

USC Dornsife
College of
Letters, Arts and
Sciences

Course ID and Title: HBIO 400L – Motor Control and Learning

Units: 4 units

Term – Day – Time: Spring 2025 – MWF 11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

Location: SOS B2

Lab: Monday 2:00 – 4:50 p.m. (38462R)

Monday 5:00 – 7:50 p.m. (38463R)

Tuesday 11:00 a.m. – 1:50 p.m. (38464R)

Thursday 11:00 a.m. – 1:50 p.m.. (38465R)

Location: PED 203

Instructor: Kurt E. Kwast, Ph.D.

Office Hours: Thursday 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.*, Friday 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
and by appointment (*via Zoom)

Location: AHF 251

Contact Info: kwast@usc.edu

Lab Instructors:

Joshua Carlos

Contact Info: jcarlos6@usc.edu

Gudrun “Bára” Floyd

Contact Info: gbfloyd@usc.edu

Office Hours: TBA

Location: PED 109

Lab Director: Anh-Khoi Nguyen, Ph.D.

Office Hours: by appointment

Contact Info: agnguyen@usc.edu

Office: PED 109

IT Help: Dornsife Technology Services

Hours of Service: TBA

Contact Info: <https://dtssupport.usc.edu>, 213-740-2775

Course Description

Theories and principles of learning applied to gross motor performance; analysis and valuation of variables affecting learning and performance in exercise, games, sports, and dance.

Learning Objectives

- Identify and discuss the function of components involved with sensation, perception, movement preparation and execution as they contribute to the execution of motor skills
- Apply knowledge in motor control and learning to optimize learning and performance
- Apply knowledge of motor control and learning as well as analytical and experimental skills to produce integrative original work
- Correctly use proper statistical, mathematical, laboratory and computational tests
- Identify, explore, assess and solve real world problems through independent study and self-directed group projects that apply the scientific method
- Assemble sources of scientific evidence to develop and present an original hypothesis
- Apply the knowledge in motor learning and control to promote skill acquisition in special populations
- Discuss how various aspects of human diversity, such as race, age, disability, gender, ethnicity and ancestry, affect motor control and learning

Relevant Human Biology BS & BA Degree Learning Objectives Addressed in Part by This Course

- Develop a deeper comprehension of the central and cross-disciplinary concepts of human biology, which include bioenergetics, the interrelationship of human form and function, physiological homeostasis, and biomechanics.
- Develop proficiency in modern methodologies pertinent to research in biological and medical sciences.
- Think critically, analyze, synthesize, and use information to solve real-world problems.
- Develop sufficient depth of knowledge and skill for graduate study in the health professions or other biology-related disciplines or entry-level employment in a wide variety of health-related fields.

Prerequisite(s): BISC 220 or BISC 221

Co-Requisite(s): None

Concurrent Enrollment: None

Course Notes

A letter grade will be assigned for this course. The course is web-enhanced and will use Brightspace. Pdf-formatted slides of all lectures will be provided before each lecture. In addition, some videos will be provided.

Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required

This course is utilizing the university's new Learning Management System (LMS), [D2L Brightspace](#), which has now replaced Blackboard as the university-wide LMS. *Prior to the start of the course*, please make sure that you have access to the lecture and laboratory Brightspace pages, and that you take some time to familiarize yourself with the

Brightspace platform. Follow the instructions below to log in to Brightspace, and, should you have any questions or concerns, we encourage you to contact the course instructor and/or the Brightspace ITS team (at brightspace@usc.edu, or call (213) 740-5555, choose option 2 then 2).

Brightspace Login Instructions

1. Go to <https://brightspace.usc.edu/d2l/login>
2. Enter your USC Net ID to access your organization homepage
3. Begin navigating through Brightspace

We also encourage you to download the mobile app, *Brightspace Pulse*, available in both the Apple App Store and through Google Play. Should we need to go online, lectures will be delivered via Zoom and exams will require [Respondus Lockdown Browser](#). Support for these resources can be found at the [ITS Customer Support Center](#).

USC Technology and Loaner Program

If students need resources to successfully participate in this class, such as a laptop or internet hotspot, you may be eligible for the university's loaner program. Please see the following links for additional relevant information: [USC Computing Center Laptop Loaner Program](#); USC Technology Support Links: [Zoom information for students](#), [Brightspace help for students](#), [Software available to USC Campus](#).

Required Readings

Motor Learning and Control. 12th ed. Magill and Anderson. McGraw Hill LLC, New York, NY, 2021, ISBN 9781264144358 (eBook) or 9781260838664 (loose-leaf) or 9781260240702 (bound edition).

Laboratory Manual for Motor Control and Learning by M. Matveyenko.

The ebook or spiral bound hard copy is available for purchase at USC Custom Publishing.

Description and Assessment of Assignments

Written Exams will be administered in person on specific days during the class period (see Course Schedule below). Exams will be used to assess all of the learning objectives. Exams may include multiple choice, multiple answer, true or false, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, or essay questions. A request to take a make-up exam must be accompanied by evidence of a university-sanctioned excused absence (e.g., a letter from a doctor, athletic release, etc.) and must be made before the date of the scheduled exam. Make-up exams may be given in a different format from that of the scheduled exam (e.g., essay).

In-Class Work will be unscheduled and used to assess all learning objectives, especially the last two. Work may include small group assignments, polls, a summary of lecture points, open-note quizzes, problem solving in groups, a submitted question of a "muddy point," or other individual assignments to be submitted or reported on by the end of class. When working in groups, all members will receive the same score for the work product. Students who miss an assignment as a result of either arriving late or leaving early will not have the opportunity to make up the work. However, the lowest three in-class assignments will be dropped to allow for occasional absences

Lecture Participation

Students are expected to attend lectures in-person and to participate in in-class activities, which may include as noted above small group assignments, polls, a summary of lecture points, open-note quizzes, problem solving in groups, a submitted question of a “muddy point,” or other individual assignments to be submitted or reported on by the end of class unless otherwise noted.

Laboratory Participation

Given laboratory experiential learning is crucial to meeting the learning objectives of this course, ***you must complete a significant number of the assigned weekly lab activities before being allowed to take the final lecture exam and complete the course.*** The number of assigned weekly lab activities that must be completed before the final lecture exam will be explained to you in detail by your laboratory instructor during the first lab meeting of the semester.

Grading Breakdown

Assignment	Points	% of Grade
Midterm Exam 1	200	20
Midterm Exam 2	250	25
Laboratory	250	25
Final Exam	250	25
In-Class Work	50	5
Total	1000	100

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Point Ranges	Grade Point Value
A	930 - 1000	4.0
A-	900 - 929	3.67
B+	870 - 899	3.33
B	830 - 869	3.0
B-	800 - 829	2.67
C+	770 - 799	2.33
C	730 - 769	2.0
C-	700 - 729	1.67
D+	670 - 699	1.33
D	630 - 669	1.0
D-	600 - 629	0.67
F	<600	0.0

Individual assignments, exams and labs will be scored but not assigned a letter grade. Only the final point tally will be assigned a letter grade.

Late Work

All in-class assignments will be due by the end of class and cannot be made up if missed. Similarly, all pre-lecture and homework assignments will have published due dates and will not be accepted late. However, the lowest three assignments of each will be dropped to allow for occasional in-class absences and missed pre-lecture or homework assignment deadlines.

Communication Policies

Students are *strongly* encouraged to contact the instructor regarding all matters involving course content or policy during office hours. Should you have a question about specific course content and cannot attend office hours, students are encouraged to submit their question to the Activity Feed on the front page of the course webpage in Brightspace. Should you need to communicate with the instructor outside of class or office hours about a question other than course content, please email the instructor from your USC email account *making sure to include in the subject line the course number and your full name* (expect significant delays or no response if this information is omitted). Simple questions will be answered by email but for more complex discussions students may be instructed to visit office hours. Best attempts will be made to answer all emails within 48 hours, 72 hours over a weekend and the workday following a holiday. Note that the instructor may not respond to non-emergency emails 24 hours preceding an exam and may not respond to emails sent from non-USC accounts.

To promote independence and critical thinking, students are encouraged to work through the following process for obtaining answers to course-related questions before contacting the instructor. First, consult the course syllabus. If you cannot find the answer you need, next please consult a classmate. If you still cannot find a satisfactory answer, email the instructor using your USC email *making sure to include the course number in the subject line*. In your email, please indicate the steps you have gone through to seek the answer for your question. Use your USC email account for all correspondence with the instructor.

Technology Policies

It is expected that students will use any internet-enabled device(s) to participate in activities guided by the instructor alone. Such activities include looking up terms, doing research, and completing in-class work. Please make sure all electronic devices are silenced so as not to disturb classmates or the instructor during class. Use of electronic devices for other purposes during class is strongly discouraged and you may be asked to put a device away should your instructor deem it to be disruptive. If you require an internet-enabled device, please see the “Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required” section above.

Policy on the Use of AI Generators: Permitted on Specific Assignments that Explicitly State AI Use is Okay

In this course, I encourage you to use artificial intelligence (AI)-powered programs to help you with assignments that specifically indicate the permitted use of AI. However, you should be aware that AI text generation tools may very well present incorrect information, biased responses, and incomplete analyses. Thus, at this time AI will not produce text that meets the standards of this course and you will be responsible for any errors or omissions provided by the tool.

To adhere to our university values, you must cite any AI-generated material (*e.g.*, text, images, *etc.*) included or referenced in your work and provide the prompts used to generate the content. Using an AI tool to generate content without proper attribution will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Academic Integrity. Please review the instructions in each assignment for more detail on how and when to use AI Generators for your submissions.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement

I and your laboratory instructors are committed to the creation and maintenance of inclusive learning spaces in which you will be treated with respect and dignity and where all individuals are provided equitable opportunity to participate, contribute, and succeed. In HBIO 301, all students are welcome regardless of race/ethnicity, gender identities, gender expressions, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, disabilities, religion, regional background, Veteran status, citizenship status, nationality and other diverse identities that each of you and the faculty bring to class. I view the diversity that all of us bring to this class as a resource that cultivates strength and benefit.

Your success at USC and beyond is enhanced by the innovation and creativity of thought that inclusive classrooms facilitate. The success of an inclusive classroom relies on the participation, support, and understanding of you and your peers. I encourage you to speak up and share your views, but also understand that you are doing so in a learning environment in which we all are expected to engage respectfully and regard the dignity of all others.

It is my intent that all students be well served by this course and that your learning needs be addressed both in and out of class. If your needs are not being met, please talk to me or the appropriate resource provider listed at the end of this syllabus.

Zoom Etiquette (if applicable)

To simulate an in-class-room experience during any synchronous Zoom sessions, one that promotes positive interactions and feedback to the instructor and fellow students, students are strongly encouraged to attend the sessions dressed in classroom attire and to turn on their webcams if they are in a learning-appropriate environment. To circumvent Zoombombing, synchronous Zoom sessions will be password protected and students will only be allowed to enter through the USC's Brightspace site when displaying their full name as it appears in the class roster (aliases are not permitted). Microphones should be muted unless actively asking questions or involved in discussion. In-meeting chat will likely be enabled but actively monitored for disruptive or inappropriate posts and recorded for further review. Disruptive or inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated and anyone engaging in such behavior shall be removed from the session. Should bandwidth be an issue, try joining with the video from your webcam and use your cellphone for the audio. If you have any questions or concerns about complying with these policies, please email the instructor.

Synchronous Session Recordings

If we are instructed to do so by the administration, all synchronous sessions (save for office hours) will be recorded and posted on Brightspace, typically within a few hours of the session.

Sharing of Course Materials Outside of the Learning Environment is Strictly Prohibited

USC has a strict policy (SCampus Section 11.12[B]) that prohibits sharing of *any* synchronous and asynchronous course content outside of the learning environment. Any student who violates this policy will be prosecuted to the maximum extent allowable by the USC Student Conduct Code, including failure of the course and suspension from the University.

Distribution or use of notes or recordings based on university classes or lectures without the express permission of the instructor for purposes other than individual or group study is a violation of the USC Student Conduct Code. This includes, but is not limited to, providing materials for distribution by services publishing class notes. 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. (See Section C.1 Class Notes Policy).

Tentative Course Schedule

0	Lecture Topic	Magill & Anderson
Jan. 13	Introduction	
Jan. 15	Skills	
Jan. 17	Motor Skills	Ch. 1
Jan. 20	Martin Luther King Junior Holiday	Ch. 1
Jan. 22	Measurement of Motor Performance	Ch. 2
Jan. 24	Motor Abilities I	Ch. 3
Jan. 27	Motor Abilities II	Ch. 3
Jan. 29	<i>Active Learning I</i>	
Jan. 31	Neuromotor Basis for Motor Control I	Ch. 4
Feb. 3	Neuromotor Basis for Motor Control II	Ch. 4
Feb. 5	Motor Control Theory I	Ch. 5
Feb. 7	Motor Control Theory II/III	Ch. 5
Feb. 10	Motor Control Theory III	Ch. 5
Feb. 12	<i>Active Learning II</i>	
Feb. 14	Sensory Information I	Ch. 6
Feb. 17	Review	
Feb. 19	Midterm Exam 1	
Feb. 21	Presidents' Day Holiday	Ch. 6
Feb. 24	Sensory Information II	Ch. 6
Feb. 26	Sensory Information III	Ch. 6
Feb. 28	Motor Control Characteristics I	Ch. 7
Mar. 3	Motor Control Characteristics I	Ch. 7
Mar. 5	<i>Active Learning III</i>	
Mar. 7	Action Preparation	Ch. 8
Mar. 10	Attention and Memory I & II	Ch. 9
Mar. 12	Memory Components	Ch. 10
Mar. 14	<i>Active Learning IV</i>	

Mar. 17-21	Spring Break	
Mar. 24	Review	
Mar. 26	Midterm 2	
Mar. 28	Learning Assessment	Ch. 11
Mar. 31	Stages of Learning	Ch. 12
Apr. 2	<i>Active Learning IV</i>	
Apr. 4	Transfer of Learning	Ch. 13
Apr. 7	Verbal Instruction	Ch. 14
Apr. 9	Augmented Feedback I & II	Ch. 15
Apr. 11	Augmented Feedback I & II	Ch. 15
Apr. 14	Practice Variability	Ch. 16
Apr. 16	Amount and Distribution of Practice	Ch. 17
Apr. 18	Whole and Part Practice	Ch. 18
Apr. 21	<i>Active Learning V</i>	
Apr. 23	Mental Practice	Ch. 19
Apr. 25	Selected Topics	
Apr. 30	Selected Topics	
May 2	Review	
May 12	Semi-Comprehensive FINAL EXAM 8:00 – 10:00 am	

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, comprises 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 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. You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at 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

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