



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

Psychology 100Lg (52430)
Introduction to Psychology
Spring 2020

Lecture Location: Seeley G. Mudd Building (SGM), Room 123
Days and Time: Tuesday & Thursday; 9:30 a.m. to 10:50 a.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
(213) 740-9019

Office Location: SGM, Room 525A
Office Hours: Monday & Friday from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., Wednesday from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., and by appointment

Lab and TA Information

Lab Day	Lab Time	Lab Location	TA Name	TA Email
Monday	8:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.	GFS 228	Katharine Galbraith	katharig@usc.edu
Monday	10:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.	SOS B41	Alice Kim	alicejki@usc.edu
Monday	12:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.	SOS B41	Ellyn Pueschel	pueschel@usc.edu
Monday	6:00 p.m. – 7:50 p.m.	GFS 229	Qianhui (Vicki) Ni	qni@usc.edu
Wednesday	8:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.	SOS B41	Katharine Galbraith	katharig@usc.edu
Wednesday	12:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.	GFS 228	Ellyn Pueschel	pueschel@usc.edu
Wednesday	6:00 p.m. – 7:50 p.m.	GFS 229	Alice Kim	alicejki@usc.edu
Friday	2:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.	GFS 228	Qianhui (Vicki) Ni	qni@usc.edu

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, and should mental health be covered by health insurance providers?

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

Gazzaniga, M. S. (2018). *Psychological science* (6th ed.). New York, NY: Norton. (\$70 for eBook and Inquizitive if bought through publisher)

Top Hat Subscription. <https://tophat.com/> (\$35 if bought through Top Hat)

Packback Subscription. <https://www.packback.co/> (\$25 if bought through Packback)

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

NOTE: Your textbook comes as bundle with digital content from the publisher. 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	2/11, 3/12, 4/9, 5/12	30 (individual grade)	100
Lab Assignments	Weekly	25 (individual or group)	10
Participation in Lecture	Each Lecture Session	10 (individual grade)	10
Packback Assignments	Weekly (See Supplement)	15 (individual grade)	15
APA Research Paper	April 24 th by 11:59 p.m.	15 (individual grade)	100
Participate in Research (or Alternative)	By May 8 th at 11:59 p.m.	5 (individual grade)	10

Exams

You will have a total of four exams in this class. Exams will consist of multiple choice 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 and the date of the exam. ***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, and you may use only ONE device during exams. Finally, you may NOT make up any exams. Your lowest score will be dropped for Exam #1, the Midterm, or Exam #3. So, you may make the conscious decision to not take an exam or, if you are sick on one of the exam days, then it will be dropped and not affect your grade. You MUST take the Final Exam; it will NOT be dropped as a lowest score.***

Exam Number	Content Covered	Exam Date
Exam #1	Chapters 1, 2, 3, & 13	February 11 th – can be dropped
Midterm Exam	Chapters 11, 12, 14, & 15	March 12 th – can be dropped
Exam #3	Chapters 4 & 9	April 9 th – can be dropped
Final Exam	Chapters 5, 6, & 7	May 12 th from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. (Same room!) CANNOT BE DROPPED!

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 lab assignments are designed to guide you to the completion of the required APA Research Paper described below. ***Lab assignments are due five days after the scheduled lab by 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 your LAB SECTIONS of Blackboard. You may NOT make-up any lab assignments, but you may turn them in late (see the late policy on page 10).***

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

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 getting the most out of the lecture participation. Participation will be assessed through in-class exercises, activities, and “discussion.” Some of the participation items are based on correctness while others are based on completing the items. ***The lowest three participation DAYS will be dropped; therefore, you may NOT make up any participation questions. Participation questions are due as scheduled on Top Hat, which is typically during each class period. Some participation items will be completed on your own outside of class.***

Packback Assignments

Part of understanding psychological science includes asking in-depth, critical questions about the human condition. Packback is an online tool where you will submit a question that demonstrates a critical perspective about a topic in each chapter by asking a deep, thorough question. You will ask one question per chapter (10 points each) and respond to two other people’s questions (2.5 points each) per chapter. The link to our course is <https://questions.packback.co/communities/0fc47369-a2a6-47be-85e5->

[93cf11100225/curiosity-feed](#). *Grades are collected weekly from Packback. Your lowest Packback grade will be dropped; thus, you may not make up any Packback assignments, but you may turn them in late (see late policy on page 10).*

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 labs (as mentioned previously). Detailed information about the paper is available on Blackboard. ***The paper will be turned in on your LAB SECTION of Blackboard and is due April 24th by 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 5 points of credit on SONA. Although most students fulfill the research requirement as study participants, you may complete the requirement by completing one of two alternatives: volunteering for the Joint Educational Project (JEP; the psychology placement only) or three reflective essays (2 pages each). You may complete a combination of participating in studies and completing essays; this is typically done when there are not enough studies on SONA for people to sign up. 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 the LECTURE SECTION of Blackboard. Participation in all studies and/or completion of alternative assignments must be completed by 11:59 p.m. on May 1st.***

Extra Credit

You may earn up to 2 points extra credit for each Inquizitive assignment you complete. Points will be applied to the chapters corresponding exam. Inquizitive is a powerful tool that allows you to engage with material as you read the book that involves you completing a series of questions. You must reach 2500 points to get a 100%. “Two thousand five hundred points,” you say! Do not worry; the activity is designed so that you can wager 20 – 100 points each time you answer a question. So, if you wager 100 points and get all of them correct, then you need to complete 25 questions. Be careful though! You also lose points if you answer a question incorrectly. 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. Your points are based on correctness and *not* effort or simply completing all questions regardless of being correct (i.e., participation). **Points from the Inquizitive assignments will applied to their corresponding exam (see Table below for due dates). You CANNOT earn more than 100 points on your exam (i.e., any leftover points will not be applied to other assignments or exams). Inquizitive Assignments will be completed through Blackboard. You may not make-up any Inquizitives nor does the late policy (see page 10) apply to extra credit.**

Chapters	Possible Points	Due Date	Exam Points Applied To
1, 2, 3, & 13	<i>Up to 8</i>	February 10 th by 11:59 p.m.	Exam 1
11, 12, 14, & 15	<i>Up to 8</i>	March 11 th by 11:59 p.m.	Midterm
4 & 9	<i>Up to 4</i>	April 8 th by 11:59 p.m.	Exam #3
5, 6, & 7	<i>Up to 6</i>	May 1 st by 11:59 p.m.	Final Exam

Grading Scheme

Please Note: I do NOT curve the grade OR offer extra credit beyond the Inquizitives. Whatever grade you have on Blackboard is your grade in real-time that you earned to that date. I do round up (e.g., 93.45 = 93.5%) for your final grade. Finally, it is NOT appropriate for you to ask to make up an assignment at the end of the semester that was due past what is outlined in the late policy (see p. 9) or to ask for additional extra credit, so please do NOT ask for either.

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

	Lecture Topic(s)	Readings (Associated with Lecture Topics)	Special Notes or Due Dates for Major Assignments
WEEK 1			
Tuesday 01/14/2020	➤ Overview of Course	➤ Syllabus	➤ None
Thursday 01/16/2020	➤ Background of Psychology	➤ Chapter 1	➤ Packback Assignment Due 1/19/20
WEEK 2			
Tuesday 01/21/2020	➤ The Scientific Method in Ψ	➤ Chapter 2	➤
Thursday 01/23/2020	➤ Descriptive Methods and Ethics in Ψ	➤ Chapter 2	➤ Packback Assignment Due 1/26/20

WEEK 3

Tuesday 01/28/2020	➤ Neurons	➤ Chapter 3	➤ None
Thursday 01/30/2020	➤ Brain Structures ➤ Changes in the Brain	➤ Chapter 3	➤ Packback Assignment Due 2/02/20

WEEK 4

Tuesday 02/04/2020	➤ Theories of Personality	➤ Chapter 13	➤
Thursday 02/06/2020	➤ Personality in Real Life	➤ Chapter 13	➤ Packback Assignment Due 2/09/20

WEEK 5

Tuesday 02/11/2020	➤ Exam #1	➤ Chapters 1, 2, 3, & 13	➤
Thursday 02/13/2020	➤ Group Membership ➤ Obedience	➤ Chapter 12	➤

WEEK 6

Tuesday 02/18/2020	➤ Relating to Others	➤ Chapter 12	➤
Thursday 02/20/2020	➤ Categorization of Disorders ➤ Emotional Disorders	➤ Chapter 14	➤ Packback Assignment Due 2/23/20

WEEK 7

Tuesday 02/25/2020	➤ Disorders Involving Thought Disturbances ➤ Personality Disorders	➤ Chapter 14	➤
Thursday 02/27/2020	➤ Treatment of Disorders	➤ Chapter 15	➤ Packback Assignment Due 3/01/20

WEEK 8

Tuesday 03/03/2020	➤ Most Effective Treatments	➤ Chapter 15	➤
Thursday 03/05/2020	➤ Health	➤ Chapter 11	➤ Packback Assignment Due 3/06/20

WEEK 9

Tuesday 03/10/2020	➤ Stress	➤ Chapter 11	➤
Thursday 03/12/2020	➤ Midterm	➤ Chapters 11, 12, 14, & 15	➤ Packback Assignment Due 3/13/20

WEEK 10

Tuesday 03/17/2020	➤ Spring Break!	➤ None	➤ N/A
Thursday 03/19/2020	➤ Spring Break!	➤ None	➤ N/A

WEEK 11

Tuesday 03/24/2020	➤ Infancy ➤ Piaget	➤ Chapter 9	➤
Thursday 03/26/2020	➤ Adolescence ➤ Adulthood	➤ Chapter 9	➤ Packback Assignment Due 3/29/20

WEEK 12

Tuesday 03/31/2020	➤ Consciousness ➤	➤ Chapter 4	➤
Thursday 04/02/2020	➤ Sleep	➤ Chapter 4	➤

WEEK 13

Tuesday 04/07/2020	➤ Hypnosis ➤ Drug-Induced States	➤ Chapter 4	➤
Thursday 04/09/2020	➤ Exam #3	➤ Chapters 4 & 9	➤ Packback Assignment Due 4/12/20

WEEK 14

Tuesday 04/14/2020	➤ Psychophysics ➤ Vision	➤ Chapter 5	➤
Thursday 04/16/2020	➤ Vision (cont.) ➤ Hearing	➤ Chapter 5	➤ Packback Assignment Due 4/19/20

WEEK 15

Tuesday 04/21/2020	➤ Chemical Senses ➤ Classical Conditioning	➤ Chapter 5 ➤ Chapter 6	➤
Thursday 04/23/2020	➤ Operant Conditioning	➤ Chapter 6	➤ APA Research Paper Due

			4/24/20 by 11:59 p.m.
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WEEK 16

Tuesday 04/28/2020	➤ Memory as a Process	➤ Chapter 7	➤
Thursday 04/30/2020	➤ Forgetting ➤ Amnesia	➤ Chapter 7	➤ Packback Assignment Due 5/01/20

WEEK 17

Tuesday 05/12/2020	Final Exam: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in SAME CLASSROOM! Covers Chapters 5, 6, & 7		
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Tentative Schedule of Labs

Week	Lab #	Topic	Week	Lab #	Topic
1	NO LAB	➤ N/A	9	Lab #6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Collecting Data ➤ Methods Section ➤ ZAPS: Health and Stress
2	NO LAB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ N/A ➤ MLK Day 	10	NO LAB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ N/A ➤ Spring Break
3	LAB #1	➤ Reading an APA article	11	Lab #7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Analyzing Data ➤ Results Section
4	Lab #2	➤ Personality Assessments	12	Lab #8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Wrapping it All Up ➤ Discussion Section
5	Lab #3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Stereotypes vs. Prejudice vs. Stigma ➤ Citations and Reference Section 	13	Lab #9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Questions about Paper? ➤ Cures for Sleeping
6	NO LAB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ N/A ➤ President's Day 	14	Lab #10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Last Questions? ➤ Completing Your Paper ➤ Olfaction and Memory
7	Lab #4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Negative perceptions of disorders ➤ Literature Review 	15	Lab #11	➤ Judgment and Decision Making
8	Lab #5	➤ Creating Survey Items	16	NO LAB	➤ N/A

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 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.

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., Tuesday through Friday. Website and contact information for DSP: 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.

Course Notes

- 1) **Late Assignments**: Assignments turned in late will receive a 5% reduction each day for the first two days turned in late. For the following five days (i.e., after the first two days) the late assignment will result in a 10% reduction for each day it is late. After seven days, an assignment cannot be turned in and will result in a grade of zero. Students who experience medical emergencies that prevent them completing a lab assignment or turning in the Research Paper on time 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 Tuesdays (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 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. 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.