

# Physiological Psychology - Psy 315

## Spring 2016

**Tx A&M University Commerce @ Rockwall; TR 8:00a - 9:15a**

---

**Instructor:** Devin Pierce, Ph.D.

**Email:** Devin.Pierce@tamuc.edu

**Office Hours:** My office hours will be held in the virtual office in eCollege between the hours of 10:00a & 12:00p on M & W. If this will not work for any of you, please let me know and we will make other arrangements.

---

### Required Text

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

### Course Description

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, emotion, learning and memory, language, and certain psychological disorders.

### Course Requirements

**Exams.** There will be three multiple choice exams during the semester, as well as, 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%. Make-ups will only be given when the student provides documentation of legitimate University-approved excuse (e.g., medical emergency) within a week of the missed exam.

**Quizzes.** After each chapter, you will be required to take a short chapter quiz, consisting of approximately 10 multiple-choice questions. These quizzes will be administered through eCollege and will be available to be taken immediately after the lecture in which we finish the chapter. You will have from 9:15a after class until 12:00am 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. These quizzes will account for the remaining 10% of your final grade.

Final grades are based on the total number of points earned during the term in accordance, generally, with the following levels of proficiency: A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = below 60.

## **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.

## **Course and University Procedures/Policies**

**Attendance Policy.** I will be taking roll throughout the semester at the beginning of each class period. It is important for you to come to class because it will help prepare you for the chapter quizzes and exams. According to university policy, you may be dropped from the course or dropped a grade point if you accrue an excessive number of absences (i.e., 3). In this course, you will be permitted 3 unexcused absences. Then, for each subsequent unexcused absence, I will deduct 2 points from your final course grade, regardless of what your average may be. Please note that I not only expect you to attend class, but I expect you to be on time 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.

**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."

**Academic Conduct & Honesty.** The Student Handbook (Policies and Procedures, Code of Student Conduct) 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 of all forms will not be tolerated. Students who engage in cheating or plagiarism will earn an F in the course.

**Nondiscrimination Statement.** A&M-Commerce will comply 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.

**Accommodations for 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  
Gee Library  
Room 132  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148  
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu**

## Course Schedule

Week	Date		Topic	Reading
1	T	1/19	Introduction	1
	Th	1/21	What is Biopsychology?	1
2	T	1/26	Communication Within the Nervous System	2
	Th	1/28	Communication Within the Nervous System	2
3	T	2/2	Organization and Functions of the Nervous System	3
	Th	2/4	Organization and Functions of the Nervous System	3
4	T	2/9	Methods and Ethics of Research	4
	Th	2/11	Methods and Ethics of Research	4
5	T	2/16	Exam 1	None
	Th	2/18	Results and Discussion of Exam 1	None
6	T	2/23	Drugs, Addiction, and Reward	5
	Th	2/25	Drugs, Addiction, and Reward	5
7	T	3/1	Motivation and the Regulation of Internal States	6
	Th	3/3	Motivation and the Regulation of Internal States	6

8	T	3/8	Emotion and Health	8
	Th	3/10	Emotion and Health	8
9	T	3/15	Spring Break	None
	Th	3/17	Spring Break	None
10	T	3/22	Hearing and Language	9
	Th	3/24	Hearing and Language	9
11	T	3/22	Exam 2	None
	Th	3/24	Results and Discussion of Exam 2	None
12	T	3/29	Vision and Visual Perception	10
	Th	3/31	Vision and Visual Perception	10
13	T	4/5	The Body Senses and Movement	11
	Th	4/7	The Body Senses and Movement	11
14	T	4/12	Learning and Memory	12
	Th	4/14	Learning and Memory	12
15	T	4/19	Intelligence and Cognitive Functioning	13
	Th	4/21	Intelligence and Cognitive Functioning	13
16	T	4/26	Psychological Disorders	14
	Th	4/28	Psychological Disorders	14
17	T	5/3	Exam 3	None
	Th	5/5	Results and Discussion of Exam 3	None
18	TBA		Final Exam	None

**Please note that this is a tentative schedule.  
As such, I reserve the right to alter this schedule as needed.**