



# Physiological Psychology—PSY 315-01E

Spring 2024; TR: 9:30 – 10:45 am

Henderson Hall – 206

Instructor: Dr. Benton H. Pierce

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

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**Office Hrs:** Mondays, 1-4 pm; Thursdays, 2-4 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. (2019). *Biological Psychology* (14<sup>th</sup> Edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

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.

***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 administered through D2L and will take place on the same day that we finish covering a given chapter. There will be no make-ups on these quizzes under any circumstances. However, I will drop your lowest quiz 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 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.

## ***RESEARCH PARTICIPATION***

As part of your course requirement, you will need to complete a total of **6** 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 **4** credit hours. Students who have completed their required credit hours will be allowed to complete additional credit hours for extra credit (not to exceed **6** extra credit hours). You are ***only allowed to complete 50% of your research credits via online studies***, the remaining credits need to be completed via laboratory 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 11:59 pm Thursday, May 2.**

### ***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.*** 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;*** four 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.

**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.

## ***Communication and Support***

As stated earlier, my office hours will be on Mondays from 1 to 4 pm, and on Thursdays from 1 to 4 pm. If you cannot come by during those times, please contact me and I will find another time to accommodate you. In terms of contacting me, the best way is through email according to the guidelines below.

### **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 Dr. Pierce
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.

## **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
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	The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or <b>point</b> release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or <b>point</b> 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

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
			iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version. Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.
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](mailto: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).  
<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)  
<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

#### ***TAMUC Attendance***

For more information about the university attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx).  
<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>

### ***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:

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.

## **A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

## **AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]**

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

### ***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. 11	Introduction, Overview, and Major Issues	Pages 3-12
Jan. 16	Nerve Cells and Nerve Impulses	Chapter 1
Jan. 18	Nerve Cells and Nerve Impulses	Chapter 1 <b>Quiz 1-Overview, Major Issues &amp; Chapter 1</b>
Jan. 23	Synapses	Chapter 2
Jan. 30	Synapses	Chapter 2 – Quiz 2
Feb. 1	Anatomy of the Nervous System	Chapter 3
Feb. 6	Anatomy of the Nervous System	Chapter 3 – Quiz 3
Feb. 8	Development and Plasticity of the Brain	Chapter 4
Feb. 13	Development and Plasticity of the Brain	Chapter 4– Quiz 4
<b>Feb. 15</b>	<b>EXAM 1</b>	<b>All of the above</b>
Feb. 20	Vision	Chapter 5
Feb. 22	Vision	Chapter 5 – Quiz 5
Feb. 27	The Other Sensory Systems	Chapter 6

Feb. 29	The Other Sensory Systems	Chapter 6 – Quiz 6
Mar. 5	Movement	Chapter 7
Mar. 7	Movement	Chapter 7 – Quiz 7
<b>Mar. 11-15</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>	
Mar. 19	Wakefulness and Sleep	Chapter 8
Mar. 21	Wakefulness and Sleep	Chapter 8 – Quiz 8
Mar. 26	<b>EXAM 2</b>	<b>All since Exam 1</b>
Mar. 28	Emotional Behaviors	Chapter 11
Apr. 2	Emotional Behaviors	Chapter 11 – Quiz 9
Apr. 4	The Biology of Learning and Memory	Chapter 12
Apr. 9	The Biology of Learning and Memory	Chapter 12
Apr. 11	The Biology of Learning and Memory	Chapter 12– Quiz 10
Apr. 16	Cognitive Functions	Chapter 13
Apr. 18	Cognitive Functions	Chapter 13 – Quiz 11
Apr. 23	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 14
Apr. 25	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 14 – Quiz 12
Apr. 30	<b>Exam 3</b>	<b>All since Exam 2</b>
<b>May 2</b>	<b>Study day</b>	
<b>Thursday, May 9 8:00-10:00 am.</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>All chapters covered in class</b>

### Instructions for Weekly Chapter Quizzes

As previously discussed, we will have a series of chapter quizzes, which will be given one per week. These quizzes will be administered through eCollege and will cover the chapter that we have just finished. Each quiz will consist of approximately 10 multiple-choice questions and will be available for you to take starting immediately after the second lecture over the chapter. You will have from 11 am after class until 10 pm the same day 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.