



Dana and David Dornsife  
College of Letters, Arts  
and Sciences  
*Department of Psychology*

**Psychology 100Lg (52440)**  
**Introduction to Psychology**  
Fall 2018

Lecture Location: Salvatori Computer Science Center (SAL), Room 101  
Days and Time: Monday & Wednesday; 3:30 p.m. to 4:50 p.m.

Online portion at <https://blackboard.usc.edu> and <https://tophat.com>

**Instructor Information**

Dr. Clayton L. Stephenson  
Assistant Professor (Teaching) Psychology  
[clstephe@usc.edu](mailto:clstephe@usc.edu)  
(213) 740-9019

Office Location: SGM, Room 526  
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday  
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.,  
and by appointment

**Lab and TA Information**

Lab Day	Lab Time	Lab Location	TA Name	TA Email
Monday	12:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.	GFS 220	Alaina Gold	<a href="mailto:alaina.gold@usc.edu">alaina.gold@usc.edu</a>
Wednesday	12:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.	KAP 159	Annemarie Kelleghan	<a href="mailto:kellegha@usc.edu">kellegha@usc.edu</a>
Thursday	8:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.	KAP 163	Yana Ryjova	<a href="mailto:ryjova@usc.edu">ryjova@usc.edu</a>
Thursday	2:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.	VKC 257	Annemarie Kelleghan	<a href="mailto:kellegha@usc.edu">kellegha@usc.edu</a>
Friday	8:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.	KAP 165	Alaina Gold	<a href="mailto:alaina.gold@usc.edu">alaina.gold@usc.edu</a>
Friday	10:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.	KAP 165	Lynn Zhang	<a href="mailto:zhan306@usc.edu">zhan306@usc.edu</a>

**Syllabus**

**Official Course Description**

This course is a comprehensive introduction to the subject areas, theoretical perspectives, methods, and controversies in the field of psychology. Topics covered include research methods, brain structure and function, sensation, perception, principles of learning, memory, development, intelligence, personality, stress, social behavior, consciousness, psychological disorders, and therapy.

**My Course Summary**

Psychology *is* a science. To be a psychologist, a person must be a philosopher, a humanitarian, a scientist and, most important, a *critical thinker*. In this course you will be presented a wide range of critical issues that humans face in today’s world based on our behavior, cognition, and emotions. We will explore these issues using content from the research methods used in psychological science, foundations in behavioral neuroscience, child and adult development, cognition, social psychology, and abnormal psychology. By combining your experiences, cultural background, and critical thinking abilities, we will attempt answer questions such as what exactly is consciousness, how can we achieve happiness, should mental health be covered by health insurance providers, and what are the true reasons behind the gender pay gap?

**Prerequisites**

None

## Teaching Objectives

- Provide you with the fundamental vocabulary and conceptual knowledge of psychological science.
- Show you the value of psychological science at the societal and personal level in hopes you will develop a greater appreciation for the field.
- Guide you through the murky reporting of psychological science in mainstream media.

## Student Learning Objectives

After successfully completing this course, students will be able to . . .

- *accurately name and define* a breadth of vocabulary and concepts in psychological science.
- *apply psychological principles* to current issues.
- *critically analyze* major societal issues from a psychologist's perspective.
- *understand and engage* in new and foundational studies in psychological science.
- *examine* how psychological knowledge applies to your personal life.

## Required Texts and Materials

Altman, M., VanArsdall, J., Beston, B., Brown, K., Lukowski, A., Slonecker, E., Hummel, J., et al. (n.d.). *Introduction to psychology*. Toronto, Canada: Top Hat.

Supplemental Readings. (Various dates). *Posted on Blackboard or Top Hat*.

**NOTE:** Your textbook comes as bundle with a platform called Top Hat. You *must* have the bundle to complete this course. The textbook/bundle is available at the bookstore or online.

Assessment	Due Date	Percent of Final Grade	Points (Each)
Exams	9/17, 10/10, 11/05, and 12/05	25 (individual grade)	100
Lab Assignments	Weekly	25 (individual or group)	10-20
Participation in Lecture	Each Lecture Session	15 (individual grade)	5-20
Participation in Lab	Each Lab Session	10 (individual or group)	5-20
End of Chapter Questions	Weekly	10 (individual grade)	30
APA Research Paper	November 18 <sup>th</sup> at 11:59 p.m.	10 (individual grade)	100
Participate in Research (or Alternative)	November 30 <sup>th</sup> at 11:59 p.m.	5 (individual grade)	10

## Exams

You will have a total of four exams in this class: two regular exams, one midterm exam, and one final exam. The midterm and final exams are cumulative whereas the two regular exams will only cover new content. Exams will consist of multiple choice questions and short answer questions. Exams will be completed on Top Hat using an electronic device, and are closed book/notes. The table below shows the content that each exam will cover, the date of the exam, and the weight each exam has on this category. ***Exams will be completed using Top Hat. Even though the exams are completed digitally, you must be present, in the classroom, to complete the exams. Finally, you may use only ONE device during exams.***

Exam Number	Content Covered	Exam Date	Weight of the Exam
Exam #1	Chapters 1, 2, & 12	September 17 <sup>th</sup>	10%
Midterm Exam (Exam #2)	Chapters 1, 2, 12, 13, 14, & 15	October 10 <sup>th</sup>	20%

Exam #3	Chapters 3, 4, 5, & 6	November 5 <sup>th</sup>	30%
Final Exam (Exam #4)	All Chapters Listed Above	December 5 <sup>th</sup>	40%

### **Weekly Lab Assignments**

Please make sure to bring your laptop, tablet, or other electronic device to all labs! Most labs are designed for you to experience psychological science from a researcher's perspective. The first six lab assignments are designed to guide you to the completion of the required APA Research Paper described below. The last six labs are more individual based that will expose you to demonstrations, experiments, or psychological measures that correspond with the lecture topic of the week. ***Lab assignments are due three days after the scheduled lab at 11:59 p.m., unless otherwise noted in each lab assignment (see table below for precise days). Lab assignments and the location to turn in labs are on Blackboard.***

Lab Day	Day Assignments are Due	Lab Day	Day Assignments are Due
Monday	Thursday	Thursday	Sunday
Wednesday	Saturday	Friday	Monday
Thursday	Sunday	Friday	Monday

### **Participation in Lecture**

Please make sure to bring your laptop, tablet, or other electronic device to all lectures! Reading the assigned material and completing the assignments before class and lab are important to understanding the lecture topics and to participating in the discussions. Participation will be assessed through in-class exercises, activities, and discussion. Most exercises will be completed in class while others may be worked on in class *and* completed at home. ***Participation assignments will be completed on Top Hat.***

### **Participation in Lab**

Please make sure to bring your laptop, tablet, or other electronic device to all labs! Lab participation will be graded based on the completion of a specific experiment, demonstration, or psychological measure. Some participation is graded based on individual efforts while others are based on group efforts. ***Participation assignments for labs will be turned in on Blackboard unless otherwise noted by your lab instructor.***

### **End of Chapter Questions**

There are 30 questions at the end of each chapter. Each set of chapter questions are due the day after we complete the chapter in lecture (e.g., we finish Chapter 14 on 10/01, so the chapter questions are due 10/02). However, the chapter questions will be available for one week for you to complete (e.g., you will be able to work on Chapter 14 questions from 9/25 to 10/02). You may complete the questions in as many sittings as you want. That is, if you complete five questions one day, and go back two days later, your answers for those five questions will still be there. Just make sure you complete all 30 questions! You will be graded based on correctness, and *not* effort or simply completing all questions regardless of being correct (i.e., participation). ***End of Chapter Questions will be completed on Top Hat.***

### **APA Research Paper**

To understand the research process and psychology as a science, you will complete a research paper that adheres to the standards in the American Psychological Association Publication Manual. You will be given the skills, tools, and time to work on the paper during the first six labs (as mentioned previously). Detailed information about the paper is available on Blackboard. ***The paper will be turned in on Blackboard and is due November 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 p.m.***

### **Participate in Research Studies and Worksheets**

Part of understanding psychological science includes participating in studies; thus, you are required to participate in research studies conducted in the psychology department. You can view and sign up for studies through the SONA system at <https://usc.sona-systems.com/>. You are required to complete 7.5 points of credit on SONA. Four of your points *must* be completed by participating in lab experiments (i.e., in person) and *not* survey research (i.e., online). Although most students fulfill the research requirement as study participants, you may complete the requirement by completing one of three alternatives: volunteering for the Joint Educational Project (JEP; the psychology placement only), an additional term paper (10 pages), or 5 reflective essays (2 pages each). Information about the alternative assignments are available on Blackboard. Please note that the alternative assignments are graded based on quality and *not* completion. ***The alternative assignments will be turned in on Blackboard.***

### **Grading Scheme**

A = 100 - 93.5%; A- = 93.4 - 89.5%; B+ = 89.4 - 86.5%; B = 86.4 - 83.5%; B- = 83.4 - 79.5%; C+ = 79.4 - 76.5%; C = 76.4 - 73.5%; C- = 73.4 - 69.5%; D+ = 69.4 - 66.5%; D = 66.4 - 63.5%; D- = 63.4 - 59.5%; Below 59.5% = F

### **Instructor Student Communication and Blackboard**

Blackboard (Bb) will be used to post announcements, send e-mails, and post all grades and course materials, so it is the student's responsibility to frequently visit the course on Blackboard (website: <http://blackboard.usc.edu>). Bb transactions will follow the below guidelines.

- 1) **Grades**: All grades and points will be posted on Bb one to two weeks after the completion of the exam, assignment, or activity. Grades will not be announced in class, via e-mail, or during office hours.
- 2) **Course Materials**: The syllabus, lab assignments, and supplemental reading material can be viewed and/or printed from Bb or Top Hat.
- 3) **Announcements**: Class announcements will be posted on Bb and Top Hat, as well as broadcasted in class.
- 4) **Email**: Any email communications from the instructor or TA will be sent via Bb or through the USC's email service. USC requires that all e-mail communication between the instructor and students be sent via an official USC e-mail address. ***Any student communication delivered from a non-USC e-mail address will be automatically discarded (i.e., the email will not even be opened).***

## *Tentative Schedule of Topics and Assignments*

	<b>Lecture Topic(s)</b>	<b>Readings (Associated with Lecture Topics)</b>	<b>Special Notes or Due Dates for Major Assignments</b>
WEEK 1			
Monday 08/20/2018	➤ Overview of Course	➤ Chapter 1.1 ➤ Chapter 1.2	➤ Eid al-Adha begins 8/20, ends 8/21
Wednesday 08/22/2018	➤ Background of Psychology	➤ Chapter 1.3 ➤ Chapter 1.4	➤ Chapter 1 Questions Due 8/23
WEEK 2			
Monday 08/27/2018	➤ The Scientific Method in $\Psi$	➤ Chapter 2.1 – 2.2	➤ None
Wednesday 08/29/2018	➤ Descriptive Methods and Ethics in $\Psi$	➤ Chapter 2.3 – 2.9	➤ None
WEEK 3			
Monday 09/03/2018	➤ Labor Day ➤ No Class!	➤ None	➤ None
Wednesday 09/05/2018	➤ Experimental Methods & Analyses in $\Psi$	➤ Chapter 2.10 – 2.12	➤ Chapter 2 Questions Due 9/6
WEEK 4			
Monday 09/10/2018	➤ Freudian Perspectives	➤ Chapter 12.1 – 12.7	➤ Rosh Hashanah begins 9/9, ends 9/11
Wednesday 09/12/2018	➤ Beyond Freud	➤ Chapter 12.8 – 12.17	➤ Chapter 12 Questions Due 9/13
WEEK 5			
Monday 09/17/2018	➤ Exam 1	➤ Covers Chapters 1, 2, and 12	➤ Exam 1
Wednesday 09/19/2018	➤ Behaviors in Presence of Others	➤ Chapter 13.1 – 13.3	➤ Yom Kippur begins 9/18 ends today

WEEK 6

Monday 09/24/2018	➤ Others Influence on Own Behaviors	➤ Chapter 13.4 – 13.5	➤ Sukkot observed begins 9/23, ends 9/24 ➤ Chapter 13 Questions Due 9/25
Wednesday 09/26/2018	➤ Defining Abnormal ➤ Schizophrenia	➤ Chapter 14.1 – 14.2.5.3	➤ None

WEEK 7

Monday 10/01/2018	➤ The Disorders	➤ Chapter 14	➤ Official Sukkot end date 9/30 ➤ Chapter 14 Questions Due 10/2
Wednesday 10/03/2018	➤ Foundation and History to Treating Disorders	➤ Chapter 15	➤ None

WEEK 8

Monday 10/08/2018	➤ Approaches to Treatment	➤ Chapter 15	➤ Chapter 15 Questions Due 10/9
Wednesday 10/10/2018	➤ Midterm Exam	➤ Covers Chapters 1, 2, 12, 13, 14, 15	➤ Midterm Exam ➤ Navaratri begins

WEEK 9

Monday 10/15/2018	➤ Basics of Neuroscience	➤ Chapter 3	➤ Chapter 3 Questions Due 10/16
Wednesday 10/17/2018	➤ Vision & Hearing	➤ Chapter 5.1 – 5.4	➤ Navaratri ends

WEEK 10

Monday 10/22/2018	➤ Pain, Smell, & Taste	➤ Chapter 5.5 – 5.9	➤ Chapter 5 Questions Due 10/23
Wednesday 10/24/2018	➤ Consciousness	➤ Chapter 6.1, 6.2, and 6.4	➤ None

WEEK 11

Monday 10/29/2018	➤ Sleep	➤ Chapter 6.3	➤ Chapter 6 Questions Due 10/29
Wednesday 10/31/2018	➤ Development	➤ Chapter 4.1 – 4.4	➤ Chapter 4 Questions Due 11/1 ➤ Halloween!

WEEK 12

Monday 11/05/2018	➤ Exam 3	➤ Covers Chapters 3, 4, 5, and 6	➤ Exam 3
Wednesday 11/07/2018	➤ Classical Conditioning	➤ Chapter 7.1 – 7.5	➤ None

WEEK 13

Monday 11/12/2018	➤ Operant Conditioning	➤ Chapter 7.6 – 7.10	➤ Chapter 7 Questions Due 11/13
Wednesday 11/14/2018	➤ Short-Term Memory & Working Memory	➤ Chapter 8.1 – 8.2	➤ None

WEEK 14

Monday 11/19/2018	➤ Long-Term Memory & Forgetting	➤ Chapter 8.3 – 8.5	➤ APA Paper Due 11/18 ➤ Chapter 8 Questions Due 11/20
Wednesday 11/21/2018	➤ No Class! ➤ Thanksgiving Break!	➤ None	➤ Thanksgiving Break!

WEEK 15

Monday 11/26/2018	➤ Problem Solving ➤ Introduction to Intelligence	➤ Chapter 9.3 – 9.4 ➤ Chapter 10.1 – 10.3	➤ Chapter 9 Questions Due 11/27
Wednesday 11/28/2018	➤ The Mismeasure of Intelligence?	➤ Chapter 10.4 – 10.7	➤ Chapter 10 Questions Due 11/29

WEEK 16

Wednesday 12/05/2018	<b>Final Exam: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Covers ALL Chapters</b>		
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### *Tentative Schedule of Labs*

Week	Lab #	Topic	Week	Lab #	Topic
1	NO LAB	➤ N/A	9	Lab #7	➤ Color perception and color naming
2	LAB #1	➤ Components of an APA research article	10	Lab #8	➤ Consciousness, pain, and smell
3	NO LAB	➤ N/A	11	Lab #9	➤ Sleep and memory
4	Lab #2	➤ Personality assessments	12	Lab #10	➤ Work on paper
5	Lab #3	➤ Stereotype vs. prejudice vs. stigma	13	Lab #11	➤ Disciplining children
6	Lab #4	➤ Stereotypes of psychological disorders (lit review)	14	NO LAB	➤ N/A
7	Lab #5	➤ Develop survey items identifying current stereotypes of psychological disorders	15	Lab #12	➤ Memory, problem solving, and intelligence
8	Lab #6	➤ Create survey and send to potential respondents			

**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 Student Guidebook, ([www.usc.edu/scampus](http://www.usc.edu/scampus) or <http://scampus.usc.edu>) contains the University Student Conduct Code (see University Governance, Section 11.00), while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A.

### **Statement on Plagiarism**

Plagiarism, lazy writing, and cheating are violations of the Student Judicial Affairs & Community Standards and may be dealt with by both the instructor and the university. Plagiarism is defined as, “the act of presenting the ideas and writings of another as one’s own.” Lazy writing is defined as, “using quotes or paragraphs with the proper citation, but are used in a manner that a paper is stitched together and clearly has little or no original writing.” Cheating is defined as, “the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means.” In instances of academic dishonesty, the instructor will take appropriate action as outlined in the Academic Integrity Review Process (SJACS 14.10). For more information on avoiding plagiarism or lazy writing, see Chapter 1, Section 1.10 in the APA Publication Manual or visit [http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct/ug\\_plag.htm](http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct/ug_plag.htm).

### **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 the 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. Website and contact information for DSP: [http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home\\_index.html](http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html); Phone: (213) 740-0776; TDD Only: (213) 740-6948; Fax: (213) 740-8216; email: [ability@usc.edu](mailto:ability@usc.edu).

### **Course Notes**

- 1) **Missed Assignments**: Missed assignments cannot be made up and will result in a grade of zero. Students who experience medical emergencies that prevent them from attending class on days when class exercises or assignments are scheduled will be required to provide original documentation from their physicians within one week explaining their absence. *USC athletes should meet with me as soon as possible regarding their scheduled athletic events that may conflict with course requirements.*
- 2) **Email**: In general, I am able to respond to your emails within 24 hours or less. However, I typically do not respond to emails between 5:00 p.m. on Fridays to 7:00 a.m. on Mondays (i.e., the weekend). I will do my best to email over the weekend if it is urgent, but please note that I cannot guarantee it.
- 3) **Feedback**: Your lab instructor and I will make every attempt to return exams and assignments in a reasonable time by returning them no later than two weeks after the due date.
- 4) **Appeal Process**: If you find that your answer in an assignment or exam was incorrect, but you think it is correct, you can appeal the decision in writing. The written appeal must have supporting documentation (e.g., reference to a class reading). The appeal cannot be based on your opinion or personal experience, but rather based on the course materials. Appeals must be delivered to the instructor no later than one week after the grade is posted. Appeals will not be accepted via email and no late appeals will be accepted.
- 5) **Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy**: You will need to bring an electronic device such as a tablet, laptop, or phone to every class so that you may access Top Hat. Finally, *no* class or lab sessions may be video or audio recorded unless you have a specific accommodation provided by DSP for such needs. Please do not take any calls during class and silence your phones.
- 6) **Course Participation**: Your best bet at remembering and understanding the material is to complete the required readings BEFORE class and to complete the end of the chapter questions as scheduled. You should be prepared for discussion or completion of the participation assignments in class and lab for each week to help your process in preparing for the exams.

Also, keep in mind that you may need to do *multiple* readings of the textbook and distribute your studying over many days (weeks?) to properly prepare for the exams.

- 7) University Escort Service: If you feel that you would like to be escorted to your vehicle, bus, or campus residence after 5:00 p.m., do not hesitate to call (213) 740-4911.

### **Special Notes**

- 1) Although this is an intro course (particularly psychology), you need to know that this is a challenging course. Topics in lecture and the textbook will cover theoretical and applied material that is best understood when you attend all lectures and labs. As in any course, work of a significantly high caliber in each of the components of this course is an A (i.e., *exceptional work*).
- 2) Not all lecture material will cover the same information in the textbook. ***Please take a moment to think about the implications of the previous statement.*** It means that you will be solely responsible for reading and studying the textbook material for the exam even though it is not covered in the lectures.
- 3) All assignments in this course are expected to be word-processed and graphs/tables should be computer-generated, unless otherwise instructed.
- 4) All students are expected to have access to the student computer network. It is your responsibility to ensure that your access is up-to-date during the semester.
- 5) Tutors are available for this course through Learning Support Services (LSS). If you should find that you are not doing as well in this course as you would like, please see your lab instructor or me immediately. *We will help you: It is our job!* You can also arrange short-term or long-term tutoring through the LSS at <https://undergrad.usc.edu/services/tutoring/>. The Writing Center is also available to tutor students who are having difficulty with writing. For assistance, visit their website at <https://dornsife.usc.edu/writingcenter/> or call (213) 740-3691.
- 6) This course fulfills a requirement of the General Education (GE) program in effect for students who started the Fall 2015 semester or thereafter. It does not count toward the GE program that remains in place for student who started *before* the Fall 2015 semester. Please check with your academic advisor about your GE requirements.

### **Emergency Preparedness/Course Continuity in a Crisis**

In case of a declared emergency if travel to campus is not feasible, USC executive leadership will announce an electronic way for instructors to teach students in their residence halls or homes using a combination of Blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technologies. See the university's site on [Campus Safety and Emergency Preparedness](#).

### **Statement of Course Content as a Copyright**

It is important to know that all material presented in class, labs, or discussion sent via email or posted on Top Hat and/or Blackboard is "all rights reserved" by the course instructor. In addition, some of it is copyrighted and distributed by a publishing corporation for in-class use only. ***You may not store, post, or distribute any course materials – on paper or electronically – for use by any student not presently enrolled in this course.*** Out of fairness to all current and future students, please do your part to protect our course content.

### **Syllabus as a Contract**

The purpose of this syllabus is to provide a contract between me (the instructor) and you (the student). By enrolling in this class, you agree that you have read, understand, and will adhere to the syllabus guidelines and complete the assignments given in the class. I reserve the right to change the schedule of topics and readings and I will give notice to you of such changes well in advance of those changes.