



## **PSYC 100Lg\* Introduction to Psychology**

Fall 2024

Monday/Wednesday 12-1:20

**Instructor: Patricia George, Ph.D.**

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**Office: (310)467-5909**

**Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 12-1**

at the fountain in the center of campus opposite Tommy Trojan

Or, email to set an appointment.

**Teaching Assistants:**

### **Course Description**

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

### **Learning Objectives**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Compare different types of experimental and observational studies in social sciences.
- Describe the basic functioning of the brain and how its parts work.
- Describe the progressive psychological milestones from infancy to late adulthood.
- Explain the way learning and memory work.
- Explain fundamental theories and experiments in basic psychology.
- Identify basic psychological disorders given a list of symptoms.

**Prerequisite(s), Co-Requisites, and Recommended Preparation: none**

### **Course Notes**

The syllabus, information about the research participation requirement, and assignments related to discussion section will be posted on Blackboard. Lecture slides are provided on Blackboard to facilitate note taking. Content will be provided in lecture that is not on the slides. Arrange to get notes from another student or two if you miss lecture.

### **\*\*Required\*\* Textbook**

There are required activities in every chapter of the book. You need to complete the questions embedded in the chapters, as well as the after chapter quiz. Grades are given based on accuracy and not on completion. You will receive partial credit for any portion of the chapters

that you complete. The book is embedded in Blackboard and can be purchased directly through Soomo learning online.

Title: Psychology in the Real World, 3e

Author: Jennifer Harper

ISBN: 978-1-954890-78-7

Student price: \$50

## **Descriptions and Policies on Course Grade Components**

### **Participation**

Participation in lectures will be taken at random throughout the semester. Students who are IN the classroom will receive credit. The only excused absences are for university excused activities.

### **Assessments**

Assessments are in class opportunities to show that you understand the course material. They are an easy opportunity to earn points and they are mandatory. You may make them up on Blackboard within 24 hours of class. ***If it is not completed within 24 hours of assigning, you will be given a score of 0 for the assignment.*** I will drop the lowest grade on assessments, so if you miss an assessment, I will automatically drop that grade. There is no need to email me about this.

### **Papers**

You MUST complete 3 paper assignments, each by the assigned due date. Papers will be 8-10 pages, and require outside sources from a peer-reviewed journal database like PsycInfo.

You will need 3 or more peer-reviewed journal articles; pop culture articles do not count towards these 3 peer reviewed article requirement. Please provide references in APA format at the end of the papers. Title page and page numbers should be included. If papers are not submitted by 5 pm on the due date, you will receive a 50% maximum on the paper with no opportunity to make up the assignment within 24 hours. If it is more than 24 hours late, you will receive a 0 on the assignment.

### **POSSIBLE Paper topics:**

Paper 1:

- A. How does behavior differ in children as they grow?
- B. Choose a brain area and describe the brain area in detail and its cognitive capacity.
- C. Explain different research methods for describing and understanding psychological phenomena.

- D. Explain the pervasive psychological paradigm and how it has changed throughout history.

Paper 2:

- A. Find a sensation/perception phenomena and detail why and how it happens. How do our brains make mistakes? Describe based in literature.
- B. Describe the states of consciousness. Choose and discuss it in detail.
- C. Identify and describe different operant or classical conditioning examples. Use literature to give examples of learning.
- D. Choose one type of memory and explain how it works. Base your explanation in peer-reviewed literature. Be sure to describe the neural basis for this memory.

Paper 3:

- A. How is intelligence defined? How should intelligence be defined? Base your explanation in the literature. Explain if there is one kind of intelligence, or many. Why?
- B. Identify a social psychology phenomena (like groupthink, social norms influencing your thoughts, attributions, etc). Base your paper in the literature and explain how you see this in your own life.
- C. How do we define personality? What is a personality? Define and describe personality characteristics. Base your discussion in the literature.
- D. Choose a mental illness. Describe and explain the illness, paying attention to the etiology, presentation, prevalence, and symptomatology.

## **Lab Section**

The lab that accompanies PSYC 100 provides hands-on experience with the principles and methods of psychological science and meets these University's objectives for a laboratory in the Life Sciences GE category. You do not need special equipment or a manual. Lab activities are conducted via computer or paper-pencil in the scheduled classroom. The lab topics relate to the current or recent chapter. All of the learning objectives of this course are addressed in the semester's lab activities.

### ***Weekly Lab Participation Grade.***

Each weekly lab is worth 5 points. The expectations to earn the full 5 points are:

-Arrive on time, stay until dismissed, and participate fully in the activity and discussion. Point penalties will apply if these expectations are not met, or if phone/internet use or out-of-turn talking occurs.

-Most weeks, there is an assignment due either upon arrival or after the lab meeting, worth half (2.5) of the lab score. These lab assignments are posted on Blackboard at least 5 days in advance. If you attend lab but do not complete the associated prelab or postlab assignment you may still earn 2.5 points for your participation. However, doing the prep assignment and then skipping lab, unexcused, does not earn you any points, as the assignment is inextricable from the in-lab participation. With an excused absence from your lab meeting your TA will give you a reasonable and relevant alternate assignment to earn the 5 points so long as you follow the "lab absence" policy below.

- There is a separate syllabus for the lab that you will follow. Contact your TA regarding lab assignments.

### **Research Participation Requirement**

Research is the foundation of psychological theory and practice, and one of the most effective ways to learn about research is through first-hand experience as a study participant. To this end, the psychology department has a research participation requirement for PSYC 100 students. Specifically, this is worth 20 points toward your course grade and requires that you participate in 5 credits worth of studies at [usc.sona-systems.com](http://usc.sona-systems.com). **Two** of these credits need to be earned from in-person (lab) studies and the rest may be online studies or in-person studies. A proportionate amount of partial credit will be granted if you complete fewer than 5 credits.

Most students fulfill the research participation requirement as study participants through [usc.sona-systems.com](http://usc.sona-systems.com). However, you may elect one of two alternatives if you do not want to participate in research: Volunteering for the JEP program (the psychology placement only) or writing a research paper. In-class presentations and information in the syllabus area on Blackboard describe these options in detail.

### **Assignment of Course Grades**

<i>Assessment Type</i>	<i>Points Total</i>	<i>Percentage of Grade</i>
4 Assessments	20 each/ <b>80 total</b>	20%
Book assignments	32	8%
Attendance/Participation	25	6%
Paper 1	60	15%
Paper 2	60	15%
Paper 3	60	15%
Lab score	60	15%
SONA/JEP/PAPER	20	5%
<i>Total</i>	<i>397</i>	<i>100%</i>

Letter grades will be assigned based on the percentage of points possible that you earn, as stated below. Percentages earned will not be rounded up. This course is not graded on a curve. Curves limit the number of students who may earn each letter grade—regardless of their performance—and put students in competition with one another. Please note that **grades will not be inflated based on request, nor will additional assignments be created so that a student may attempt to earn more points**. If you are struggling, please talk to your instructor or seek out help (see Support Services below) immediately. If you wait until late in the semester, or after you have taken a test or submitted work, there is no retaking or resubmitting of work to try to raise your grade.

A	93% and up	C+	77 - 79.9
A-	90 - 92.9	C	73 - 76.9
B+	87 - 89.9	C-	70 - 72.9
B	83 - 86.9	D+	67 - 69.9

B- 80 - 82.9

D 63 - 66.9

D- 60 - 62.9

F <60%

**If you take this course pass/fail, please know that a grade of C- (70%) is the minimum to pass.**

### **Acceptable Excuses for Absences and how they apply to each course component**

The following will count, with approved documentation: (1) **university-sponsored event** that you are required to attend on an exam/lab date; (2) unanticipated and unavoidable **emergency** on the exam/lab date, such as a documented incident on the way to campus; (3) death or life threatening emergency of a **close relative or friend** within a reasonable timeframe of the scheduled date (paper evidence of the emergency is required, and additional documentation by a university official may also be required); (4) **Medical excuses**: If you go to the student health center, sign the release form. Dated notes on letterhead from private physicians or therapists are also acceptable, but subject to approval. Inconveniences such as traffic, work, parking delays, and non-emergency appointments will not count as acceptable excuses.

Missed deadlines. If you miss an assessment, you will not be allowed to makeup the assessment. Your lowest assessment grade will be dropped at the end of the semester. If you miss a paper, you have 24 hours to submit for 50% and after that you will receive a 0.

Lab Absence. Absences that you should know about and plan for in advance include university-sponsored events, a job/grad school interview or a family wedding. These require written documentation. Contact your TA at least the week before your absence to arrange a make-up, when possible, by attending another lab section. If you must miss lab due to illness, contact your TA within 24 hours of your absence to arrange a way to make it up. This may involve attending another section, when possible, or completing the exercise or an alternate version of it independently; make up assignments are generally due the following lab unless you are told otherwise. Only two labs may be missed and made up with acceptable excuses. All missed labs must be made up or you will receive a 0. If you do not notify your TA according to this policy, you will not be allowed to make up the lab later on, even if you had an acceptable excuse.

All excused absences and requests for extensions as described above should be made in writing, with supporting documentation, to your TA. Your TA will confer w/Dr. George as needed, and approval of your request is not guaranteed; each case is evaluated in accord with university policy and the policies on this syllabus.

### **Student Responsibilities for Grades**

We enter nearly 2,000 scores each semester and errors are rare; however, we do need students to monitor grades and promptly call attention to any discrepancies, as follows. Lab scores will be entered by the following lab. If your lab score is not entered correctly, discuss this with your TA within 2 weeks of the lab in question. If you are tardy to lab, make sure your TA notes your presence for partial credit; even if you have interacted with your TA that day, it is your responsibility to make sure you are marked present before leaving that day. Similarly,

exam scores are entered within a few days of the exams and corrections must be addressed with your TA within 2 weeks from when the scores are posted. No changes to scores are made at the end of the semester, regardless of fault.

### **Policy on Use of Technology in the Classroom**

**Security of Course Content.** All material presented in class or discussion, sent via email, or posted on Blackboard is “all rights reserved.” In addition, some of it is copyrighted and distributed for in-class use only by a publishing corporation. You may not store these materials—whether on paper or electronically—for use by students not presently enrolled in this course, nor may you post the materials anywhere on the internet. Out of fairness to all current and future students, please do your part to protect our course content.

Please see the addendum attached to the syllabus for detailed information about Student Support Services and Academic Integrity.

**Academic Integrity.** The University of Southern California is foremost a learning community committed to fostering successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas. Academic misconduct is in contrast to the university’s mission to educate students through a broad array of first rank academic, professional, and extracurricular programs and includes any act of dishonesty in the submission of academic work (either in draft or final form).

This course will follow the expectations for academic integrity as stated in the USC [Student Handbook](#). All students are expected to submit assignments that are original work and prepared specifically for the course/section in this academic term. You may not submit work written by others or “recycle” work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor. Students suspected of engaging in academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Misconduct.

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

Academic dishonesty has a far-reaching impact and is considered a serious offense against the university.

Violations will result in a grade penalty, such as a failing grade on the assignment or in the course, and disciplinary action from the university itself, such as suspension or even expulsion.

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.

## AI GENERATORS

This course aims to develop creative, analytical, and critical thinking skills. Therefore, 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 text, code, or other content 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 relation to the class, whether obtained in class, via email, on the internet, or via any other media. Distributing course material without the instructor's permission will be presumed to be an intentional act to facilitate or enable academic dishonesty and is strictly prohibited. (Living our Unifying Values: The USC Student Handbook, page 13).

Course Schedule					
<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topics/Daily Activities</u>	<u>Readings*</u>	<u>Lab Topic and Paper Due Dates</u>	<u>Notes about meeting times</u>	<u>about days and lab</u>
			<b>NO LABS</b>		
August 26	Course Overview What is Psychology	Syllabus Chapter 1			
August 28	History of Psychology	Chapter 1			

September 4	Research Methods	Chapter 1	LAB 1: Introductions and Critical Thinking assignment	Lab 1: T-F
September 9	<b>Assessment A Research methods;</b> Brain Structure and Function	Chapter 2		
September 11	Biology and Neuroscience	Chapter 2	LAB 2: Discuss critical thinking examples	Lab 2: T-F (Monday lab 1)
September 16	<b>Assessment B Brain structure and function;</b> Consciousness	Chapter 3		
September 18	Consciousness	Chapter 3	LAB 3: Hemispheric Differences Activity	Lab 2 Monday, Lab 3 T- F
September 23	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 4		
September 25	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 4	LAB 4: Mindfulness <b>Paper 1 due by 5 pm September 27</b>	Mon lab 3; Monday lab 3, Lab 4 on Tue-Fri
September 30	Learning	Chapter 5		
Oct 2	Learning	Chapter 5		Lab 4 M (2/12); no lab Tues-Fri
Oct 7	Memory; <b>Assessment C Learning</b>	Chapter 6		
Oct 9	Language and thought	Chapter 7	Lab 5: Conditioning	Lab 4 Monday, Lab 5 T- F
Oct 14	Intelligence	Chapter 7		
Oct 16	Child Development	Chapter 8		Lab 5 Monday; no lab T-F
Oct 21	Child Development	Chapter 8		
Oct 23	Personality	Chapter 10		Lab 6 All sections



	<b>Assessment D: Development</b>		LAB 6: Memory;	
Oct 28	Personality	Chapter 10	<b>Paper 2 due by 5 pm October 25</b>	
Oct 30	Emotion <b>Assessment 5 Personality</b>	Chapter 11	Lab 7: Cognitive reframing	Lab 7 All sections
Nov 4	Motivation	Chapter 12		

Nov 6	Social Psychology	Chapter 13	Lab 8: Jury Simulation	Lab 8 all sections
Nov 13	Social Psychology	Chapter 13		
Nov 18	Psychological Disorders		Lab 9: Personality Traits	Lab 9 all sections
Nov 20	Psychological Disorders			
Week 13 Dec 2	Treatment of Psychological Disorders		Lab 10: Mental illness	Lab 10 All sections
Dec 4	<i>Health and Stress/ Ethics</i>			
<b>Dec 5</b>			<b>Paper 3 due by 5 pm</b>	

*Statement on University Academic and Support Systems*

**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](https://osas.usc.edu). You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at [osasfrontdesk@usc.edu](mailto:osasfrontdesk@usc.edu).

**Student Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress:**

To be eligible for certain kinds of financial aid, students are required to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) toward their degree objectives. Visit the [Financial Aid Office webpage](#) for [undergraduate](#)- and [graduate-level](#) SAP eligibility requirements and the appeals process.

**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 consists 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) 740-2500

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.