

PSY 371 (sections 11-20): Psychological Statistics (Fall 2025)

Instructor

Dr. John Kim, Professor of Psychology

Class Meeting Times

Lecture sections (11, 13, 15, 17, 19) – Wednesdays from 7-8:40pm in HSS 154

Thursday Lab Sections (12, 14, 16, 18, 20):

If you are registered...

- ...for Lecture section 11, then you are in Thursday Lab section 12
- ...for Lecture section 13, then you are in Thursday Lab section 14
- ...for Lecture section 15, then you are in Thursday Lab section 16
- ...for Lecture section 17, then you are in Thursday Lab section 18
- ...for Lecture section 19, then you are in Thursday Lab section 20

Attendance will be recorded in lab.

Homework assignments will be due in lab.

Attendance in lab and homework assignments are the main bases for your grade in this class.

Office Hours

Dr. Kim's office hours are on Thursday from 10am - noon in EP 421, and by appointment.

Course Communication

Dr. Kim will send information pertaining to the class through Canvas announcements.

The best way to reach Dr. Kim is by email at: johnkim@sfsu.edu

(Please include "PSY 371" in the Subject: line of your email so it is easy to find.)

Bulletin Description

Psychology 371 (3 Units): Restricted to upper-division Psychology, Child and Adolescent Development, and Liberal Studies majors; PSY 171 and PSY 200 or equivalents with grades of C or better. Statistical theory and techniques appropriate to psychology and related fields; statistical inference and the testing of hypotheses. Psychology majors must take for a letter grade and earn a C or better. Lecture, 2 units; activity, 1 unit.

Course Objectives

Students in this class will demonstrate that they have gained the ability to:

- Understand statistical concepts underlying psychological research.
- Use statistics as a research tool to describe data (descriptive statistics)
- Use statistics as a research tool for testing null hypotheses (inferential statistics)

Resources

Course website: canvas.sfsu.edu

Videos, readings, and other documents will be available on the Canvas site for the lecture section for this class.

Your lab GTA may also maintain a separate Canvas site for the lab section for this class.

Format of the class

The general format of the class will start on Wednesdays (except for the first week ; see ** below).

Each Wednesday (except for the first week ; see ** below), I will make three things available on the Canvas site for the lecture section you are registered for: (i) a video, (ii) an associated reading, and (iii) a homework assignment based on the video and reading. Please watch the video and do the reading prior to the following week's lecture. (You should also at least start the homework assignment....)

Then, in lecture the following week (on Wednesday):

- I will quickly review the material in the video and the reading at the beginning of lecture (15-20 minutes);
- I will give the class an in-class exercise based on that material, which you can work on in groups (30-40 minutes);
- then we will reconvene lecture to go over the answers to the in-class exercise (10-20 minutes);
- and, finally, I will answer any questions, including questions about the homework assignment (which will be due the next day in Thursday lab).
- *Note: I will also make the following week's video, reading and homework available....*

Then, in lab the next day (on Thursday):

- your homework assignment will be due to the GTA of your lab section;
- your attendance will be recorded; and
- your GTA will cover the material again in more detail, answer remaining questions, etc.

Grades

Your grade will be based on your scores on participation in research for 3 SONA credits, homework assignments and your attendance in lab.

• SONA:	3 points	
• Homework:	80 points	
• Lab attendance:	20 points	
• Grading scale:	A = 94-103	A- = 90-93.9
B+ = 87-89.9	B = 83-86.9	B- = 80-82.9
C+ = 77-79.9	C = 73-76.9	C- = 70-72.9
D+ = 67-69.9	D = 63-66.9	D- = 60-62.9
F = 0- 59.9		

Participation in research available via SONA is required for a number of Psychology courses, including PSY 371. For an overview of how to participate in SONA, go to:

<https://psychology.sfsu.edu/research-participation-sona-systems>

If you end up with a grade that is lower than you like, you can increase your grade by taking a final exam during Finals Week. If you decide to take the final exam, it will be scored on a 100 point scale, and your final grade will be the average of your homework+attendance grade and your grade on the final exam.

EXAMPLE 1: A good grade on the final exam will not erase a poor overall homework grade:

If a student's total homework grade is 50 points, that student will have to take the final exam in order to pass the class (i.e., 50 points is an F on the grading scale above). Let's say that that student takes the final exam and gets 100 points on it (out of a total possible 100 points). Then the student's final grade for the class will be a C (because the average of the student's homework grade of 50 and the student's final exam grade of 100 is $(50+100)/2 = 150/2 = 75$ points, which is a C on the grading scale above.)

This example demonstrates that your homework grade still counts as 50% of your grade, even if you take the final exam. **So do your best on the homework assignments. A low homework grade will not be erased by a high grade on the final exam.**

EXAMPLE 2: Taking the final exam will not hurt your grade:

If a student's total homework grade is 80 points, that student will get a B- based on the grading scale above. Let's say that that student wants a grade better than B-, so she decides to take the final exam. It turns out that the student gets 70 points on the final exam (out of a total possible 100 points). The average of the student's homework grade of 80 and the student's final exam grade of 70 is $(80+70)/2 = 150/2 = 75$ points, which is a C on the grading scale above.

In a case like this – i.e., in which a student takes the final exam and gets a grade on it that is lower than the student's homework grade – I will simply assign a letter grade based solely on the homework grade. **So taking the final exam cannot hurt your grade. It can only improve your grade (i.e., if you receive a higher grade on the final exam than your overall homework grade, then your final grade will be based on the average of your homework grade and your final exam grade).**

Lecture material schedule (Wednesdays):

Wed, Aug 27: <i>first lecture</i>	Introduction ; Diagnostic Quiz
Wed, Sept 3: <i>traditional lecture**</i>	Scales of Measurement; Populations & Samples
Wed, Sept 10:	Displaying Data
Wed, Sept 17:	Measures of Central Tendency ; Measures of Variability
Wed, Sept 24:	The Normal Distribution
Wed, Oct 1:	The Distribution of Sample Means
Wed, Oct 8:	Confidence Intervals
Wed, Oct 15:	Null Hypothesis Testing: The Single Sample z-Test
Wed, Oct 22:	Single Sample t-Test
Wed, Oct 29:	Independent Samples t-Test
Wed, Nov 5:	Dependent Samples t-Test
Wed, Nov 12:	Pearson Correlation
Wed, Nov 19:	Linear Regression
Wed, Nov 26:	<<Fall Recess – no classes this week>>
Wed, Dec 3:	Oneway Analysis of Variance
Wed, Dec 10: <i>last lecture</i>	Tying up loose ends ; sign-up for Final Exam
Wed, Dec 17: <i>finals week</i>	Final Exam (normal time, normal location)

SF State Policies

It is our shared responsibility to know and abide by the San Francisco State University policies that relate to all courses, which include topics like:

- Disability Access
- Disclosures of Sexual Violence (Title IX)
- Academic integrity

Disability Access

Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The DPRC is located in the Student Service Building and can be reached by telephone (voice/415-338-2472, video phone/415-335-7210) or by email (dprc@sfsu.edu). Their website is at access.sfsu.edu

Disclosures of Sexual Violence (Title IX)

SF State fosters a campus free of sexual violence including sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and/or any form of sex or gender discrimination. If you disclose a personal experience as an SF State student, the course instructor is required to notify the Title IX Coordinator by completing the report form available at <https://titleix.sfsu.edu>, emailing vpsaem@sfsu.edu, or calling (415) 338-2032. To disclose any such violence confidentially, contact:

- The SAFE Place – (415) 338-2208; dos.sfsu.edu/safeplace
- Counseling and Psychological Services Center – (415) 338-2208; psyservs.sfsu.edu
- For more information on your rights and available resources, visit titleix.sfsu.edu

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity, the ethical presentation of one's own work in accordance with the rules established for this class, is required. Instances of academic misconduct will be reported to the College in which the course is housed, the Division of Graduate Studies (if a graduate student), and the Office of Student Conduct with the report being kept in those offices until a student earns his/her degree. Any instances of cheating, deceit, fabrication, forgery, plagiarism, unauthorized altering of records or submitting false documents, unauthorized collaboration, unauthorized submission of work previously given credit, or other forms of academic misconduct will be assigned a grade penalty, likely an F or a grade of zero. Failing one or more assignments or examinations for reasons of academic integrity violations may result in a final class grade of F. Students may not withdraw from classes in which they have committed academic misconduct. Consequences for violations of academic integrity may exceed an F on the assignment, examination, or class as determined by the Academic Integrity Review Committee.

Members of our academic community have a responsibility to develop an awareness of academic integrity, to cultivate skills to realize honesty in academic and community work, and to sustain actively academic honor as a core value of our community. Students are expected to engage in behaviors that reflect well upon the university. In addition to attending to one's own actions, the Standards for Student Conduct require that students who witness academic dishonesty notify their faculty/instructor, department chair, or the Office of Student Conduct. Supporting academic integrity enhances the reputation of the University and the value attributed to degrees awarded by the University.

University-Wide Policies

Recording. Students may not capture audio, photos or video from class sessions on their own devices without the explicit permission of the instructor and everyone present, unless part of a DPRC-authorized accommodation.

Posting online. Students may not post any course materials to any third-party sites (such as Chegg) or post any recordings, screenshots, audio or chat transcripts in any setting outside the class. Violations of this are subject to student disciplinary action.

Course-Specific Policies

No phones are permitted during our class meetings. I expect you to make the responsible and respectful decision to refrain from using your mobile phone in class. If you have critical communication to attend to, please excuse yourself from class and return when you are done.

Grading practices.

- **Calculation errors:** Grades will be changed if there has been an error in the calculation of your grade. Please contact the GTA of your lab section about this.
- **Grade disputes based on content:** Grade disputes based on content must be submitted to me in writing via email with a cc: to the GTA of your lab section. Outline very specifically why you feel you received your grade in error. Grade disputes must be submitted within one week after receiving the grade.
- **Final grades:** Final grades will be calculated based on the total number of points earned for all the assessments in the course. Letter grades will be assigned according to the points earned. Unless a calculation error has been made, final grades will not be changed. There are no exceptions to this policy.
- **Attendance:** It is up to the individual student to attend each class.

Attendance in Wednesday Lecture is not mandatory, but Lecture is where material is first presented and where many questions about the material and the homework can be answered.

Attendance in Thursday Lab is mandatory and will constitute 20% of your overall grade. If you miss class, you are responsible for obtaining notes from a classmate.

Note that it is highly unlikely that you will be able to do well in this course without consistent attendance.

Get Some Help!

Everyone can benefit from some expert guidance and support to achieve higher academic success, so I encourage you to consider visiting the Tutoring & Academic Support Center (TASC): <https://tutoring.sfsu.edu>

If you just need someone to talk to, visit Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): <https://psyservs.sfsu.edu/> or <https://caps.sfsu.edu/>

Finally, remember that my door is always open. Come see me during my office hours, or email me to schedule some time to talk.

Everyone needs help... all you have to do is ask for it.

Statement on Inclusion

We VALUE Respect, Civility, and Inclusion

The Psychology Department is committed to providing a multi-cultural academic setting and climate that is respectful, inclusive, civil, and harassment-free for individuals regardless of ability, age, ethnicity, gender identity or expression, indigenous heritage, immigration status, nationality, physical appearance, political affiliation, race, religion or spirituality (or lack thereof), sexual orientation, social class, socioeconomic status, or other cultural, demographic, and social identification*.

We ASK that all members of our department, including undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, staff, and guests, treat each other with respect and civility. We strive for this in every aspect of our interactions including, for example, in language (e.g., pronouns), verbal and written communication (e.g., thoughtful and active listening), and behaviors in the virtual or real classroom, research laboratory, as well as in any other setting that holds a department function.

Examples of language or behaviors in the academic setting that are not respectful include but are not limited to:

- Discriminatory statements that are overt (e.g., hostility) or subtle (e.g., microaggressions)
- Posting discriminatory materials on campus or campus-related forums (Canvas, Zoom)
- Behaviors or statements that interfere with the learning of others
- Marginalizing individuals based on their social or demographic identity, or perceived identity
- Inappropriate, unwelcome, or non-consensual comments, behaviors, photography or recording
- Advocating for or encouraging any of the above

We encourage ACCOUNTABILITY and seeking SUPPORT

- To receive support for
 - o Asian American and Pacific Islander Retention and Education (aspire.sfsu.edu)
 - o Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) (access.sfsu.edu)
 - o Equity & Community Inclusion Unit (equity.sfsu.edu)
 - o Mental health at Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) (psyservs.sfsu.edu)
 - o Physical health at the Health Center (health.sfsu.edu)
 - o Sexualized violence at the Safe Place (dos.sfsu.edu/safeplace)
 - o Undocumented students at the Dream Resource Center (drc.sfsu.edu)
- To contact
 - o Psychology Department and Psychology Professors (psychology.sfsu.edu)
 - o The University Police Department (upd.sfsu.edu)
- To report
 - o Harassment or discrimination based on sex, gender, or sexual orientation (titleix.sfsu.edu)
 - o A bias incident (equity.sfsu.edu)
 - o To learn about the University Code of Conduct
 - o Undergraduate: (conduct.sfsu.edu/standards)
 - o Graduate: (bulletin.sfsu.edu/graduate-education/academic-policies-procedures/)

**(We alphabetized identities to avoid implying a preference for a particular identity.)*