San José State University
Department of Psychology
PSYC 196.01, Careers in Psychology
Fall, 2025

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Steven Del Chiaro
Office Location:	DMH 352
Email:	steven.delchiaro@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Monday/Wednesday 12:00pm – 1:00pm and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Monday/Wednesday. 10:30am – 11:45am
Classroom:	DMH 358

Course Format
This course will be instructed in person. Meeting times are Monday/Wednesday. 10:30am – 11:45am.

Course Website
Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. ALL assignments are assigned and turned into Canvas. You must be able to upload .doc or pdf. documents. Students are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through Canvas to learn of any updates.

Logging Into Canvas
Canvas Login URL: https://sjsu.instructure.com/ . Please note that it should NOT have the "www" at the start of the URL like many other websites. All students must first set up their SJSUOne account before accessing Canvas. To do so, go to http://its.sjsu.edu/services/sjsuone/ . The **Username for Canvas** then is your 9 digit SID or Employee ID and your PW is the one you chose when you established your SJSUOne account. You will see the courses you taking (assuming the instructor is using Canvas).

Further Assistance with Canvas
Students should go first to http://guides.instructure.com/m/4212 with problems and then to the University Help Desk for Canvas problems, including logging in (http://www.sjsu.edu/helpdesk/).

Course Description
An undergraduate degree in psychology offers a unique opportunity to experience learning across a broad range of topics associated with humans and how they think, feel, and behave. The scope and breadth of this universal degree is both its strength and weakness. What do you do with all of these universal skills, once your time in undergrad is complete? This course is designed to help you make those decisions and identify important and personally relevant directions as you progress towards graduation.

This course will give you an opportunity to learn from experts in fields like mental health, research, technology, healthcare, business, human resources, education, and government to get a sense of what they do and how they ended up in their roles. This will be done through the study of an assigned book, academic journal articles, trusted online publications, and in person presentations.

You will learn highly applicable skills like asking for reference letters, how to identify the right graduate program should your interests require post grad work, and resume crafting. The expectation is to give you a framework with tangible results that help you pursue your specific diverse interests.

This course will help you make sense of your future and how a properly leveraged degree in psychology, combined with the right skills and experience, can dramatically increase your opportunity to achieve your professional goals with clarity.

Learning Outcomes
Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)
By the end of the course, students will:

CLO1 – Students will be able to describe three career positions they may like to have, as well as the practical experience and (if relevant) graduate training to get there.
CLO2 – Students will be able to identify three post graduate resources that will enhance their career aspirations, and prepare an application for one of these resources. This may include applying to graduate school, licenses, professional certificates, additional trainings, internships, or any other competency training that advances their career interests.
CLO3 – Students will be able to write a cover letter for a job relevant to their career. CLO4 – Students will be able to write a resume for a job relevant to their career.
CLO5 – Students will identify the knowledge, skills, abilities, prior experiences, and coursework needed for jobs within their interests.
CLO6 – Students will demonstrate awareness of a range of career options.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)
Upon successful completion of the psychology major requirements…

PLO1 – Knowledge Base of Psychology – Students will be able to identify, describe, and communicate the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology. (test, quizzes, paper)

PLO2 – 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. (paper)

PLO3 – 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 behavior and mental processes. (paper)

PLO4 – Application of Psychology – Students will be able to apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues. (tests, paper)

PLO5 – Values in Psychology – Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society. (paper)

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook (optional)

> Kuther, T. L. & Morgan, R. D. (2020) Careers in Psychology: Opportunities in a Changing World(5th Edition). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. ISBN number: 9781544359731

> ***Supplementary articles and resources provided via Canvas that will be required.**

Library Liaison

> Bailey, Christa
> Phone: 408-808-2422
> Email: christa.bailey@sjsu.edu

Course Requirements and Assignments

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.

WRITING PROJECTS:
Assignments are listed on Canvas.

1. **Weekly Reflections**
Short written reflections on weekly topics. See Canvas. (aligned with CLO 5 & 6; PLO 4)

2. **Canvas Career Modules**
These modules are from the SJSU Career Center and will be available through our course's Canvas site. Students need to complete 3 modules. (aligned with CLO 1-6; PLO 4)

3. **Career Inventory Assessment**
You will complete the "Focus 2" career interest inventory. This assessment will suggest possible career paths that match your values, interests, and skills. (aligned with CLO 5; PLO 4)

4. **Career Research Project**
Research and present on three areas of psychology, including educational requirements, job outlook, and typical responsibilities. (aligned with CLO 1, 5; PLO 4)

5. **Resume and Cover Letter**
Develop a professional resume and tailored cover letter. (aligned with CLO 3; PLO 4)

6. **Informational Interview Report**
Conduct and write a **2–3-page report** summarizing an informational interview with a professional in the field.
Include insights gained and personal reflections. Students will complete 2 interviews. instructor.) (aligned with CLO 5 & 6; PLO 4)

7. **Oral Presentation**
Each student will make a brief (2-3 minute) oral presentation to the class about the career path that most interests them. Topics to cover include the work done by people in this career, and the experience or training necessary for entering this career. Also discuss why you personally are choosing this career path. The oral presentations will occur during the final exam period. A grading rubric will be provided closer to the presentation day. (aligned with CLO 1 & 5; PLO 4)

Grading Policy

Grades are updated on Canvas:

1. **Weekly Reflections** 10 reflections at 5 points each. (50)
2. **Canvas Career Modules** 5 points each. (15)
3. **Career Inventory Assessment** 5 points (5)
4. **Career Research Project** 50 points. (50)
5. **Resume and Cover Letter** 25 points. (25)
6. **Informational Interview Report.** 3 at 30 points each. (90)
7. **Oral Presentation** 25 points. (25)
8. **Participation Quizzes** totaling up to 20 points (20).

Total Points = 280 points

Letter grades will be assigned according to the grading table:

Table 1 - Grading Table

	A: 100 - 94	A-: 93-90
B+: 89-87	B: 86-83	B-: 82-80
C+: 79-77	C: 76-73	C-: 72-70
D+: 69-67	D: 66-63	D-: 62-60
F: < 60		

Classroom Protocol

Syllabus Policy:
The course syllabus presented in this document will be followed as closely as possible. However, the course syllabus, schedule, policies, and procedures are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor or in the event of extenuating circumstances. This includes the tentative dates listed. The instructor will announce possible changes of the syllabus in advance. Since such announcements are typically made during class, it is the student's responsibility to clarify any of these changes that may have been made when the student is absent.

Although you will be responsible for all the material in the assigned readings, some of the information may not be covered in class. Therefore, if there is material that is unclear to you it is highly recommended that you discuss this material with me at an appropriate time (e.g., during office hours). It is your responsibility to read the syllabus and ask questions about it so that you have a clear understanding of the expectations. If you are unclear about any of the requirements/expectations, then please set up a time to speak with me. I will be grading as though you have a clear understanding of the course requirements and material.

Attendance and Participation:
I will not be taking attendance, however, there will be participation quizzes for almost every class. You are adults and need to make your own decisions. Students are responsible for everything that is said and done in class. I strive to make my classes not only educational but also enjoyable. It is important to note that it is the student's responsibility to withdraw from a course they do not wish to take. If you simply stop coming to the class and do not withdraw from the course, then you will still receive a grade that will be based on the completed work. Additionally, I encourage students to arrive on time for the class. However, I understand that extenuating circumstances do arise that can prevent your diligent efforts toward punctuality. I do have a small portion of your grade based on participation; tardiness can affect your grade. Many important pieces of information are discussed in class, and students are responsible for knowing and complying with this information including changes in assignments. Please make appropriate adjustments to your schedule to allow for arrival to the class on time.

Classroom courtesy and disruptions:
Class disruptions are not tolerated. Students will be removed from class if they are being disruptive to fellow students or the professor. Disruptions include but are not limited to not paying attention (e.g., reading the newspaper, sleeping), tuning off video, etc. In accordance with university policies on student conduct, it is expected that you will treat other students and the instructor with courtesy and respect. Being distracting on Zoom ARE ACTIVITIES THAT ARE NOT RESPECTFUL!

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU's policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See University Policy S90–5 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the SJSU catalog, at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html. In general, it is recommended that

students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

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 Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- "Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material."
- "Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent."

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at http://www.sjsu.edu/aec to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See [University Policy S14-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/ located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide

variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit Peer Connections website at http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu for more information.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR

Reader to scan this code.)

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling Services website at http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling.

University Resources
SJSU offers many recourses to students for basic needs. Talk to me, or visit the website: https://www.sjsu.edu/sjsucares/

Schedule on next page.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines	Readings	Assignments, Deadlines <mark>All Assignments Submitted on Canvas before class time</mark>
1	Aug 20	Syllabus		
2	Aug 25 Aug 27	Course overview and expectations Broad Overview of Careers in Psychology	See Canvas for Materials	https://psychologydegreeguide.org/resources/careers-in-psychology/ https://www.apa.org/education-career/guide/careers.pdf https://www.apa.org/education-career/guide/paths
3	Sept 1 Sept 3	**No Class** Clinical and Counseling Psychology, School Psychology, Mental Health	See Canvas for Materials	**Assignment #1: Occupation Exploration Worksheet & Focus 2 Self-Assessment**
4	Sept 8 Sept 10	Legal and Forensic Psychology, Health Psychology, Sport Psychology, Healthcare, Education, Government	See Canvas for Materials	**Career Scan, Prep, and Training Plan DRAFT**
5	Sept 15 Sept 17	Biopsychology, I/O Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Human Factors, Human Resources	See Canvas for Materials	**Assignment #2: Informational Interview & Reflection**
6	Sept 22 Sept 24	Experimental Psychology, Social and Consumer Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Research, Technology	See Canvas for Materials	**Weekly Reflection Due**
7	Sept 29 Oct 1	Graduate-Level Careers in Psychology	See Canvas for Materials	
8	Oct 6 Oct 8	Graduate School and Different Types of Grad Programs	See Canvas for Materials	**Career Scan, Prep, and Training Plan**
9	Oct 13	Internships, Licenses, and Professional Certificates	See Canvas for Materials	

	Oct 15			
10	Oct 20 Oct 22	Cover Letters, Professional Communication	See Canvas for Materials	**Weekly Reflection Due**
11	Oct 27 Oct 29	Resumes, CVs, Letters of Recommendation	See Canvas for Materials	**Weekly Reflection Due**
12	Nov 3 Nov 5	Job Interviews	See Canvas for Materials	**Weekly Reflection Due**
13	Nov 10 Nov 12	Coping with Stress and Anxiety during Job Search	See Canvas for Materials	**Resume and Cover Letter Due**
14	Nov 17 Nov 19	Guest Lecture Series Speakers from clinical and counseling psychology fields	Assigned Videos	
15	Nov 24 Nov 26	No Class - Thanksgiving		
16	Dec 1 Dec 3	Oral Presentations	See Canvas for Materials	**Oral Presentations Due**
17	Dec 8	Oral Presentations and Wrap-Up	See Canvas for Materials	**Oral Presentations Due**
		https://www.sjsu.edu/classes/final-exam-schedule/spring-2025.php		