Class Activities, In- Class Writing and Class Discussions:

Throughout the semester, you will be given “thought” questions and will watch video clips on a variety of LGBTQ+ topics. You will be asked to write short papers on the topics presented and their application to other topics, discussions and reading in this course

Purpose these writing assignments: (1) to encourage you to read and listen thoughtfully, and (2) to provide evidence that you have both read and engaged (to the best of your ability) in each topic.

You can consider each of them to be a “quiz”

Many classroom activities and discussions will supplement the reading and students are responsible for all material, assignments, and explanations given in class, even if they were absent.

In each of the topic presentations/ discussions, you will be responsible for contributing to discussion of that topic. Please note that your role as a discussant is a serious one. I will be looking for you to make a tangible

contribution to each day's discussion. Merely posing a question or two from the reading- or providing an interesting anecdote are not acceptable. This is a key opportunity for you to develop your critical thinking and evidence-based responses that are the crux of the position papers and discussions for this course.

Participation

Participation grade includesturning in all assignments **on time** and following directions; participation in small group and large group discussions; completing in class writings and activities (*even if you were not present in the class that day*); demonstration of your learning; paying attention in class.

You are expected to actively participate in all discussions, debates, presentations and class activities. Because this is in part an experiential class, attendance and participation are crucial. You cannot participate if you do not come to class.

Class Participation points include your attendance & participation at the Final

Grading Information

Knowledge Journal Project = 60pts (15 points/each)

Movie Assignments and Discussion = 50 points

Research Project = 65 points

Class Participation = 50 pts

In-class discussions / activities = 35 pts

Discussion questions turned in = 40 points

TOTAL = 300 points (*Points will be deducted for late assignments*)

Grading Information

The various parts of the course add up to 300 possible points

300 - 294 = A+ 293 – 281 = A 280 – 271 = A-

270 - 261 = B+ 260 – 250 = B 249 – 240 = B-

239 - 231 = C+ 230 - 220 = C 219 - 210 = C-

209 - 200 = D+ 199 – 190 = D 189 – 181 = D-

180 or less = F

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) (<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.

Course Schedule

Class Outline (*subject to change*)

Capstone: *LGBTQ+ Psychology Current Issues*

Spring 2023

PSYC 190 – 01

1/25	Overview	
1/30	Introduction to LGBTQ+ Psychology	
2/01	Language/ Labels/ Symbols	
2/06	Specific Subgroups	
2/08	Nature vs Nurture	
2/13	ID Formation // Coming Out	
2/15	Laws effecting LGBTQ+ people	<i>Journal #1 Due Fri 2/17 Laws Project DUE Sunday 2/19</i>
2/20	LGBTQ+ History	
2/22	Drag and Ballroom Cultures / Communities	
2/27	Discrimination	
3/01	Youth	<i>Movie Papers DUE Fri 3/3</i>
3/06	Movies Discussions	
3/08	LGBTQ+ Specific Microaggressions	<i>Journal #2 DUE Fri 3/10</i>
3/13	Sexual Orientation Change Efforts	
3/15	Conversion Therapy Case Example	
3/20	LGBTQ+ Strengths // How to Be a Great Ally to LGBTQ+ Community	
3/22	Transgender Adults	<i>Journal #3 DUE Fri 3/24</i>
3/27 – 4/2	SPRING BREAK	

- 4/03 Transgender Children
- 4/05 LGBTQ+ Relationships & Parenting *Parenting Paper DUE Sunday 4/9*
- 4/10 Teaching Children about LGBTQ+ Families through books
- 4/12 Avoiding LGBTQ+ Bias in Research
- 4/17 Work on Research Project
- 4/19 Mental Health *Journal #4 DUE Fri 4/21*
- 4/24 Immigration
- 4/26 International LGBTQ+ issues *Research Paper DUE Sunday 4/30*
- 5/01 Topic: TBA
- 5/03 Research Papers Discussion
- 5/08 Topic: TBA
- 5/10 Current News // Course Review *Journal #5 – optional- DUE Sunday 5/7*
- 5/15 (LAST CLASS) Future of LGBTQ+ Psychology and Research // **In-class writing ******

FINAL: Wednesday May 17th 9:45 – 12 noon DMH 347