

# Physiological Psychology—PSY 315-001

Spring 2015; TR: 3:00-4:15

Henderson Hall – 206

Instructor: Dr. Benton H. Pierce

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**Benton H. Pierce, Ph.D.**

**Office:** 232 – Henderson Hall

**Phone:** 903-886-5444

**E-mail:** benton.pierce@tamuc.edu

**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 (11<sup>th</sup> 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, chapter quizzes. These quizzes will be administered through eCollege and will be given at a designated time after the class is 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.

**Academic Conduct & Honesty.** The Student Handbook (Policies and Procedures, Code of Student Conduct) University states that “All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” Violation of this code will lead to an initiation of the disciplinary procedures described in the Student Handbook. Proper student conduct also includes maintaining a standard of academic honesty. In essence, **cheating** and **plagiarism** of all forms will not be tolerated. Plagiarism means that you cannot use the words and ideas of another person without giving that person credit. Therefore, quotation marks should be used to indicate the exact words of another. In addition, each time you paraphrase another author, you must credit the source in the text. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, please see me. **Students who engage in cheating or plagiarism will earn an F in the course.**

**Attendance Policy:** I do not take role, except for the first few weeks of class. 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.**

## **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!

Should you elect not to participate in experimental research, there will be alternative assignments that will satisfy this portion of your course grade. Please see me about these alternative assignments.

***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@tamuc.edu**

**Cell Phones/Laptops/Other Electronic Devices. Cell phones must be turned off or placed on silent during class.** If you have an emergency and may need to take a call during class, please see me before class and leave your cell phone on top of your desk. Otherwise, I expect to see **no** cell phones during class. Students using cell phones without permission during class will be asked to leave the classroom. If you want to bring a laptop to class to take notes, I expect that you use it for that purpose, and not to “surf”.

### ***Student Conduct and Class Policy:***

#### **From the Student Handbook:**

Students are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that does not disrupt teaching or learning. Faculty members have the authority to request students who exhibit inappropriate behavior to leave the class and may refer serious offenses to the University Police Department and/or the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.

**Class Policy:** I expect you to be on time for class and to stay for the entire lecture. If you expect to be late, please notify me ahead of time. If you need to leave class early, let me know before class begins. It is disrespectful to me and discourteous to your fellow students to get up and walk out during a lecture.

**Nondiscrimination Statement:** A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free

from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### ***Schedule (Tentative)***

Please note that any changes to this schedule will be announced in class.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>
Jan. 20	Introduction	Chapter 1
Jan. 22	The Major Issues	Chapter 1
Jan. 27	Nerve Cells and Nerve Impulses	Chapter 2
Jan. 29	Nerve Cells and Nerve Impulses	Chapter 2
Feb. 3	Synapses	Chapter 3
Feb. 5	Synapses	Chapter 3
Feb. 10	Anatomy of the Nervous System	Chapter 4
Feb. 12	Anatomy of the Nervous System	Chapter 4
<b>Feb. 17</b>	<b>EXAM 1</b>	<b>All of the above</b>
Feb. 19	Development and Plasticity of the Brain	Chapter 5
Feb. 24	Development and Plasticity of the Brain	Chapter 5
Feb. 26	Vision	Chapter 6
Mar. 3	Vision	Chapter 6
Mar. 5	The Other Sensory Systems	Chapter 7
Mar. 10	The Other Sensory Systems	Chapter 7
Mar. 12	Movement	Chapter 8
<b>Mar. 16-20</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>	
Mar. 24	Movement	Chapter 8
Mar. 26	<b>EXAM 2</b>	<b>All since Exam 1</b>
Mar. 31	Wakefulness and Sleep	Chapter 9
Apr. 2	Wakefulness and Sleep	Chapter 9
Apr. 7	Emotional Behaviors	Chapter 12

Apr. 9	Emotional Behaviors	Chapter 12
Apr. 14	The Biology of Learning and Memory	Chapter 13
Apr. 16	The Biology of Learning and Memory	Chapter 13
<b>Apr. 21</b>	<b>Exam 3</b>	<b>Chapters 9, 12, 13</b>
Apr. 23	Cognitive Functions	Chapter 14
Apr. 28	Cognitive Functions	Chapter 14
Apr. 30	Mood Disorders and Schizophrenia	Chapter 15
May 5	Mood Disorders and Schizophrenia	Chapter 15
May 7	To be announced	
<b>To be announced</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>All chapters covered in class</b>