

PSYC 438: Behavioral Genetics (Course Number 52606)
University of Southern California – Fall 2016

TIME: MW 8-9:50
ROOM: SGM 226

INSTRUCTOR: Laura A. Baker, PhD
Professor
OFFICE: SGM 623
PHONE: (213) 740-2261
EMAIL: lbaker@usc.edu

OFFICE HOURS: W 2-3:30 and by appointment.

PREPARATION: Familiarity with basic concepts in statistics is required, such as would be obtained in the prerequisite PSYC 274 (Statistics). Other courses may substitute for this prerequisite, with consent of the instructor.

TEXTBOOK: Behavioral Genetics by Robert Plomin, John C. DeFries, Valerie Knopik, Jenae Neiderhiser (2013). 6th edition, Worth Publishers.
ISBN: 1429242159.

OTHER READINGS: Selected journal articles and chapters to be posted online.

GRADING: Course grades will be determined on the basis of quiz and exam performance, a written paper summarizing recent research articles, and a multimedia presentation of your articles. Quizzes will be completed online using a WIKI designed and developed throughout the course. There is a maximum of 1000 points, which may be earned from these, distributed as follows:

Quizzes	150
Midterm examination	300
Final examination	300
Multimedia Research Presentation	150
Class participation	100
TOTAL	1000

Statement on Academic Integrity

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. *Scampus*, the St Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: <http://scampus.usc.edu/gov/> Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/>.

Approximate Schedule of Topics and Readings

Date	Topic	Reading
Aug 22	Introduction and overview	Ch 1; PDKN2016
Aug 24	Mendel's Laws: From Peas to People	Ch 2-3
Aug 29	Statistics review: Individual differences and family resemblance	Appendix
Aug 31	Multimedia & the class Wiki	
Sep 5	<i>Labor Day – NO CLASS</i>	
Sep 7	Twin, family and adoption studies	Ch 6
Sept 12	Quantitative Genetics: Heritability estimation	Ch 7; Appendix
Sept 14	Gene-environment interplay: GE correlation; GxE interaction	Ch 8
Sept 19	Environment: What is it and how can we study it? (<i>Guest Speaker: Chris Beam</i>)	
Sept 21	Molecular Genetics	Ch 4
Sept 26	Animal Studies (<i>Guest Speaker: Allison Knoll</i>)	Ch 5
Sept 28	Identifying Genes in Human Behavior	Ch 9
Oct 3	Pathways from Genes to Behavior	Ch 10
Oct 5	Assortative mating / Divorce	Lykken; McGue
Oct 10	Evolutionary Psychology: Sexual selection	Ch 20
Oct 12	MIDTERM EXAM	
Oct 17	Cognitive abilities	Ch 12-13
Oct 19	Cognitive disabilities (<i>Linda Griffith, Guest Speaker</i>)	Ch 11
Oct 24	Antisocial and Criminal Behavior	
Oct 26-Nov 2	Psychopathology (<i>Yaling Yang: Guest Speaker</i>)	Ch 14-15
Nov 7	Childhood Disorders	Ch 16
Nov 9	Personality	Ch 17
Nov 14	Personality disorders	
Nov 16	Addictions	Ch 18
Nov 21	Future Directions in Genetic Research + Review	Ch 21
	Multimedia Research Page due on Wiki Nov 21	
Nov 23	<i>Thanksgiving Break – No class</i>	
Nov 28-30	MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATIONS	
Dec 7	FINAL EXAMINATION 8-10 am	

Statement for Students with Disabilities

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with 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 (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.