

**PSYC 424 (NEUR 422): Neuropsychology**  
**Spring 2023**  
**Location: GFS 221**  
**Time: Mon and Wed 10-11:50 AM (PDT)**

**Instructor: Shirin Birjandi, Ph.D.**  
**Office: SGM 611 or Online Zoom**  
**Office Hours: Wed 1-2:00 PM**  
**Contact Info: birjandi@usc.edu**

**Course Description:**

The course consists of three major sections: Overview of Neuroanatomy, Neurological Illnesses, and Neuropsychological Syndromes. These sections are delivered in the form of lectures and clinical cases featuring patients with neurological lesions or diseases. The course material is interconnected across these teaching formats, providing students with multiple avenues for learning the material.

**Goals of the Course:**

The objectives of the course are as follows:

1. To introduce basic concepts about the organization, structure, and function of the human central nervous system.
2. To enable students to apply these fundamental principles in understanding nervous system function and dysfunction, as well as in clinical problem-solving related to neurological and neuropsychological disorders.
3. To provide the necessary background for correlation with related courses, advanced study of the nervous system, and staying updated with new developments in the basic and clinical neurosciences.

Prerequisite(s): Junior or senior undergraduate students are allowed to enroll with no specific prerequisites.

Co-Requisite(s): None

Concurrent Enrollment: None

Recommended Preparation: PSYC 100

**Textbooks:**

**Fundamentals of Human Neuropsychology, 8th edition by Bryan Kolb and Ian Q. Whishaw**

The course syllabus, lecture materials (full slide decks), and clinical cases will be posted on Blackboard as the course progresses. All materials for midterm tests and the final exam will come from class lectures and the textbook.

**Description and Assessment of Assignments:**

The course will include (1) two midterm tests covering lectures and readings, (2) two group presentations covering clinical cases, (3) a final examination, and (4) eight short pop quizzes distributed throughout the semester. All materials for these tests and presentations will be from the class lectures, slides posted on Blackboard, and assigned textbook readings.

**Midterm tests:**

These will be a combination of multiple-choice and short-answer formats. All test/exam questions will be based on materials presented and discussed in class and not on any outside materials.

**Final exam:**

This will be a combination of multiple-choice and short-answer formats. Questions will be based on materials presented and discussed in class and not on any outside materials. The final exam **will be cumulative**.

**Group presentations:**

Each group of students should prepare the assigned clinical case, create slides, and deliver a class presentation on the clinical case. Evaluation will be based on content and the ability to engage the rest of the class in a discussion, including the frequency and quality of comments. High-quality contributions will demonstrate both depth and breadth of knowledge gained from readings of the clinical cases and lecture slides presented in class and on Blackboard. Presentations of the clinical cases should be clear and effectively communicated.

**Pop quizzes:**

Eight short pop quizzes, each worth 2.5 points, will be administered via Blackboard throughout the semester to test students' knowledge of course material and encourage class attendance. Each quiz will consist of 6-8 multiple-choice or true/false questions. Students must be present in class to take the quiz. The material tested will cover concepts from lectures and readings up to the most recent quiz.

**Course assignments and evaluations:****Grading Breakdown**

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

Group Presentation 1	10	10%
Midterm 1	20	20%
Group Presentation 2	10	10%
Midterm 2	20	20%
Final Exam	20	20%
Pop Quizzes	20	20%
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Final Grade	100 pts	100%

The final grade is calculated based on point totals, percentages are given for your reference.

**Grade scale:**

A 100-90%	B+ 84-86.9%	C+ 75-77.9%	D 60-68.9%	F < 59.9%
A- 87-89.9%	B 81-83.9%	C 72-74.9%		
	B- 78-80.9%	C- 69-71.9%		

**Exams:**

Course exams will be administered via Blackboard. Respondus Lockdown browser must be enabled on your laptops. Exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer format.

**Re-grading of Exams:**

Your graded midterm exams can be reviewed with a 20-minute window. If you feel an error was made in the grading of your exam, you must submit your exam, along with a Regrade Request Form (found on Bb) in which you have a thorough (but concise) typewritten explanation of why you think your answer deserves more credit, to Dr. Birjandi within 1 week of the time it was viewed. The entire answer will be re-graded, not just the part you think deserves more credit. Your score may increase or decrease because of a regrade.

**Missed Exams and Quizzes:**

Students who are unable to take an exam or pop quiz at the scheduled time must give written notification as soon as possible, preferably in advance. Students who miss an *exam*, *pop quiz*, *assignment*, *presentation*, *etc.* for a legitimate reason, must provide documentation of said reason within seven days of the exam date or due date.

Documentation must be sent to course Instructor. If documentation is not received within seven days, the score for the missed assignment/exam will be zero. Making up an exam will only be allowed if the student can demonstrate with written documentation a compelling reason (such as family or medical emergency) for not taking the exam at the scheduled time. A make-up exam may include an oral component and will generally be more difficult than the in-class exam.

**LockDown Browser Requirement:**

This course requires the use of LockDown Browser for online exams and quizzes. Watch this brief video to get a basic understanding of LockDown Browser feature.  
<https://www.respondus.com/products/lockdown-browser/student-movie.shtml>

**Download Instructions.** Download and install LockDown Browser from this link:  
<https://download.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=945755274>

**Lecture and Discussion Absences:**

Attendance at student presentations is expected. If you must miss a student presentation or pop-quiz due to illness or valid USC travel, please present Dr. Birjandi with evidence of the reason for absence and you will be allowed to make-up the discussion assignment within 1 week of the missed lecture period.

**Late Policy:**

For every 12-hour increment any assignment is handed in late, you will lose 10% of the total possible points [i.e., if the assignment is 5 days (120 hrs) late, you will receive a zero (0) for that assignment]. Saturdays, Sundays, and University holidays ARE counted. The Labster simulations adhere to the policy as stated in the Lab Syllabus.

**Blackboard and Posting of Grades:**

Blackboard (<https://blackboard.usc.edu/>) will contain Zoom links, announcements, notes, and assignments.

Blackboard is a convenient system for communicating scores and grades; however, those grades are not authoritative. It is the student's responsibility to notify the ASAP in the event of any mistakes in their posted scores.

Please remember that (1) the course mean given on Blackboard is also NOT authoritative, and (2) only the total number of points earned by the end of the semester determines your course grade. We will be glad to discuss your performance and your possible grades at any time throughout the course. Help provided in this way should be considered only provisional.

Cell phone, laptop, and personal device usage:

During lectures, you will not be able to use your cell phone. Please silence it and keep it in your backpack or purse. Laptops and similar devices can only be used for class note-taking. Surfing the internet and group chats are not allowed during class time as they can be distracting to others.

**No use of AI Generators:**

Since creating, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, all assignments should be prepared by the student working individually or in groups. Students may not have another person or entity complete any substantive portion of the assignment. Developing strong competencies in these areas will prepare you for a competitive workplace. Therefore, using AI-generated tools is prohibited in this course, will be identified as plagiarism, and will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.

**Course Content Distribution and Synchronous Session Recordings Policies**

USC has policies that prohibit recording and distribution of any synchronous and asynchronous course content outside of the learning environment.

Recording a university class without the express permission of the instructor and announcement to the class, or unless conducted pursuant to an Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) accommodation. Recording can inhibit free discussion in the future, and thus infringe on the

academic freedom of other students as well as the instructor. ([Living our Unifying Values: The USC Student Handbook](#), page 13).

Distribution or use of notes, recordings, exams, or other intellectual property, based on university classes or lectures without the express permission of the instructor for purposes other than individual or group study. This includes but is not limited to providing materials for distribution by services publishing course materials. This restriction on unauthorized use also applies to all information, which had been distributed to students or in any way had been displayed for use in relationship to the class, whether obtained in class, via email, on the internet, or via any other media. ([Living our Unifying Values: The USC Student Handbook](#), page 13).

### **Course Evaluations**

Course evaluation occurs at the end of the semester university-wide. It is an important review of students' experience in the class.

**It may be necessary to adjust the syllabus during the semester; check BLACKBOARD for updates.**

**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE** (subject to modification of specific topics and reading)

<b>Wk</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>
1	Monday	Aug 21	1a. Course Introduction, Basic Neuroanatomy, Organizations of the Nervous System	Chapter 1
	Wednesday	Aug 23	1b. CNS Blood Supply, Spinal Cord I	Chapter 3
2	Monday	Aug 28	2a. Spinal Cord II, Brainstem	Chapter 3
	Wednesday	Aug 30	2b. Cranial Nerves I	Chapter 3
3	Monday	Sept 4	3a. <b>Labor Day</b>	
	Wednesday	Sept 6	3b. Cranial Nerves II	Chapter 3
4	Monday	Sept 11	4a. Cerebellum; Basal Ganglia  Assign Clinical Case for Group Presentation 1	Chapter 9  Case posted on Blackboard (due Sept 20 <sup>th</sup> )
	Wednesday	Sept 13	4b. Thalamus; hypothalamus	Chapter 6.5
5	Monday	Sept 18	5a. Cerebral Cortex I	Chapter 10 and 11

	Wednesday	Sept 20	5b. Group Presentation 1 Clinical Case: Case Based Learning	Each group will present and discuss the assigned clinical case in class.
6	Monday	Sept 25	6a. Cerebral Cortex II	Chapter 12 and 13
	Wednesday	Sept 27	6b. Mid-term 1	
7	Monday	Oct 2	7a. Neurological exam: motor and sensory, cerebellar, basal ganglia, cranial nerves, mental status, and coma	Chapter 26.1 and 28
	Wednesday	Oct 4	7b. Stroke I	Chapter 25 and 26.9
8	Monday	Oct 9	8a. Stroke II (Article presentation)	Article posted on Bb
	Wednesday	Oct 11	8b. Dementia	Chapter 27.7
9	Monday	Oct 16	9a. Trauma, tumors, infections, epilepsy	Chapter 26
	Wednesday	Oct 18	9b. Parkinson's and basal ganglia disorders  Assign Clinical Case for Group Presentation 2	Chapter 9 and 26.8  Case posted on Blackboard (due Oct 30th)
10	Monday	Oct 23	10a. Memory I	Chapter 18
	Wednesday	Oct 25	10b. Memory II	Chapter 18
11	Monday	Oct 30	11a. Group Presentation 2 Clinical Case: Case Based Learning	Each group will present and discuss the assigned clinical case in class.
	Wednesday	Nov 1	11b. Emotion I	Chapter 20

12	Monday	Nov 6	12a. Emotion II	Chapter 20 Chapter 16.4-16.5
	Wednesday	Nov 8	12b. Neglect	Chapter 13.5 and 14
13	Monday	Nov 13	13a. Aphasia	Chapter 15 and 19
	Wednesday	Nov 15	13b. <b>Mid-term test 2</b>	
14	Monday	Nov 20	14a. Disconnection syndromes <b>(Zoom Lecture)</b>	Chapter 17 and Chapter 21
		Nov 22-26	14b. <b>Thanksgiving</b>	
15	Monday	Nov 27	15a. Neuroimmune diseases I	Slide deck
	Wednesday	Nov 29	15b. Neuroimmune diseases II	Slide deck
		<b>Dec 11</b>	<b>Final Exam (8:00 - 9:00 AM)</b>	



## Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

### Academic Integrity:

The University of Southern California is a learning community committed to developing successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the dissemination of ideas. Academic misconduct, which includes any act of dishonesty in the production or submission of academic work, compromises the integrity of the person who commits the act and can impugn the perceived integrity of the entire university community. It stands in opposition to the university's mission to research, educate, and contribute productively to our community and the world.

All students are expected to submit assignments that represent their own original work, and that have been prepared specifically for the course or section for which they have been submitted. You may not submit work written by others or "recycle" work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s).

Other violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (e.g., falsifying data), collusion, knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty, and any act that gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage.

The impact of academic dishonesty is far-reaching and is considered a serious offense against the university. All incidences of academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity and could result in outcomes such as failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.

For more information about academic integrity see [the student handbook](#) or the [Office of Academic Integrity's website](#), and university policies on [Research and Scholarship Misconduct](#).

Please ask your instructor if you are unsure what constitutes unauthorized assistance on an exam or assignment, or what information requires citation and/or attribution.

### Students and Disability Accommodations:

USC welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. [The Office of Student Accessibility Services](#) (OSAS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers. Once a student has completed the OSAS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and accommodations are determined to be reasonable and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be available to generate for each course. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at [osas.usc.edu](http://osas.usc.edu). You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at [osasfrontdesk@usc.edu](mailto:osasfrontdesk@usc.edu).

### Support Systems:

[Counseling and Mental Health](#) - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

[988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#) - 988 for both calls and text messages – 24/7 on call

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. The Lifeline is comprised of a national

network of over 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices. The new, shorter phone number makes it easier for people to remember and access mental health crisis services (though the previous 1 (800) 273-8255 number will continue to function indefinitely) and represents a continued commitment to those in crisis.

[Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services \(RSVP\)](#) - (213) 740-9355(WELL) – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender- and power-based harm (including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking).

[Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX \(EEO-TIX\)](#) - (213) 740-5086

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

[Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment](#) - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

[The Office of Student Accessibility Services \(OSAS\)](#) - (213) 740-0776

OSAS ensures equal access for students with disabilities through providing academic accommodations and auxiliary aids in accordance with federal laws and university policy.

[USC Campus Support and Intervention](#) - (213) 740-0411

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

[Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#) - (213) 740-2101

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

[USC Emergency](#) - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

[USC Department of Public Safety](#) - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-1200 – 24/7 on call

Non-emergency assistance or information.

[Office of the Ombuds](#) - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)

A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

[Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice](#) - (323) 442-2850 or [otfp@med.usc.edu](mailto:otfp@med.usc.edu)

Confidential Lifestyle Redesign services for USC students to support health promoting habits and routines that enhance quality of life and academic performance.