

# PSYC 100 (52400) – Introduction to Psychology

## ***Fall 2013***

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Tu & Th 9:30 - 10:50 a.m.

**SGM 124**

**Lecturer:** Regina Chopp, PhD

**Office:** SGM 7<sup>th</sup> floor; SGM 501 (mail)

**E-mail:** [rchopp@usc.edu](mailto:rchopp@usc.edu) (best contact)

**Office Hrs:** Monday 10:00-11:00 a.m., or by appt

### **Course Textbooks**

- USC Bookstore Package (3 items): *Visualizing Psychology (3<sup>rd</sup> edition)* by Carpenter & Huffman, *WileyPlus* online access for Visualizing Psychology, and *50 Great Myths of Popular Psychology: Shattering Widespread Misconceptions about Human Behavior* by Lilienfeld, Lynn, Ruscio, & Beyerstein.

### **Course Objectives**

- You will learn how behavior is understood and modified within the various perspectives of the field. An important goal is for you to think critically about what you read and hear concerning behavior and its causes. You will learn about influential studies from the history of psychology and explore contemporary research and issues. Finally, you will become acquainted with the various degree types and career options in the field of psychology.

### **Use of Electronic Devices**

Please turn off your phone and put it away during class. If you must have your phone on, please let me know before class begins. Students who need to use their phones can do so outside of the lecture hall. **Laptops will only be permitted in the first two rows of the classroom.** Students who require laptops as part of academic accommodations must provide a letter stating so from Disability Services.

### **WileyPLUS**

WileyPLUS is an online learning environment that is tightly integrated with the courses main text, Visualizing Psychology. The combination of our text and WileyPLUS will provide you with multiple entry points to the course content, giving you opportunities to further explore concepts discussed in lecture, review what you have learned, and assess your understanding of the course material prior to exams.

## **Grades**

**Discussion Section.** Discussion is an integral part of this course, and as such, the meetings are graded and required. A Teaching Assistant who is a doctoral student in Psychology leads these meetings. You will use the 50 Myths book as the main text for your discussion section. The purpose of the weekly discussion is to clarify concepts from lecture and to draw connections between the material from the 50 Myths text and the material from Visualizing Psychology. Discussion is also a time for you to deepen your understanding of course topics through student discussion, film, or class activities.

Tue 8:30A	52401	Leslie Berntsen	<a href="mailto:leslie.berntsen@usc.edu">leslie.berntsen@usc.edu</a>
Fri 12:00P	52402	Carlos Rodriquez	<a href="mailto:rodrigca@usc.edu">rodrigca@usc.edu</a>
Wed 9:00A	52403	Leslie Berntsen	
Thu 8:30A	52404	Leslie Berntsen	
Wed 11:00A	52405	Carlos Rodriquez	
Mon 1:00P	52406	Carlos Rodriquez	
Wed 11:00A	52407	Ori Amir	<a href="mailto:oriacadem@gmail.com">oriacadem@gmail.com</a>
Mon 12:00P	52408	Ori Amir	
Fri 12:00P	52409	Ori Amir	

**Discussion grading.** Your TA will evaluate your participation in discussion each week. Both quality and quantity count. The grading rubric is as follows:

5 points: Maintained attention, participated in the activity, and answered or asked a question thoughtfully.

4 points: Maintained attention and participated in the activity.

3 points: Attention or participation was lacking; engaged in distracting behaviors (e.g., used phone or internet; talking out of turn).

0 points: Absent, unexcused.

The lowest two discussion grades of the semester will be excluded in calculating your discussion total. This means that you may miss two discussions due to illness or unforeseen events with or without a documented excuse as described below.

For any missed discussion meeting, you will still be responsible for the material covered. There are no “excused absences” from discussion. Attend as often as possible and miss no more than two in order to avoid point penalties.

## **Exams I & II**

Two, non-cumulative exams will broadly cover material from lecture, selected parts of the two textbooks, videos, and assigned parts of WileyPLUS. The exams will be all multiple-choice items testing your ability to apply concepts rather than simply to memorize key terms. You will receive additional instructions about the exams during the

course lectures and discussion sections. Regular attendance will help you to narrow down the information you will be tested on come exam day.

If you miss an exam without an approved, documented excuse, you will receive a zero and may not make it up. If you have an *approved excuse* you must let me know within 24 hours of the scheduled exam time. You will be allowed 1 week to make up the exam.

***Exam Procedure: Please bring a Benchmark # 29240 Scantron and a pencil. There are different versions of the exam and you must be careful that you mark the correct version on your Scantron. Your identity will be checked as you turn in the exam.***

**Acceptable excuses for missed exams.** Non-emergency-related travel (e.g., family events, spring break) or life's inconveniences such as traffic, work, parking delays, and non-emergency appointments will not count as acceptable excuses. The following are acceptable, with approved documentation: (1) university-sponsored event that you are required to attend on an exam date; (2) unanticipated and unavoidable emergency on the exam date, such as a documented incident on the way to campus; (3) death or life threatening emergency of a close relative or friend within a reasonable timeframe of the scheduled date (paper evidence of the emergency is required, and additional documentation by a university official may also be required); (4) Medical excuses: Extensions for taking an exam are granted if you provide a doctor's note stating that you could not attend class on the exam date, or, for at least the three days immediately preceding it.

## **Paper**

This paper is an opportunity for you to examine one of the course topics more closely. Additional instructions regarding the paper will be provided early on in the course. However, the total grade for the paper will include points from three areas: 1) turning in an outline to your TA, 2) providing your peers in your discussion section with a brief (informal) presentation about your findings from the topic you chose, and 3) the paper itself.

## **Research Requirement**

Research is the foundation of psychological theory and practice, and one of the most effective ways to learn about research is through first-hand experience. All PSYC 100 students are required to complete 10 credit hours as research participants. Alternatively, students may participate in the Joint Education Project (JEP) for the semester. You must decide **within the first two weeks** of the semester which option you want to do. Representatives will visit the beginning of class during the first two weeks and give brief presentations on both options. Note that working as a research assistant or other forms of volunteerism (including non-Psychology JEP positions) will ***not*** fulfill this course requirement.

### ***Research Participation Option:***

Research participation requires that you use the web-based experiment management system: <http://usc.sona-systems.com>. At this site, researchers post active studies and you may sign up for those for which you are qualified and find interesting. Instructions for using this system will be presented during the first two weeks of class. Students bear the entire responsibility for using the system correctly as course instructors have no access to your records. **Please note that you must indicate that you are in the correct section of Psyc 100 in your sona-systems account**, and assign 10 credits that you earn to this course. Each credit counts 2.5 points toward your course grade. You will receive partial credit should you not complete all 10. Direct all questions about sona-systems and all inquiries about credits you earned to the TA in charge of sona-systems. You will find this person's contact information as the "help" contact on the sona-systems website.

If you choose research participation, it is important to know that for PSYC 100, **at least 5 of the credits must be for "in-person" studies, or those in which you physically go to a laboratory or other setting to complete the study**. The remaining credits may be from in-person or online studies. If you complete the "Psychology Pre-measure," you may find that you are eligible for extra studies; the pre-measure itself is online and counts as two online credits. It is available through sona-systems for the first few weeks of the semester. The pre-measure is NOT required; it simply may get you invited to extra studies not listed on sona-systems. Check for new studies on a weekly basis. The busier you are, the more critical it is that you do not procrastinate. Busy schedules will not excuse you from the research requirement.

Please be aware that when you sign up for a study, you are making an appointment with a student or faculty member. If you fail to show up, this is a hassle and delays their research or degree progress. Being a no-show is inexcusable given that you receive email reminders about your appointments and you are able to cancel on sona-systems within a reasonable timeframe before your appointment. Your sona-systems account will be frozen for the rest of the term if you fail to show up for or properly cancel research appointments. This means you would not be able to finish the credits and will receive 0 points for those unearned.

### ***Joint Education Project (JEP) Option:***

This program places student volunteers in schools or other venues where they serve as teachers' assistants, work with students as tutors, or help lead activities. Although JEP is a several week commitment (and takes more time than research participation), past participants have found JEP very rewarding. Positions with JEP are tailored to various courses and only the Psychology positions will fulfill this credit. Be advised that less than full credit will be given to students who do not receive satisfactory reports (e.g., frequent absences, lack of effort) from their JEP site supervisor.

## **Academic Integrity**

Please familiarize yourself with the policies on Academic Integrity & Dishonesty at:  
[http://www.usc.edu/studentaffairs/SJACS/pages/students/academic\\_integrity.html#](http://www.usc.edu/studentaffairs/SJACS/pages/students/academic_integrity.html#)

## **Assignment of Course Grades (point system)**

**Discussion meetings** = 60 (70 possible, drop lowest 2)

**Exam 1** = 120

**Exam 2** = 120

**Paper** = 120 (outline 20 + presentation 20 + paper 80)

**Research Participation or JEP** = 25

**Total possible points in course** = 445

**Letter Grades will be assigned based on the percentage of points possible that you earn. Your percentage will be rounded up at .50 and higher and down at .49 and lower. This course is graded by the points earned system (as stated above) and is not based on a class curve.**

A: 93-100%	B+: 87-89%	C+: 77-79%	D+: 67-69%	F: 59 and below
	B: 83-86%	C: 73-76%	D: 60-66%	
A-:90-92%	B-: 80-82	C-: 70-72%		

## **Statement for Students with Disabilities**

Any student requesting academic accommodations is required to register with the Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. This information will be kept private. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30-5:00, M-F. The phone number to DSP is 213-740-0776.

## **Assignment & Exam Schedule\***

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### **Week 1**

8-27 Introduction & Research Methods, VP Chpt 1

8-29 Introduction & Research Methods, VP Chpt 1

*Discussion-* 50 Myths, Introduction

### **Week 2**

9-3 Neuroscience & Biological Foundations, VP Chpt 2

9-5 Neuroscience & Biological Foundations, VP Chpt 2

*Discussion-* 50 Myths, Chpt 1 (*skip* Myth 4)

### **Week 3**

9-10 Stress & Health Psychology, VP Chpt 3

9-12 Stress & Health Psychology, VP Chpt 3

*Discussion-* 50 Myths, Chpt 8 (Myth 33); Chpt 6 (Myth 25-26)

### **Week 4**

9-17 States of Consciousness, VP Chpt 5

9-19 States of Consciousness, VP Chpt 5

*Discussion-* 50 Myths, Chpt 5

### **Week 5**

9-24 Learning, VP Chpt 6

9-26 Memory, VP Chpt 7 (*skip* Biological Bases of Memory 189-191)

*Discussion-* 50 Myths, Chpt 3; Chpt 4 (Myth 18)

### **Week 6**

10-1 Intelligence, VP Chpt 8 (*begin* at Intelligence on pg 213)

10-3 *TBA*

*Discussion-* 50 Myths, Chapter 2 (Myth 6), Chapter 4 (Myths 15, 16)

### **Week 7**

10-8 EXAM I (VP chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8)

10-10 Lifespan Development I, VP Chpt 9

*Discussion-* 50 Myths, Chpt 2 (Myth 7)

### **Week 8**

10-15 Lifespan Development I, VP Chpt 9

10-17 Lifespan Development II, VP Chpt 10

*Discussion-* 50 Myths, Chpt 2 (Myths 8-10)

Turn in paper outlines, including initial reference page

### **Week 9**

10-22 Lifespan Development II, VP Chpt 10

10-24 Motivation & Emotion, VP Chpt 11 (*end at Comps & Theor of Emotion pg 299*)

*Discussion-* 50 Myths, Chpt 6 (Myths 23-24)

### **Week 10**

10-29 Personality, VP Chpt 12

10-31 Personality, VP Chpt 12

*Discussion-* 50 Myths, Chpt 8

### **Week 11**

11-5 Psychological Disorders, VP Chpt 13 (*skip Understanding and Evaluating the DSM pp 346-47*)

11-7 Psychological Disorders, VP Chpt 13 (*skip Understanding and Evaluating the DSM pp 346-47*)

*Discussion-* 50 Myths, Chpt 9 (skip Myth 42)

### **Week 12**

11-12 Psych Disorders & Therapy, VP Chpt 14

11-14 Therapy, VP Chpt 14

*Discussion-* 50 Myths, Chpt 7 and Chpt 11

### **Week 13**

11-19 Therapy, VP Chpt 14

11-21 Social Psychology, VP Chpt 15

*Discussion-* Class presentations on paper topics

### **Week 14**

11-26 Social Psychology, VP Chpt 15

11-28 NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)

*Discussion-* No Discussion sections meet this week

### **Week 15**

12-3 TBA

12-5: Exam II (VP chapters 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15)

*Discussion-* Class presentations on paper topics

Final Exam date: Hard copies of papers are due, **attendance is mandatory.**

\*If you already know that you have a conflict with the exam dates or final exam date I recommend that you reconsider whether this is an appropriate time for you to be enrolled in this course. Per USC policy, I will not make exceptions (including requests to take exams early) unless an arrangement has been pre-arranged with the Psychology Department or the office of Student Affairs.