In order to contact me during office hours, you can stop by in person, contact me via email (to schedule a Blackboard chat), phone, or Skype.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the basic physiological mechanisms that underlie human behavior. Major areas will include the neural foundations of behavior, motivation and emotion, sensation and perception, and other complex behaviors and psychological disorders. The student will be expected to learn the vocabulary of topics covered and a basic understanding of the anatomy, concepts and theory of the field.

Prerequisites: PSYC 2301: General Psychology; PSYC 4301: Experimental Psychology (or equivalent from major with instructor’s permission).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- The student will be able to describe biological and psychological explanations for human and animal motivation, mental illness, and cognitive functions.
- The student will be able to list the major parts of the brain and their functions.
- The student will be able to describe and understand communication within and
between nerve cells.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

This is an online class, so every student must have regular access to a computer, laptop, or tablet with reliable internet access, and a working Blackboard account with an islander email address.

In addition, you will need to have the following internet browsers to successfully complete the online quizzes/exams: Mozilla Firefox and Respondus Lockdown Browser.


**Student Study Site (free):** edge.sagepub.com/garrett4e

MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**EXAMS:** The course will consist of four online units. There will be four (4) exams given during the semester, one exam per unit. Exams will contain multiple choice, essay, and diagram labeling questions, and will include material covered both in the powerpoint lectures and the textbook readings. Each exam will be worth 100 points.

**Extensions:** All units (including unit exams) must be completed by the date indicated. In extreme circumstances, an extension may be requested. To qualify for an extension, **I need to be notified at least 24 hours prior to the unit completion date.** The instructor has the final decision whether or not to allow an extension. **

**ONLINE QUIZZES:** Each unit will consist of 3-4 chapters from the textbook. Embedded within each unit are online reading quizzes, 1 per chapter, each worth 10 points. Reading quizzes will cover material from the textbook and powerpoint presentations. All reading quizzes must be completed prior to taking the unit exam.

**ASSIGNMENTS:** All assignments must be completed by the assigned due date. **Late assignments will not be accepted.** All assignments are graded, and will count toward your final course grade.

DETERMINATION OF GRADES

Grading for the course will be based on performance on exams, quizzes, and assignments. Each graded item will be posted on Blackboard upon completion. **Students have one week after the date a grade is posted to contest that grade.**
Remember: I do not give grades, you earn them. Course grades will be based primarily on the total number of points earned during the course. There will be approximately 600 points total for the course.

Letter grades will be assigned at the end of the semester as follows:  
(Please note: a grading curve may be applied to exam grades and/or final grades if warranted, according to the discretion of the instructor.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 – 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 – 89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 – 79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 – 69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To figure out what your grade is at any time, follow this simple equation:

\[
\text{Grade} \times 100 = \% \text{ grade}
\]

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Classroom Correspondence: All correspondence from the instructor will occur through Blackboard. It is your responsibility to make sure that your preferred email address is connected to the Blackboard site*, and also to check Blackboard frequently for announcements, assignments, and other correspondence.  
*You can contact the TAMUCC help desk at ext. 2825 to make sure your emails from Blackboard are forwarded to your active email account

Email
- Please consider e-mail as official correspondence.
- Efforts will be made to address your e-mail within 48 hours. If you do not receive an email within 48 hours, please send a follow-up email.
- No email correspondence on weekends.
- No email correspondence on the day before an examination or deadline.
- E-mail communications should be about class business. E-mail is not the place for summaries of lectures, discussions, readings, etc.
- Please use the subject line in a way that indicates the content of the message.
- Please also use professional language and include your full name, which class you are in, and a complete inquiry in the body of the message. Unprofessional emails will result in non-response.
- Please keep copies of e-mails that are sent and received for records purposes.
**Academic Responsibility:** Students are responsible for the information on academic integrity in the University Catalog and the Student Handbook. Anyone violating these policies by plagiarism or academic dishonesty will be held accountable.

**Academic Integrity/Plagiarism:** University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a zero on the item and/or a report made to the academic conduct committee for further penalization.

**Dropping a Class:** I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. **Friday November 6, 2015**, is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**Grade Appeals:** Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.

**ACADEMIC ADVISING**

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

**Disabilities Accommodations:** 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 believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.
If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS COUNSELING & RESOURCES

http://counseling.tamucc.edu//academic%20success%20skills%20counseling.html

Our counselors can help you to better understand factors which may be interfering with your academic success and then work with you to develop an individualized academic success plan. We also have academic success resource materials to assist you. Visit the Counseling Center to make an appointment. Some of the issues that our counselors can help with are listed below.

Personal, Academic and Career Achievement Skills

- Improve Study Skills (effectively taking notes, reading, and studying)
- Management of Test Anxiety
- Stress Management
- Time Management
- Problem Solving Skills

STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC CONTINUITY

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.
Tentative Schedule of Classes:

Notes:
1. Units must be completed in order.
2. All Assignments for each unit are due on the due dates indicated for that unit. All Quizzes and assignments must be completed prior to taking the exam for that unit.
3. This Syllabus is subject to change or adjustment at the instructor’s discretion according to class needs. In the event of a syllabus change, a new, revised syllabus will be provided to all students.
4. This Syllabus is designed to help students understand as clearly as possible what is expected of them. *Students should direct all questions regarding the course and/or syllabus to the instructor.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 1: THE BASIC EQUIPMENT</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 1: What is Biopsychology?</td>
<td>Quiz 1</td>
<td>Quiz 1</td>
<td>9/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 2: Communication Within the Nervous System</td>
<td>Quiz 2</td>
<td>Quiz 2</td>
<td>9/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 3: The Organization and Functions of the Nervous System</td>
<td>Quiz 3</td>
<td>Quiz 3</td>
<td>9/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 4: The Methods and Ethics of Research</td>
<td>Quiz 4</td>
<td>Quiz 4</td>
<td>9/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Video Worksheet: Secrets of the Mind</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exam #1</td>
<td></td>
<td>9/18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 2: WHAT MAKES US GO</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 5: Drugs, Addiction &amp; Reward</td>
<td>Quiz 5</td>
<td>Quiz 5</td>
<td>10/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 6: Motivation &amp; Regulation of Internal States</td>
<td>Quiz 6</td>
<td>Quiz 6</td>
<td>10/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 7: The Biology of Sex (pps 197-206 only)</td>
<td>Quiz 7</td>
<td>Quiz 7</td>
<td>10/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 8: Emotion &amp; Health</td>
<td>Quiz 8</td>
<td>Quiz 8</td>
<td>10/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Video Worksheet: The Science of Sex Appeal</td>
<td></td>
<td>10/12</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exam #2</td>
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<td>10/13</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Unit 3: INTERACTING WITH THE WORLD

| Chapter 9: Hearing and Language | Quiz 9  |
| Chapter 10: Vision and Visual Perception | Quiz 10  |
| Chapter 11: The Body Senses and Movement | Quiz 11  |

**Video Worksheet:**
- Synesthesia
  - Exam #3
  - 11/2

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### Unit 4: COMPLEX BEHAVIOR

| Chapter 12: Learning & Memory | Quiz 12  |
| Chapter 13: Intelligence & Cognitive Functioning | Quiz 13  |
| Chapter 14: Psychological Disorders | Quiz 14  |
| Chapter 15: Sleep & Consciousness | Quiz 15  |

**Video Worksheet:**
- Don’t Forget
  - Exam #4
  - 12/1

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**Exam #3**
- 11/3

**Exam #4**
- 12/3