



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

Psychology 100Lg (52401) Introduction to Psychology Summer 2022

Lecture Location: GFS 109 (morning) and GFS 104 (afternoon)
Days & Time: Tuesday & Thursday; 10:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. &
1:00 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.

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

Instructor Information

Dr. Clayton L. Stephenson
Assistant Professor (Teaching) Psychology
clstephe@usc.edu

Office Location: SGM 525A
Office Hours: By Appointment
Please send me an email to set up an appointment
Be sure to send 2 – 3 days/times you are available

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

Gazzaniga, M. S. (2018). *Psychological science* (6th ed.). New York, NY: Norton.

Supplemental Readings. (Various dates). *Posted on Blackboard.*

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) |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Midterm Exam | June 9 th @ 10:00 a.m. | 20 (individual) | 100 |
| Final Exam | June 28 th @ 10:00 a.m. | 25 (individual) | 100 |
| ZAPS/Lab Assignments | Each Session | 20 (individual or group) | 10 |
| Inquizitive Assignments | Sundays by 11:59 p.m. | 20 (individual grade) | 50 |
| Participation | Each Session | 15 (individual or group) | 10 |

Midterm Exam

You will have one midterm exam on June 9th. The midterm will cover chapters 1 – 7 and will contain multiple choice questions, short answer questions, and essay/critical thinking questions. The midterm is a paper and pencil/pen exam. I will bring scantrons for everyone. You will need a pencil, blank sheets of paper, and a pen. The midterm is closed book and closed note. You will have the entire morning section (10:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.) to complete the exam.

Final Exam

You will have a final exam on June 28th. The final will cover chapters 8 – 15 and will contain multiple choice questions, short answer questions, and essay/critical thinking questions. The final is a paper and pencil/pen exam. I will bring scantrons for everyone. You will need a

pencil, blank sheets of paper, and a pen. The final is closed book and closed note. You will have the entire morning section (10:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.) to complete the exam.

Weekly ZAPS Assignments

The primary goal for the lab portion of the class is to expose you to the process of psychological science including some minor data analysis (I know, “AHHHHH”), but do not fret too much. ZAPS are designed for you to experience psychological science from a participant’s perspective. Links to the ZAPS and are located on Blackboard. Your lowest lab assignment grade will be dropped. ***Lab assignments are completed during class, unless otherwise noted. Lab assignments and the location to turn in labs are on Blackboard.***

Inquizitive Assignments

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 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 loose 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 grade is based on correctness and *not* effort or simply completing all questions regardless of being correct (i.e., participation). Links to the Inquizitive Assignments are located on Blackboard. Your lowest Inquizitive grade will be dropped. ***Inquizitive assignments for each week are due Sundays by 11:59 p.m. (see the Tentative Schedule for exact due dates). Inquizitive Assignments will be completed by clicking on the links located on Blackboard.***

Participation in Lecture

This will be a highly active learning class, so please bring a positive and willing attitude to engage with the material, your peers, and me! It will help for you have a Google doc or Word open to in all class sessions because you will need to answer some discussion prompts by writing first. Participation will consist of responding to prompts by writing your response in a document that you turn in, and through small, short presentations. It does help to read the material before class, so please read ahead – even skim – before each class session. Your lowest two participation grades will be dropped. ***Participation assignments will be completed in-class and on uploaded on Blackboard. Participation assignments are at the end of each class session.***

Grading Scheme

Please Note: I do NOT curve the grade OR offer extra credit. 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).

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 your 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 week 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.
- 3) **Announcements:** Class announcements will be posted on Bb, as well as broadcasted in class.
- 4) **Email:** Any email communications from the instructor 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 | Special Notes or Due Dates for Major Assignments |
|------------------------|--|---|---|
| WEEK 1 | | | |
| Thursday 05/19/2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Overview of Course➤ Background and History of Psychology | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Chapter 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Chapter 1 Inquizitive Due 5/22 |
| WEEK 2 | | | |
| Tuesday 05/24/2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Methods Used in Psychology➤ Biology of Behavior, Cognition, and Being Human I | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Chapter 2➤ Chapter 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ |
| Thursday 05/26/2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The Biology of Behavior, Cognition, and Being Human II➤ Consciousness | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Chapter 3➤ Chapter 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Chapters 2, 3 & 4 Inquizitive Due by 5/29 at 11:59 p.m. |

WEEK 3

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| Tuesday 05/31/2021 | ➤ Sleeping ➤ Sensation and Perception | ➤ Chapter 4 ➤ Chapter 5 | ➤ |
| Thursday 06/02/2021 | ➤ Sensation and Perception ➤ Learning | ➤ Chapter 5 ➤ Chapter 6 | ➤ Chapters 5 & 6 Inquizitive Due 6/05 |

WEEK 4

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Tuesday 06/07/2021 | ➤ Memory | ➤ Chapter 7 | ➤ |
| Thursday 06/9/2021 | ➤ Midterm ➤ Cognition | ➤ Chapters 1 – 7 ➤ Chapter 8 | ➤ Chapters 7 & 8 Inquizitive Due 6/12 |

WEEK 5

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|------------------------------|--|
| Tuesday 06/14/2021 | ➤ Human Development ➤ Health Psychology I | ➤ Chapter 9 ➤ Chapter 11 | ➤ |
| Thursday 06/16/2021 | ➤ Health Psychology II ➤ Social Psychology | ➤ Chapter 11 ➤ Chapter 12 | ➤ Chapters 9, 11, & 12 Inquizitive Due 6/19 |

WEEK 6

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|------------------------------|---|
| Tuesday 06/21/2021 | ➤ Personality ➤ Psychological Disorders I | ➤ Chapter 13 ➤ Chapter 14 | ➤ |
| Thursday 06/23/2024 | ➤ Psychological Disorders II ➤ Treating Psychological Disorders | ➤ Chapter 14 ➤ Chapter 15 | ➤ Chapters 13, 14, & 15 Inquizitive Due 6/26 |

WEEK 7

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|------------------------------|--------|
| Tuesday 06/28/2021 | ➤ Final Exam | ➤ Chapters 8 – 9 and 11 – 15 | ➤ None |
|-----------------------|--------------|------------------------------|--------|

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 Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from OSAS. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me or to the TA as early in the semester as possible. OSAS is in GFS 120 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Website and contact information for OSAS: <https://osas.usc.edu/>; Phone: (213) 740-0776; TDD Only: (213) 740-6948; Fax: (213) 740-8216; email: osasfrontdesk@usc.edu.

Course Notes

- 1) **Make-Up Policy:**
 - a. ZAPS and Inquizitive assignments may be turned in late in accordance with the late policy (see item #2). Participations may not be made up; hence, why two of the lowest scores are dropped. No exceptions!
 - b. The Midterm Exam may only be made up due to an emergency and must be completed within one week of the exam date.
 - c. The Final Exam cannot be taken early or late. Please schedule any plans around the date of the Final Exam. *No exceptions because this is university policy.*
- 2) **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. No exceptions!

- 3) Email: I typically respond to emails within 24 hours or less. However, I rarely 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.
- 4) Feedback:
 - a. I will make every attempt to return assignments in a reasonable time by returning them no later than two weeks after the due date.
 - b. We will *not* review exams during class time. You may review exams during office hours or by making an appointment with me.
- 5) Zoom: There will be *no* Zoom option for this class. The class will *not* be streamed or recorded. Any request for me to do so will be denied.
- 6) 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.
- 7) Course Participation: Your best bet at remembering and understanding the material is to complete the required readings BEFORE class. 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.
- 8) 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. In addition, *there is a lot of material!* 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 me immediately. *I will help you: It is my 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 Blackboard is "all rights reserved" by the course instructor. This includes all Zoom recordings. 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 or recordings – 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.