USCDornsife
Physical Education
& Mind Body Health

MDA 300x | The Dornsife Toolkit
Suicide Prevention – Gatekeeper Training
Units: 2
Section: 42210R
Term: Spring 2025 | Wednesday 2-3:50 pm
Location: THH 215

Instructor: Marcos Briano, *Ph.D./MMFT* "DrB"
Pronouns: he/him/el *What are pronouns?*

Office: PED 107
Office Hours: Tuesday 12:00-1:00 pm or By Appointment
Contact Info: marcos@usc.edu or (213) 740-2242 Office

Brightspace: brightspace.usc.edu
IT Help: USC Information Technology Services Help
      Phone: (213) 740-5555
      Contact Info: https://itservices.usc.edu/contact/

The Dornsife Toolkit
About & Acknowledgements

Multidisciplinary Activities (MDA 300)
MDA toolkit courses focus on intellectual skills that help prepare students for success on the job market, in graduate and professional schools. This toolkit course focuses on suicide intervention training/certification, introductory counseling microskills, research/data analysis, and outreach presentation on QPR Gatekeeper training.

Acknowledgements
We would like to acknowledge our presence on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Tongva people and their neighbors: (from North to South) the Chumash, Tataviam, Kitanemuk, Serrano, Cahuilla, Payomkawichum, Acjachemen, Ipai-Tipai, Kumeyaay, and Quechan peoples, whose ancestors ruled the region we now call Southern California for at least 9,000 years. Indigenous stewardship and rightful claims to these lands have never been voluntarily relinquished nor legally extinguished. We pay respects to the members and elders of these communities, past and present, who remain stewards, caretakers, and advocates of these lands, river systems, and the waters and islands of the Santa Barbara Channel.
Additional Resources

Course Description

According to the National Institute of Health, suicide is the second leading cause of death for college students. The Center for Disease Control tells us that an individual dies by suicide in the United States every 11 minutes. Unfortunately, our USC community is not immune to these statistics, but you have an opportunity to become an agent of change in suicide prevention.

In this toolkit course you will expand your understanding and knowledge about suicide through evidence-based research theory and learn how to lead suicide prevention trainings to fellow Trojans. This seminar will include specialized suicide training, interactions with graduate MFT students in learning counseling microskills, and an experiential process in leading peer-to-peer suicide prevention trainings. An added incentive is collaborating with peers on the *SAVE a Trojan – USC Peer-to-Peer Suicide Intervention Program*.

Prerequisite: None
Co-Requisite: None
Recommended Preparation: None

Learning Objectives

- Students will be able to identity risk factors & warning signs of suicidal behavior.
- Students will be able to apply counseling microskills in role playing scenarios for QPR training.
- Students will be able employ QPR training outreach to fellow USC peers.

Course Textbook

Supplemental Readings – Available on Brightspace

Course Policies

- Email (marcos@usc.edu) is the preferred method of communication outside of class. Email will be answered within 48 hours & 72 hours over a weekend, and the workday following a holiday. **Please NOTE: MDA 300 in subject line of email.**

COVID-19 (Class Guidelines)

USC (COVID-19) Resource Center https://coronavirus.usc.edu/

In-Class Participation (15% = 15 pts. → 2 pts./class starting Week #4)

Consistent attendance, punctuality, and participation in ALL classes are extremely crucial to develop appropriate skills and to obtain supplemental information for this toolkit class.

Class participation grading scale per class starting on Week #4

2 pt. = full participation   1.5 pt. = partial participation
1.25 pt. = excused absence   0 pt. = absence/no participation

Excused absence ONLY – You may earn up to an additional 0.5 pt.
This must be completed 1 week after excused absence.

Teach Back (10% = 10 pts.)
During teach back, students must complete two constructive peer feedback @ 5 pts/each for their peers teach back presentation.

Journal Reflections (25% = 25 pts. → 5 journal entries @ 5 pts. each)
Journal reflections are to provide you space to reflect on class discussions and feedback to DrB about lecture modules and any additional support you may need.

QPR Training (20% = 20 pts.)
Completion of in class QPR Gatekeeper certification training.

QPR Outreach Presentation (30% = 30 pts. → 30 pts. presentation)
Each student must co-present one suicide intervention outreach training along with QPR trained trainer to USC peers.

Grading Criteria

	% Grade	Points
In-Class Participation	15%	15
Teach Back (peer feedback)	10%	10
QPR Training	20%	20
Journal Reflections	25%	25
Presentations	30%	30
Total	**100%**	**100 Points**

A (95 pts. & higher)   A- (90-94 pts.)   B+ (87-89 pts.)   B (83-86 pts.)
B- (80-82 pts.)   C+ (77-79 pts.) C (73-76 pts.)   C- (70-72 pts.)
PASS (> 70 pts.)
D+ (67-69 pts.)   D (63-66 pts.)   D- (60-62 pts.)   Fail (<59 pts.)

Course Schedule

Coursework Readings & Links will be on Brightspace in Coursework folder.

Week 1 *January 15*	Course Introduction	
Week 2 *January 22*	Suicide 101 *What You Need to Know*	
Week 3 *January 29*	Counseling Microskills *Skills Practice – USC MFT Graduate students*	Journal #1
FRIDAY, JANUARY 31	**LAST DAY TO: REGISTER & ADD CLASSES, DROP *WITHOUT MARK OF "W," CHANGE ENROLLMENT OPTION TO P/NP OR AUDIT & PURCHASE/WAIVE TUITION REFUND INSURANCE***	
Week 4 *February 5*	Counseling Microskills *Skills Practice – USC MFT Graduate students*	Journal #2
Week 5 *February 12*	Suicidology Research	Journal #3
Week 6 *February 19*	QPR Training	Journal #4
Week 7 *February 26*	QPR In-Class Teach Back	Journal #5
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28	**LAST DAY TO: DROP COURSE WITH*OUT MARK OF "W" ON TRANSCRIPT & CHANGE ENROLLMENT P/NP COURSE TO A LETTER GRADE***	
Week 8 *March 5*	QPR In-Class Teach Back	
Week 9 *March 12*	QPR In-Class Teach Back	
March 16-23	**Spring Recess** **March 16-23**	
Week 10 *March 26*	***QPR Training Outreach Presentations***	
Week 11 *April 2*	***QPR Training Outreach Presentations***	
Week 12 *April 9*	***QPR Training Outreach Presentations***	
FRIDAY, APRIL 11	**LAST DAY TO DROP CLASS WITH MARK OF "W"**	
Week 13 *April 16*	***QPR Training Outreach Presentations***	
Week 14 *April 23*	***QPR Training Outreach Presentations***	
Week 15 *April 30*	Course Wrap-Up	

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(s). Students suspected of engaging in academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.

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.

Statement on University Academic & Support Systems

Student & 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. You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at osasfrontdesk@usc.edu

Student Financial Aid & 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

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