

Physiological Psychology—PSY 315.51W

Spring 2021

Web-Based Course

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Office Hours: 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, internal regulation, reproductive behaviors, emotion, learning and memory, intelligence, language, and certain psychological disorders.

Class Materials:

Text: 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.

Evaluation. There will be seven quizzes during the semester, plus a final exam that will be cumulative. The semester exams and final will consist primarily of multiple-choice questions and short-answer questions. I will drop your lowest quiz grade, but the final exam grade will **NOT** be dropped. Therefore, you will have six quizzes to count toward your grade, each of which will account for 12% or 72% of your total grade. The final exam will account for the remaining 28% of your grade. 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%

Note: Grades will not be rounded!

Examination Policy. The quizzes and the final exam will be administered through D2L and you will be given a time window during which you must complete the quiz or final. The quizzes, plus the final, must be taken on the day scheduled. Missed quizzes 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 quiz.

RESEARCH PARTICIPATION

As part of your course requirement, you will need to complete a total of **3** credit hours of research participation. You may complete all of your research hours through online studies.

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.

The alternative to the research experiment participation will be to complete an original 2-page article summary for each credit hour. Instructions for completing the alternative research assignment will be distributed in class. If you choose to do the research alternative instead of the research experiments the **article summaries will be due by 11:59pm Thursday, April 29, 2021.**

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.

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 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.

Attendance Policy. If you need to miss an online lecture, please try to notify me in advance. You will not be penalized for missing a lecture, but you will be responsible for the material covered in that lecture.

Communication and Support

EMAIL POLICY

The instructor is available virtually by email and Zoom for office hours. If you would like to schedule an appointment, the best way is to email. We can then set up a time to chat when it is convenient for you. During posted office hours, the instructor will return emails upon receipt. Outside of these times, please allow 24 hours to receive a response on weekdays. If you email me and do not receive an email response within, 48 hours, most likely, your email was not received.

EMAIL GUIDELINES

In an attempt to provide a framework for professional communication, emails must contain the following:

- Subject Line: Course (e.g. PSY 315); additional information if desired (e.g. Hypothesis testing)
- Address the Reader: Open with Ms. Stevens
- Use good grammar and avoid acronyms (i.e., do not write like you text)
- If asking for assistance with an issue, please list at least 3 things you have done to try and remediate the issue prior to contacting me (these should probably include looking at the syllabus/ course rubrics/ eCollege, contacting a colleague, and checking your text, etc.)
- Close with your name

Please send emails from your University account. **The instructor will not discuss grades over email.** If you would like to discuss your grade, please make an appointment.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

Desktop Support

Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Microsoft ® Edge	Latest	N/A

Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Microsoft® Internet Explorer®	N/A	11
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A
Google® Chrome™	Latest	N/A
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A

Tablet and Mobile Support

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	<p>The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2L supports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version.</p> <p>Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.</p>
Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, Firefox	Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
 - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
 - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
 - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- **For YouSeeU Sync Meeting sessions 8 Mbps is required.** Additional system requirements found here: <https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>
- You must have a:
 - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
 - Speakers or headphones.
 - *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed.

JavaScript is enabled.

Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
 - [Adobe Reader https://get.adobe.com/reader/](https://get.adobe.com/reader/)
 - [Adobe Flash Player \(version 17 or later\) https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/)
 - [Adobe Shockwave Player https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/)
 - [Apple Quick Time http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

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.

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/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](#)
<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the university 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>

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>

The University's Pandemic Response

“A&M-Commerce requires the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories. Exceptions may be made by faculty where warranted. Faculty have management over their classrooms. Students not using face-coverings can be required to leave class. Repetitive refusal to comply can be reported to the Office of Students' Rights and Responsibilities as a violation of the student Code of Conduct.”

“Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.”

ADA Statement

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

Email: Sandi.Patton@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. 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 (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). 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.

Schedule (Tentative)

Date	Topic	Chapter (pages)
Jan. 12	Introduction, Overview, and Major Issues	Pages 3-12
Jan. 14	Nerve Cells and Nerve Impulses	Chapter 1
Jan. 19	Nerve Cells and Nerve Impulses	Chapter 1
Jan. 21	Synapses	Chapter 2
Jan. 26	Synapses Quiz 1	Chapter 2
Jan. 28	Anatomy and Research Methods	Chapter 3
Feb. 2	Anatomy and Research Methods	Chapter 3
Feb. 4	Genetics, Evolution, Development, and Plasticity	Chapter 4

Feb. 9	Genetics, Evolution, Development, and Plasticity Quiz 2	Chapter 4
Feb. 11	Vision	Chapter 5
Feb. 16	Vision	Chapter 5
Feb. 18	Other Sensory Systems	Chapter 6
Feb. 23	Other Sensory Systems Quiz 3	Chapter 6
Feb. 25	Movement	Chapter 7
March 2	Movement	Chapter 7
March 4	Wakefulness and Sleep	Chapter 8
March 9	Wakefulness and Sleep Quiz 4	Chapter 8
March 11	Internal Regulation	Chapter 9
March 16	Internal Regulation	Chapter 9
March 18	Reproductive Behaviors	Chapter 10
March 23	Reproductive Behaviors Quiz 5	Chapter 10
March 25	Emotional Behaviors	Chapter 11
March 30	Emotional Behaviors	Chapter 11
April 1	Learning, Memory, and Intelligence	Chapter 12
April 6	Learning, Memory, and Intelligence	Chapter 12
April 8	Learning, Memory, and Intelligence Quiz 6	Chapter 12
April 13	Cognitive Functions	Chapter 13
April 15	Cognitive Functions	Chapter 13
April 20	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 14
April 22	Psychological Disorders Quiz 7	Chapter 14
April 27	To be announced	
April 29	To be announced	

To be announced	Final Exam	All Chapters
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