



**PSY 315.01E: Physiological Psychology (Fall 2024);
TR: 9:30a – 10:45a
COURSE SYLLABUS
Location: Social Sciences – 143**

Instructor: Benton H. Pierce, Ph.D.
Office Location: 232 – Henderson Hall
Office Hours: Mondays, 1-4 pm: Thursdays, 2-4 pm, or by appointment
Office Phone: NA
Email: benton.pierce@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: email
Communication Response Time: Within 48 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook: Kalat, J.W. (2024). *Biological Psychology (14th 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.

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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, language, and certain psychological disorders.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. You will learn about the basic properties of the nervous system, from nerve cells to the functional anatomy of the brain.
2. You will learn how the nervous system underlies all of our behaviors, including our sensory systems, emotional behaviors, memory and higher cognitive processes, and various psychological disorders.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional Methods

This course is in person. Students are **REQUIRED** to attend all lectures. If you need to miss a lecture, let me know in advance.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Throughout our course, we will learn the basic principles of how to learn and put these principles into practice. The following are some basics.

- 1) Check and read class emails promptly for announcements, updates, clarifications, etc.
- 2) Take notes and participate in lectures, read the assigned parts of the textbook to check if your listening comprehension matches the textbook descriptions, and fill in the missing pieces.
- 3) Quiz yourself often. Can you define a concept in your own words?
- 4) **DO NOT** forget to take the online quizzes when they are scheduled.

GRADING

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,

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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.

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 = 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. 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.

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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 on Friday, December 8.**

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Using the learning management system (D2L), searching the Internet for texts, using Library resources.

Instructional Methods

The primary teaching method for this course will be lecture based on your textbook, along with various handouts that will support the material that we are covering.

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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

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

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use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

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>

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

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

Interaction with Instructor Statement

It is best to communicate with me via email (benton.pierce@tamuc.edu). I will respond to emails within 24-48 hours. Please do not re-send your email unless at least 48 hours have passed since your last email.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

No quizzes, exams, or homework will be accepted after the deadline unless permission is provided in advance of the deadline by the instructor.

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 can be found at <https://www.tamuc.edu/student-code-of-conduct/>.

If you believe someone has engaged in behaviors that do not align with the Code of Student Conduct or you have other concerns, please visit the File a Report page at

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<https://www.tamuc.edu/office-of-student-rights-and-responsibilities/concerns-incident-reporting/>

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>

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 student academic dishonesty policy
[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

Undergraduate student academic dishonesty policy
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Graduate student academic dishonesty policy:
<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

Graduate student academic dishonesty form:
<https://inside.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateSchool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage.

Artificial Intelligence

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.

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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.

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 Services
Velma K. Waters Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5930

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Website: <http://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/campusServices/StudentDisabilityServices/default.aspx>

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



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

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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 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.

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR (Tentative)

Please note that any changes to this schedule will be announced in class.

Date	Topic	Chapter
Aug. 27	Introduction and Module 1.1	Pages 3-13
Aug. 29	Neurons and Other Cells	Module 1.2
Sept. 3	The Action Potential	Module 1.3 Quiz 1-Modules 1.1, 1.2, & 1.3
Sept. 5	Synapses	Chapter 2
Sept. 10	Synapses (continued)	Chapter 2 – Quiz 2
Sept. 12	Anatomy and Research Methods	Chapter 3
Sept. 17	Anatomy and Research Methods	Chapter 3 – Quiz 3
Sept. 19	Development and Plasticity of the Brain	Chapter 4
Sept. 24	Development and Plasticity of the Brain	Chapter 4– Quiz 4
Sept. 26	EXAM 1	All of the above
Oct. 1	Vision	Chapter 5
Oct. 3	Vision (cont.)	Chapter 5 – Quiz 5
Oct. 8	Hearing, the Mechanical Senses, and the Chemical Senses	Chapter 6
Oct. 10	Hearing, the Mechanical Senses, and the Chemical Senses	
Oct. 15	Movement	Chapter 7
Oct. 19	No Class	
Oct. 22	Movement	Chapter 7 – Quiz 7
Oct. 24	Wakefulness and Sleep	Chapter 8
Oct. 29	Wakefulness and Sleep	Chapter 8 – Quiz 8
Oct. 31	EXAM 2	All since Exam 1
Nov. 5	Emotional Behaviors	Chapter 11
Nov. 7	Emotional Behaviors	Chapter 11 – Quiz 9
Nov. 12	Learning, Memory, and Intelligence	Chapter 12
Nov. 14	Learning, Memory, and Intelligence	Chapter 12
Nov. 19	Learning, Memory, and Intelligence	Chapter 12 – Quiz 10

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Nov. 21	No class	
Nov. 26	Cognitive Functions	Chapter 13
Nov. 28	Thanksgiving Holiday	
Dec. 3	Cognitive Functions	Chapter 13 – Quiz 11
Dec. 5	Psychopathology	Chapter 14
Dec. 10	Psychopathology	Chapter 14
Dec. 12	Exam 3	All since Exam 2
To be announced	Final Exam	All chapters

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