

Saint Leo University
PSY 202
Foundations of Psychology

Course Description:

This course is a three-credit course that was designed to be completed during early in the curriculum of the psychology major. The course functions as a primer for all of the skills necessary for success in the psychology major. Course content includes such topics as the scientific inquiry process in psychology, major historical movements and the empirical tradition, informational literacy in psychology, data analysis and interpretation skills, writing in American Psychological Association format, ethics in psychology, and career exploration and preparation.

Prerequisite:

PSY 161; taken concurrently with PSY 205 or before student can complete fourth psychology course

Textbooks:

Kuther, T. L. (2018) *The Psychology Major's Handbook* (5th edition) Sage Publishing. ISBN# 9781544359465

McBurney, D. H. (2002). *How to think like a psychologist: Critical thinking in psychology* (2nd ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall. ISBN#: 9780130150462

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. ISBN#: 9781433805615

Learning Outcomes:

1. Describe the various interests and professions of psychologists, including the people and events that have shaped the major movements in psychology.
2. Use critical-thinking skills to apply basic scientific and quantitative reasoning skills to empirical inquiry in psychology.
3. Develop and practice written and oral presentation skills and enhance information literacy in psychology.
4. Identify the steps necessary for securing a job and applying to graduate school, developing a personalized plan to succeed in the psychology major, and clarifying awareness of individual career goals and expectations.
5. Develop quantitative reasoning skills and familiarity with data manipulation and interpretation.
6. Increase awareness and application of ethical psychological principles to current events.

Core Values:

The mission statement and Core Values of Saint Leo University are fundamental to all courses. The Psychology Department has identified the following Core Values to be included in the curriculum for this course:

Excellence: Saint Leo University is an educational enterprise. All of us, individually and collectively, work hard to ensure that our students develop the character, learn the skills, and assimilate the knowledge essential to become morally responsible leaders. The

success of our University depends upon a conscientious commitment to our mission, vision, and goals.

Personal Development: Saint Leo University stresses the development of every person's mind, spirit, and body for a balanced life. All members of the Saint Leo University community must demonstrate their commitment to personal development to help strengthen the character of our community.

Evaluation:

Final grades for this course will be calculated based on the following distribution:

Assessments	Points	Weight
Discussions (8 @ 2.5% each)	400	20%
Quizzes (5 @ 4% each)	500	20%
What Interests Me in Psychology Paper	100	5%
Critical Article Summary	50	5%
Class Presentation	75	5%
Quantitative Reasoning Activity	50	5%
Psychology Major Portfolio	100	15%
APA Writing Assignment	75	15%
Current Topics/Ethics in Psychology Paper	50	10%
Total	1,400	100%

Grading Scale:

The following distribution will be used in assigning letter grades:

Grade Score (%)

A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	60-66
F	0-59

Discussions:

There will be a total of eight discussion board topics, one for each module. Your participation in the discussion postings will account for 20% of your final grade. Discussion topics will be posted at the beginning of the module, and discussion boards will be closed at the end of the module (Sunday at 11:59 PM EST/EDT – no make-ups allowed). Students are encouraged to actively participate and to share relevant comments, questions, and ideas. In order to encourage your interaction, you will be required to post an initial response to the discussion topic **no later than Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT** in each module, and then post a response to at least two other students' postings **no later than Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT** in each module.

The expectation is that you will behave as an adult and that your behavior at all times will be respectful toward your classmates, yourself, and the course instructor.

Students should demonstrate respect in expressing opinions and listening to others, and avoid language that is disrespectful based on race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, gender, religion, ability, class, size, or any other dimension. We ask that you adhere to these minimum guidelines so we will be able to engage in fun, thoughtful discussions and activities that make learning psychology what it should be: exciting.

Discussion board evaluation criteria: The highest grades are the ones that demonstrate that the student has done **all** the reading and given some serious thought to what he or she read, discussed all aspects of the topic in appropriate depth, answered all of the questions posed, given examples or shared personal experiences, and shared opinions with others by responding to at least two other students' postings.

Note: Failure to discuss the topic with at least two other students will result in a **D grade** for the discussion even if you do an excellent job of discussing the topic and answering all of the questions.

Quizzes:

Quizzes are assigned in Modules 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Each quiz will consist of 20 multiple-choice questions and will cover materials assigned in the module in which it is assigned. Students will have one hour to complete each quiz and will do so **no later than Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT** in each module in which a quiz is assigned.

MASQUE Assessment:

Complete the MASQUE assessment in Module 1. This assessment is a non-graded assignment that will be used to assess objectives in the psychology major.

What Interests Me in Psychology Paper:

Each student will write a paper exploring two or more of the thirteen fields of psychology described in the Kuther textbook that he/she considers noteworthy and why these areas are important. The paper should include a comparison and a contrast of the two fields. This paper is due **Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT of Module 1**. Detailed instructions and grading criteria are provided in Module 1.

Critical Article Summary:

Each student will summarize and critique a psychology research article of his/her choosing. This summary is due **Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT of Module 3**. Detailed instructions and grading criteria are provided in Module 3.

Class Presentation:

One of the goals of this course is to help students gain proficiency in many of the technological arenas necessary to succeed in the psychology major. One of the tools that will facilitate student success is the constructive use of PowerPoint in presenting on a topic of interest.

Each student is required to give a live 5-10-minute class presentation on a psychological topic. This presentation should be based on the "What Interests Me in Psychology" paper completed in Module 1. You will give your presentation using [Collaborate](#). This presentation is due **Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT of Module 4**. Detailed instructions and grading criteria are provided in Module 4.

Quantitative Reasoning Activity:

Each student will complete an activity involving data manipulation and interpretation. This activity is due **Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT of Module 5**. Detailed instructions and grading criteria are provided in Module 5.

Psychology Major Portfolio:

This assignment is comprised of several parts. Each student will review the Saint Leo University Career Planning website, create a beginning résumé or vita, establish personal and career objectives and describe them in a personal statement, and create an initial psychology portfolio that will be used to document performance in the major. This portfolio is due **Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT of Module 6**. Detailed instructions and grading criteria are provided in Module 6.

APA Writing Assignment:

Each student will use APA format to write a literature review paper using 3-5 scholarly peer-reviewed journal articles and to properly cite articles throughout the paper. This paper is due **Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT of Module 7**. Detailed instructions and grading criteria are provided in Module 7.

Current Topics/Ethics in Psychology Paper:

Each student will use APA format to write a 200-500-word paper based on an assigned article. This paper is due **Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT of Module 8**. Detailed instructions and grading criteria are provided in Module 8.

Course Schedule:

Module 1 Overview of Psychology

Objectives

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Compare and contrast the fields of psychology.
- Evaluate own personality traits in relation to the common traits of psychologists.
- Explain which area(s) of psychology are most relevant to career goals.

Assignments

Items to Be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Post an introduction to the class	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Read the assigned material	
Post an initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit the What Interests Me in Psychology Paper	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Quiz 1	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete MASQUE	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 2 Introduction to the History of Psychology

Objectives

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Describe historical events that influenced the field of psychology.
- Identify key people who shaped major movements in psychology.
- Identify basic concepts involving independent variables, dependent variables, and ethical issues present in research scenarios.

Assignments

Items to Be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned material	
Post an initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Quiz 2	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 3 Critical Thinking in Psychology

Objectives

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Describe historical events that influenced the field of psychology.
- Identify key people who shaped major movements in psychology.
- Identify instances of plagiarism.
- Explain issues related to ethical research, including a discussion of the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct.
- Use PsycINFO to find primary sources of information.
- Summarize and critique a psychology research article.
- Author a literature review.

Assignments

Items to Be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned material	
Post an initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit the Critical Article Summary	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Quiz 3	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 4 Creating Effective Presentations

Objectives

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Describe historical events that influenced the field of psychology.
- Identify key people who shaped major movements in psychology.
- Use PowerPoint to create and deliver an effective presentation.

Assignments

Items to Be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned material	
Post an initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit and deliver the Class Presentation	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Quiz 4	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 5 Research Methods in Psychology

Objectives

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Use a statistical program (Excel) to calculate descriptive statistics.
- Interpret a graphical representation of data from a psychology study.

Assignments

Items to Be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned material	
Post an initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit the Quantitative Reasoning Activity	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Quiz 5	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 6 Careers and Graduate Study in Psychology

Objectives

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Establish personal and career objectives.
- Construct a well-formatted résumé and cover letter.
- Identify steps for securing a job and applying to graduate school.

Assignments

Items to Be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned material	
Post an initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit the Psychology Major Portfolio	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 7 APA Writing

Objectives

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Use PsycINFO to find primary sources of information.
- Demonstrate written communication skills by authoring a literature review.

Assignments

Items to Be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned material	
Post an initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit the APA Writing Assignment	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 8**Ethical Decision-Making****Objectives**

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Evaluate the ethical issues presented in a case study.
- Apply the core value of integrity to a case study.
- Analyze the independent variables, the dependent variables, and ethical issues present in a research scenario.

Assignments

Items to Be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned material	
Post an initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit the Current Topics/Ethics in Psychology Paper	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT