

Physiological Psychology—Psy 315-001

Fall 2012

TR: 11:00 – 12:15

Henderson Hall – 207

Instructor: Dr. Benton H. Pierce

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Office Hrs: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:00 – 3:00 pm, or by appointment

Course Overview: This course will explore the physiological, evolutionary, and developmental mechanisms that underlie behavior and experience. We will examine the basic structure of nerve cells and nerve impulses, the brain and nervous system, sensory systems, movement, sleep, emotion, learning and memory, language, and certain psychological disorders.

Class Materials:

Text: Kalat, J.W. (2013). *Biological Psychology (11th Edition)*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

In this class, you will be provided with supplemental resources through the eCollege system that will help you learn this material more effectively. The most important resources are outlines for each lecture that you can download and print out to bring to class.

Lecture Outlines: In the eCollege system (under Document Sharing), you will find a series of MS Word files that contain the lecture outlines for each chapter. Students have found that having access to these outlines is beneficial in several ways. When they have the outline in hand for the lecture it enables them to discern the organization of the lecture and it helps them to organize their notes. These outlines are also a valuable study tool when it comes time to study for the test. Because many important terms and definitions are provided on the outline, students find that it is easier to keep up with the lectures. I **strongly recommend** that you download the outlines for each chapter and bring them to class.

Evaluation: There will be three multiple choice exams during the semester, plus a multiple choice final, which will be **cumulative**. I will drop your lowest test grade on the three semester exams, but the final exam grade will **NOT** be dropped. Therefore, you will have three exams to count toward your grade, each of which will account for 30%. The remaining 10% of your grade will come from your performance on a series of short, weekly quizzes. These quizzes will be given at the end of class, and will cover the chapter that will have just finished. There will be no make-ups on these quizzes under any circumstances. Please note that the final exam will be cumulative, so it is important that you keep reviewing the course material that we have already covered so that you are not forced to cram at the last minute.

Grading System: A = 90% - 100%
B = 80% - 89%
C = 70% - 79%
D = 60% - 69%
F = Less than 60%

Examination Policy: The three semester exams, plus the final, must be taken at the time indicated on the syllabus. Missed exams can only be made up if the student provides documentation of a legitimate University-approved excuse (e.g., medical emergency) within a week of the missed exam. When discussing exams, it is necessary (unfortunately) to mention the subject of cheating. Cheating and plagiarism of all forms will not be tolerated. If you have any questions about what constitutes cheating, please see me. As the Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct says "All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment."

Attendance Policy: I do not take roll, and your attendance will not count toward your grade. Please keep in mind, however, that there may be material on the exams that is either not covered in the textbook or that I will cover in lecture in greater depth than what the textbook does. In addition, missing class on days we have a weekly quiz will mean that you will get a zero on that quiz. In other words, **you need to come to class.**

Students with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Halladay Student Services Building
Room 303 A/D**

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

Electronic-Devices Usage Policy. Turn off all cell phones, pagers, or other electronic devices (PDAs, Ipods, MP3 players, Walkmans, PSPs, Gameboys, etc. and put them out of sight **BEFORE** entering class:

- a. This does not mean to turn your phone on “silent” or “vibrate”.
- b. You may not receive a call during class (even if you excuse yourself), you may not check to see if you have received a call, and you may not text-message.
- c. Your laptop may be used only to take notes, not to “surf” during class.

Participation in Research

Supporting Psychological Science: Research Participation Requirement

As part of your course requirement, you will need to complete a total of **5** credit hours of research participation. **HOWEVER**, if you do not have any unexcused no-shows (i.e. you do not show up for a study) you will be required to complete only **3** credit hours. Students who complete the 3 credits without acquiring any no-shows will be allowed to complete an additional 2 credits for extra credit.

Failure to complete the required number of credits will result in the reduction of your final grade by one letter grade. That is, if you have an “A” and do not complete the required credits, your final grade will be a “B.”

You will be able to sign up for various studies through the SONA system. Instructions on how to do this will be provided in a separate handout. Studies are worth different amounts of credit depending upon how long it takes to complete the study. You may sign up for any combination of studies you wish as long as you complete the required number of credits.

A pre-screening questionnaire is required before participating in many of the studies. You may earn .5 credits by completing the pre-screening within the *first two weeks* of the semester.

Your participation in these studies is vital in order for the department to accomplish its research goals, make its contribution to the development of psychological science, and demonstrate what Texas A&M University-Commerce

does in the national and international frontier of knowledge. Furthermore, the studies will give you an opportunity to learn about some of the things we do in this field and may turn out to be fun for you as well!

The alternative to the research experiment participation will be to complete an original 20 page research project, as specified by your instructor. If you choose to do the research project instead of the research experiments, you must make an appointment and meet individually with the instructor prior to Friday, September 13, 2012, and the written project will be due by Thursday, December 2, 2010, in class.

Schedule (Tentative)

Date	Topic	Chapter (pages)
Aug. 28	Introduction	Chapter 1
Aug. 30	The Major Issues	Chapter 1
Sept. 4	Nerve Cells and Nerve Impulses	Chapter 2
Sept. 6	Synapses	Chapter 3
Sept. 11	Synapses	Chapter 3
Sept. 13	Anatomy of the Nervous System	Chapter 4
Sept. 18	Anatomy of the Nervous System	Chapter 4
Sept. 20	EXAM 1	All of the above
Sept. 25	Development and Plasticity of the Brain	Chapter 5
Sept. 27	Development and Plasticity of the Brain	Chapter 5
Oct. 2	Vision	Chapter 6
Oct. 4	Vision	Chapter 6
Oct. 9	The Other Sensory Systems	Chapter 7
Oct. 11	The Other Sensory Systems	Chapter 7
Oct. 16	Movement	Chapter 8
Oct. 18	Movement	Chapter 8

Oct. 23	EXAM 2	All since Exam 1
Oct. 25	No class	
Oct. 30	Wakefulness and Sleep	Chapter 9
Nov. 1	Wakefulness and Sleep	Chapter 9
Nov. 6	Emotional Behaviors	Chapter 12
Nov. 8	Emotional Behaviors	Chapter 12
Nov. 13	The Biology of Learning and Memory	Chapter 13
Nov. 15	The Biology of Learning and Memory	Chapter 13
Nov. 20	Exam 3	All since Exam 2
Nov. 22	No class (Thanksgiving holiday)	
Nov. 27	Cognitive Functions	Chapter 14
Nov. 29	Cognitive Functions	Chapter 14
Dec. 5	Mood Disorders and Schizophrenia	Chapter 15
Dec. 7	Mood Disorders and Schizophrenia	Chapter 15
To be announced	FINAL EXAM (cumulative)	