

PSYC 100: Introduction to Psychology  
Spring, 2013

Thank you for your interest in PSYC 100. A complete syllabus for the course will be posted in late December and will not be available before then. This announcement relates to the discussion section and may influence in which section you decide to enroll.

All sections of PSYC 100 have a weekly, 50-minute discussion meeting. A Teaching Assistant (TA) who is completing a Ph.D. in Psychology or a closely related field will lead discussion all semester. The emphasis of these meetings is to examine a topic in-depth and in a more active way than is possible in a large lecture. You may participate in demonstrations, discuss issues, or complete activities intended to help you understand the field of psychology. Attendance and participation are required.

During the first six weeks, discussion topics connect to weekly lecture material. Starting at Week 7, your TA will teach what we call a “mini-course” in your weekly discussion section. The TA proposed these mini-courses on a topic about which they are both knowledgeable and enthusiastic and were chosen in a competitive process. Each has a faculty mentor that she will be working with to develop the weekly activities. The purpose of the mini-course is to enhance your experience as an introductory student in psychology, by:

1. Exposing you at the introductory level to the kind of material you would encounter in upper-division psychology courses. This may be a preview for your intended major, or, help you evaluate whether the PSYC major or minor is for you.
2. Stimulating your interest in a topic that is relevant across disciplines and in everyday life.
3. Providing you with depth and currency on the topic sufficient for you to think critically and exchange ideas about it. In other words, you’ll become a bit of a mini-expert on the topic.

Here are the mini-course topics that correspond to each of the six discussion sections. Barring some unforeseen emergency, these will not change. And unfortunately, we cannot switch students between sections so that you can take the course you want; you’ll have to work that out in registering yourself.

Discussion Section	Discussion Day and Time	Mini-Course Topic
52411	Tuesday 10-10:50 am	The Science of Self-Control
52415	Tuesday 11-11:50 am	The Science of Self-Control
52417	Thursday 8-8:50 am	Body Image and Eating Disorders
52413	Friday 9-9:50 am	The Emotional and Social Brain
52416	Friday 11-11:50 am	The Emotional and Social Brain
52414	Friday 1-1:50 pm	How and Why We Learn

Thanks for your careful attention to this information, and see you in the spring,  
--Dr. Renken