

Clinical Psychology

PSYC 160

Fall 2025 Section 02 In Person 3 Unit(s) 08/20/2025 to 12/08/2025 Modified 08/08/2025

Contact Information

Instructor:	Erin Woodhead, Ph.D.
Office Location:	DMH 316
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Email:	Erin.Woodhead@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesdays 12:30-2:30 and by appointment.
Class Days/Time:	T/TH 10:30-11:45
Classroom:	Sweeney Hall 239
Prerequisites:	Psyc 001

Course Description and Requisites

Survey of clinical psychology as a profession. Emphasis placed on training models, specializations within the field, the scientific study of psychological interventions, and the graduate school admissions process for masters and doctoral level psychotherapists.

Prerequisite: PSYC 001.

Letter Graded

* Classroom Protocols

I expect you to be attentive in class, participate in discussions, and limit other distractions. Please place cell phones on silent during class. If you must make or answer a call, please excuse yourself from class. Please do not browse the web during class. Most importantly, please be respectful of your classmates' opinions. Attendance is expected each week. If you do not attend classes, you will miss discussion that will help you better understand the material that will appear on the exams. If you have to miss a class, please let me know ahead of time. If you have to miss a few classes, please make an appointment with me so that we can discuss your progress in the course and your reasons for not attending class.

☰ 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: demonstrate understanding of the historical and contextual roots of clinical psychology and their impact on its current role in the healthcare system

CLO2: show a familiarity with the major models used in the assessment, classification, and treatment of psychological problems

CLO3: think critically about the major issues in the field of clinical psychology, including the role of cultural issues in assessment and treatment, training models, and scientific accountability of clinical practice.

📖 Course Materials

The textbook for this course is required. It is available from the SJSU bookstore and other outlets:

Course Requirements and Assignments

Instead of a traditional grading rubric, this class uses a grading contract. Please review the below information about grading contracts and how our specific course grading will work.

How is a grading contract different from a traditional grading scheme? With a grading contract, students complete a set of core activities and achievements to earn a “baseline” grade in the class, and can raise their grade further by completing other achievements. Grades can also be lowered below the baseline grade if students fail to complete the core achievements.

Grading Contract Details

Core Class Achievements

You will earn a course grade of B- if you pass* ALL of the following core class achievements.

- 10 out of 13 weekly quizzes
- 10 out of 12 class activities
- Exams 1 and 2 (70% or higher is passing; 42 out of 60 points or higher)
- Final paper

Grade Boosters

You will earn a grade boost (e.g., B- to B) for completing EACH of the achievements below. There are several types of boosters available.

- Score 90% or higher on an exam (2 boosts available total, 1 for each exam)
- Complete additional booster assignments (details available on Canvas)

Grade Sinkers

You will lose part of a letter grade (i.e., B- to C+) for each instance where your course performance does not meet expected minimum standards. These are:

- Score < 70% on an exam (including a 0 for failing to take an exam; each exam < 70% lowers course grade by part of a letter grade)
- Completing fewer than 10 out of 13 weekly quizzes (grade sinker, regardless of how many fewer than 10 completed, e.g., 2 vs. 9)
- Completing fewer than 10 out of 12 class activities (grade sinker, regardless of how many fewer than 10 completed, e.g., 2 vs. 9)
- Not passing the final paper

*A note on what's considered “passing” in this class

- For exams, a passing score is 70% or higher. For this class, that means 42 points out of 60 points or higher.
- For pass/fail assignments, you must follow instructions specified in the assignment to pass. Each assignment's description lays out what is required to pass.
- Assignments must be completed on time to be considered passing, unless a student arranges an extension previously approved by the instructor.
- For all assignments and papers, a passing paper has very few words copied directly from the original material. This means that you use your own words to describe concepts and that you don't plagiarize entire sentences from the original work. One full sentence copied and pasted from the original work is enough to qualify for plagiarism. See Canvas for more grading information on the papers (linked in each assignment's description)

1) Midterm and Final Exams (Passing = 70% or higher)

There will be two exams in this class given during class time. The exams are closed notes/closed book. Each student can bring one 3x5 index card with handwritten notes on both sides to the exam. This card will be turned in with your exam. The exams will be 12 short answer questions (5 points each). A study guide that lists relevant concepts will be available for each exam. There are no make-ups for the exams. You will have one class period to complete the exam. **For the short answer on the midterm and final, you need to use your own words and provide your own examples (don't copy sentences or examples from our textbook).**

Final Examination or Evaluation

The final examination will be the second exam, which is not cumulative. The final exam will count the same as any other exam.

The final exam will be held on Thursday Dec 11 from 10:45-12:45. The exam will be the same format as the midterm (12 short answer questions worth 5 points each) and it is not cumulative. Remember that a passing score is 70% or greater (42 points out of 60 points or higher)

2) Reading Quizzes

At the start of most Tuesday classes, a closed-notes short answer quiz will be given on the chapter being covered that week. You will have 2 options for questions and will choose 1 to respond to. **Please write in complete sentences in paragraph form for your responses. No bullet point lists. Quizzes are graded as complete/incomplete.**

3) Class Activities

During most Thursday classes, students will turn in a class activity that is done individually or together during class time. You will pass the activity if you follow the directions and write in complete sentences in your responses. No bullet point lists unless the instructor specifies that in the instructions.

4) Paper

There is one final paper required for all students, which is a Career Paper. **Details about the paper are available on Canvas under the relevant assignment.**

For the Career paper, you will write a 1 page double spaced narrative on your specific career goals. Following this, you will identify three specific job listings that match your career goals. For each job listing, you will identify how it meets your career goals, what qualifications/training/license you need for the job, and what you can do in the near future to make yourself more competitive for the job. For one of the jobs, you will write a cover letter and include a relevant resume.

5) Booster assignments

Several booster assignments will be available on Canvas to raise your grade to the next grade level (e.g., B- to B). Details on the booster assignments are available on Canvas.

✓ Grading Information

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 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus. 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.

For all the assignments below, please note that my policy is to not accept late work unless we have discussed it beforehand. All assignments (except for exams) are graded as pass/fail (defined as complete or incomplete in Canvas).

Assignment	How Many?	Relevant CLOs
Weekly Quizzes	13 total, 10 required	CLO1-3
Class Activities	12 total, 10 required	CLO1-3
Exams	2 required	CLO1-3
Final Paper	1 required	CLO2
Booster assignments	Optional	CLO2

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

Note: Schedule is subject to change with fair notice – if changed, I will announce it in class and via email.

When	Topic	Notes
Week 1: Aug 21	Course Introduction	Read syllabus fully ahead of our first class.
Week 2: Aug 26 and 28	Ch 1: Clinical Psychology	Assignments: Read Ch 1 Tues: Quiz Ch 1 Thurs: Activity Ch 1
Week 3: Sept 2 and 4	Ch 2: Evolution of Clinical Psychology	Assignments: Read Ch 2 Tues: Quiz Ch 2 Thurs: Activity Ch 2
Week 4: Sept 9 and 11	Ch 3: Current Controversies and Directions	Assignments: Read Ch 3 Tues: Quiz Ch 3 Thurs: Activity Ch 3
Week 5: Sept 16 and 18	Ch 4: Diversity and Culture in Clinical Psychology	Assignments: Read Ch 4 and Cénat et al. (2024) on Canvas Tues: Quiz Ch 4 Thurs: Activity Ch 4
Week 6; Sept 23 and 25	Ch 5: Ethical and Professional Issues	Assignments: Read Ch 5 & APA Ethics Code (on Canvas) Tues: Quiz Ch 5 Thurs: Activity Ch 5

When	Topic	Notes
Week 7: Sept 30 and Oct 2	Ch 6: Conducting Research in Clinical Psychology	Assignments: Read Ch 6 Tues: Quiz Ch 6 Thurs: Activity Ch 6
Week 8: Oct 7 and 9	Ch 7: Diagnosis and Classification	Assignments: Read Ch 7 Tues: Quiz Ch 7 Thurs: Activity Ch 7
Week 9: Oct 14 and 16	Ch 8: Clinical Interviewing & Midterm	Assignments: Read Ch 8 Tues: Ch 8 and Midterm Review (no quiz) Thurs: MIDTERM
Week 10: Oct 21 and 23	Ch 9: Intellectual and Neuropsychological Assessment	Assignments: Read Ch 9 Tues: Quiz Ch 9 Thurs: Activity Ch 9
Week 11: Oct 28 and 30	Ch 10: Personality Assessment and Behavioral Assessment	Assignments: Read Ch 10 Tues: Quiz Ch 10 Thurs: Activity Ch 10
Week 12: Nov 4 and 6	Ch 11: General Issues in Psychotherapy & Brief Overview of Theories	Assignments: Read Ch 11 Tues: Quiz Ch 11 Thurs: Activity Ch 11
Week 13: Nov 11 and 13	Ch 16: Group and Family Therapy	Assignments: Read Ch 16 Tues: No Class, Veteran's Day Thurs: Quiz Ch 16
Week 14: Nov 18 and 20	Ch 18: Health Psychology	Assignments: Read Ch 18 Tues: Quiz Ch 18 Thurs: Activity Ch 18
Week 15: Nov 25	Catch Up Day/Final Exam Review	

When	Topic	Notes
Week 16: Dec 2 and 4	Ch 19: Forensic Psychology	Assignments: Read Ch 19 Tues: Quiz Ch 19 Thurs: Activity Ch 19 Final Paper and all booster assignments due by Monday Dec 8 at 11:59pm
Thursday Dec 11	FINAL EXAM	in our usual classroom from 10:45-12:45. Same format as the midterm.