

Physiological Psychology—PSY 315-001

Fall 2015; TR: 11:00-12:15

Henderson Hall – 206

Instructor: Dr. Benton H. Pierce

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Office Hrs: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3:00-4:00 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, drugs and addiction, hunger and eating disorders, sensory systems, movement, sleep and consciousness, emotion, learning and memory, language, and certain psychological disorders.

Class Materials.

Text: Garrett, B. (2015). *Brain & Behavior: An Introduction to Biological Psychology* (4th edition), Los Angeles, CA: SAGE Publications.

Study Guide: Prepared by Gerald Hough. *Study Guide to Accompany Bob Garrett's Brain & Behavior* (4th edition). Los Angeles, CA: SAGE Publications.

In addition to the textbook and study guide, there is a useful student resources site that will help you learn the material in this course. The site contains a number of supplements for each chapter, including an action plan, learning objectives, a quiz, eFlashcards, and various videos and multimedia links. You can access this site at: <https://edge.sagepub.com/garrett4e>.

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 given after each chapter.

These quizzes will be administered through eCollege and will be available to be taken immediately after the lecture in which we finish the chapter. The guidelines that you need to follow for these quizzes are on page 6 of the syllabus. 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 = 89.5% - 100%
B = 79.5% - 89.4%
C = 69.5% - 79.4%
D = 59.5% - 69.4%
F = Less than 59.5%

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.

Technology Requirements. This is a web enhanced course. To be able to take the online quizzes, you will need to use a current Flash enabled browser. For PC users, the suggested browser is Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox. For Mac users, the most current update of Firefox is suggested.

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. Furthermore, attending class and paying attention will help prepare you for the chapter quizzes.

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.

Date	Topic	Chapter
Sept. 1	Introduction	Chapter 1
Sept. 3	What is Biopsychology?	Chapter 1 – Quiz 1
Sept. 8	Communication Within the Nervous System	Chapter 2
Sept. 10	Communication Within the Nervous System (continued)	Chapter 2 – Quiz 2
Sept. 15	Organization and Functions of the Nervous System	Chapter 3
Sept. 17	Organization and Functions of the Nervous System (continued)	Chapter 3 – Quiz 3
Sept. 22	Methods and Ethics of Research	Chapter 4 – Quiz 4
Sept. 24	EXAM 1	All of the above
Sept. 29	Drugs, Addiction, and Reward	Chapter 5
Oct. 1	Drugs, Addiction, and Reward (cont.)	Chapter 5 – Quiz 5
Oct. 6	Motivation and Regulation of Internal States	Chapter 6
Oct. 8	Motivation and Regulation of Internal States (continued)	Chapter 6 – Quiz 6
Oct. 13	Emotion and Health	Chapter 8
Oct. 15	Emotion and Health (continued)	Chapter 8 – Quiz 8
Oct. 20	Hearing and Language	Chapter 9
Oct. 22	Hearing and Language (continued)	Chapter 9 – Quiz 9
Oct. 27	Exam 2	All since Exam 1
Oct. 29	Vision and Visual Perception	Chapter 10
Nov. 3	Vision and Visual Perception (cont.)	Chapter 10 -- Quiz 10
Nov. 5	The Body Senses and Movement	Chapter 11—Quiz 11

Nov. 10	Learning and Memory	Chapter 12
Nov. 12	Learning and Memory (continued)	Chapter 12 – Quiz 12
Nov. 17	Intelligence and Cognitive Functioning	Chapter 13
Nov. 19	Intelligence and Cognitive Functioning (cont.)	Chapter 13 – Quiz 13
Nov. 24	Exam 3	All since Exam 2
Nov. 26	No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday	
Dec. 1	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 14
Dec. 3	Psychological Disorders (continued)	Chapter 14 – Quiz 14
Dec. 8	Sleep and Consciousness	Chapter 15
Dec. 10	Sleep and Consciousness (continued)	Chapter 15 – Quiz 15
Dec. 15 (10:30-12:30)	FINAL EXAM	All chapters covered in class

Instructions for Weekly Chapter Quizzes

As previously discussed, we will have a series of chapter quizzes, which will be given after we finish each chapter. These quizzes will be administered through eCollege, with each quiz consisting of approximately 10 multiple-choice questions. The quizzes will be available for you to take starting immediately after the lecture in which we finish the chapter. You will have from 12:30 pm after class until 12:00 am to complete the quiz. However, you will have only ten minutes to take the quiz. Therefore, it is imperative that you read the chapter before you come to class and pay attention during the lecture. You will receive immediate feedback on your answers, which will allow you to go back to the book and your notes to make sure that you understand the correct answer.