



Physiological Psychology—PSY 315-51E

Spring 2020

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Amanda R. Stevens, M.S.
Office Location: Henderson Hall 230
Office Hours: By appointment
University Email Address: astevens@leomail.tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: Email
Communication Response Time: Within 48 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required: Kalat, J.W. (2019). *Biological Psychology (13th Edition)*. Boston, MA: Cengage

In this class, you will be provided with supplemental resources through the D2L 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 content section of D2L, 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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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, sensory systems, movement, sleep, emotion, learning and memory, intelligence, language, and certain psychological disorder.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Using the learning management system (D2L), using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint.

Instructional Methods

Face-to-face instructional method with the assistance of technological resources such as PowerPoint, Ted Talks, etc.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Students are expected to regularly log into the course website (via MyLeo Online/D2L), read the course material, periodically review concepts, and participate in classroom discussion.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 89.5%-100%

B = 79.5%-89.4%

C = 69.5%-79.4%

D = 59.5%-69.4%

F = 59.5% or Below

NOTE: Grades will not be rounded!

A Note about Your Grade. Please remember that the grade you receive in this course is the grade that you **EARN**, not a grade that I “give” you. Therefore, please **do not** come to me at the end of the semester and ask what extra credit assignments you can do to improve your grade. I am happy to help you improve your study skills, but you need to come ask me for help. Furthermore, it is imperative that you ask for help early in

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the semester, not at the very end. Please remember that I genuinely want you to do well in this course, but that will require taking my advice on how best to study and learn this material. This course is difficult and will require that you study and prepare somewhat differently than the way you have in most of your other courses.

Assessments

Evaluation. There will be three exams during the semester, plus a final exam that will be cumulative. The semester exams and final will consist primarily of multiple-choice questions and perhaps a few short-answer questions. 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 we will have just finished covering that day. There will be no make-ups on these quizzes under any circumstances. However, I will drop your lowest two quiz grades. 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.

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

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

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ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

EMAIL Guidelines

To provide a framework for professional communication, emails must contain the following:

1. Subject line: Course (PSY 315); additional information if desired
2. Address the recipient: Open with Ms. Stevens
3. Use good grammar and avoid acronyms (i.e., do not write like you text)
4. Close with your name

Please send emails from your University account. I am not allowed to discuss grades over email. If you would like to discuss your grade, please make an appointment during office hours or see me after class.

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Course Specific Procedures/Policies

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.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx).
<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

Attendance Policy. Students are expected to be present for all face-to-face classes and labs. **Students who have excessive unexcused absences will be dropped from the course**; three or more absences constitute excessive absences for the purpose of this course. Students are responsible for notifying the instructor of an excused absence and providing appropriate documentation when necessary. Students are also responsible for requesting any makeup work during excused absences.

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

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Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-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, age, 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.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun.

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Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Schedule (Tentative)

Date	Topic	Chapter
1/16	Introduction, Overview, Major Issues; Nerve Cells and Nerve Impulses	Chapter 1
1/23	Synapses	Chapter 2
1/30	Anatomy and Research Methods	Chapter 3
2/6	Genetics, Evolution, Development, and Plasticity	Chapter 4
2/13	Exam 1	All of the above
2/20	MLK, Jr. Day – No class	
2/27	Vision; Other Sensory Systems	Chapters 5 & 6
3/5	Movement	Chapter 7
3/12	Spring Break – No class	
3/19	Wakefulness and Sleep	Chapter 8
3/26	Exam 2	All since Exam 1
4/2	Emotional Behaviors	Chapter 11
4/9	Learning, Memory, and Intelligence	Chapter 12
4/16	Cognitive Functions	Chapter 13
4/23	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 14

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4/30	Exam 3	All since Exam 2
5/7	FINAL EXAM (cumulative)	All chapters

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