



WACO, TEXAS

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**COURSE SYLLABUS  
AND  
INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**PSYC 2330 Biological Psychology**

**Susan Nash Spooner, Ph.D.**

**NOTE: This is a 16-week Blended/Hybrid course.**

**COVID 19 Notice:**

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals. We are also concerned for your safety. We are working through COVID-19 guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. This will include smaller class sizes to manage social distancing and proper cleaning techniques. You will have the advantage of a physical classroom experience but may also need to work part of the time online as we adjust to limited classroom capacity. This will also allow us the flexibility to move online if so directed by federal, state and/or local COVID 19 guidelines. Faculty and staff are preparing now to ensure that you have the best experience in the midst of these uncertain times.

## Course Description

**PSYC 2330 Biological Psychology** is an introduction to the biological bases of behavior. Topics include evolution, genetics, research methods in behavioral neuroscience, motivation and emotion, sensation and perception, learning and memory, lifespan development, cognition, psychological disorders, and other complex behaviors. (PSYC 2330 is included in the Psychology Field of Study.) Prerequisites: PSYC 2301 General Psychology. For additional information regarding the course content, see Learning Outcomes below.

## Required Text and Materials

Your **required** course materials for this class are included in your course fees and are substantially discounted. You will be provided instructions on how to access and use these materials the first day of class. You will be required to use your McLennan email address, so please make sure you can read and reply to emails via that account. MCC Bookstore Website: <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

## Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Susan Nash Spooner, Ph.D.  
MCC E-mail: [SSpooner@mclennan.edu](mailto:SSpooner@mclennan.edu)  
Office Phone Number: 254-299-8932

**Conference hours** are available via Zoom or phone by appointment. I am happy to meet at your convenience so please email and we will set up a time! ***If you need to visit with me, please let me know, and we will work something out!***

*Communication response time:* In most cases, I check my email regularly between 8am and 3pm on weekdays (M-F). However, please give me up to 24 hours to respond to your messages on weekdays. On many weekends I am busy with my family's activities, and I am often out of town. I will respond to messages sent on the weekends as quickly as possible, but messages sent after 3pm on Friday may not be answered until the next Monday morning. Since we meet synchronously, please always feel free to chat with me before and after class.

## Social & Behavioral Science (SBSci) Division Information

The Psychology Department is part of the Social & Behavioral Science Division. The main office is in office 318 of the Michaelis Academic Center (MAC 318). Mr. Gilbert Montemayor is the division Chair and his email is [GMontemayor@mclennan.edu](mailto:GMontemayor@mclennan.edu).

## Methods of Teaching and Learning

**Course Format of Blended/Hybrid: What is a blended/hybrid class?** As stated in the McLennan Community College: Safety Protocols for Instruction, Fall 2020 released July 6, 2020, "The Texas Administrative Code defines blended instruction as a pedagogical model that requires more than 50 but less than 85% asynchronous instructional content (i.e., students are not required to be available for this content at a set time or date). Faculty can offer students the option to attend a synchronous lecture but record it for the rest of the class so students can view it on their own schedules."

For our class, the plan will be to meet in person on Mondays and meet on Zoom on Wednesdays. However, this schedule will remain flexible. Any changes will be communicated in class, through email, and in Brightspace.

**Expectations of a blended/hybrid student:** If you are taking a blended class you need to have access to an up-to-date, functional computer on a regular basis so that you will be able to complete all the course work. In most cases, you will be expected to check email, discussions, announcements, etc. at least 3-4 times weekly. You also will be

expected to attend zoom sessions and/or watch course video lectures. There are computers located on MCC's campus that are available for student use. *Not having access to a computer for any reason is not a valid excuse for missing an assignment or exam.*

**Zoom Class Lecture Requirements:**

- Camera must be on and your face must be visible during class time.
- Keep audio muted unless you have a question or the professor asks for responses.
- Use your full name as it appears on the MCC roster.
- Arrive on time and leave only after class has been dismissed.
- You will be expected to take notes so be prepared.
- Attendance will be taken based on the Zoom log.
- This is our class time. You should **not** be driving, be shopping, hanging out with friends, be at practice, be in another class, etc.
- Be in an appropriate place for class (for example, being in bed is not an appropriate place for class).
- Clothing is NOT optional. Dress professionally.
- You may use the chat functions, but keep in mind that the professor can see all chats (including private chats) in the Zoom log. Use chat professionally.

All course information will on Brightspace. Students are responsible for consulting Brightspace daily to read announcements and to note any changes to course structure, assignments, etc. Lecture, Socratic discussion, written reports/papers, exams, quizzes, simulations, and tutorial software may all be used in class. Reading is a primary mean by which the Blended/Hybrid course works. The student must be able to read and comprehend content independently to succeed. That includes reading instructions as well as the textbook assignments carefully. Virtually everyone who reads Psychology, including professionals, finds that it is necessary to read most psychological material more than once. As beginning students of psychology, you should expect to read the assignments two, three, or even more times. The material can be dense, complex, and challenging. Further, since we all tend to see ourselves as "amateur psychologists," we tend to assume we "know" the material. I have found that this false sense of knowing the information results in less studying and poor exam grades. Most students must work harder to really learn the information and pass the tests in psychology.

**Core Objectives for Social & Behavioral Sciences**

Courses in this category focus on the application of empirical and scientific methods that contribute to the understanding of what makes us human. Courses involve the exploration of behaviors and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, and events, examining their impact on the individual, society, and culture.

- **Critical Thinking (CT)** -- to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Communications Skill (COM)** -- to include effective written, oral, and visual communication.
- **Empirical & Quantitative Skills (EQS)** -- to include applications of scientific and mathematical concepts.
- **Social Responsibility (SR)** -- to include intercultural competency, civic knowledge, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global

**Learning Outcomes**

**PSYC 2330 Biological Psychology** is an introduction to the biological bases of behavior. Topics include evolution, genetics, research methods in behavioral neuroscience, motivation and emotion, sensation and perception, learning and memory, lifespan development, cognition, psychological disorders, and other complex behaviors.

1. Define and explain the biological foundations of behavior, including theories, history, and research methods.
2. Describe the evolution and development of the nervous system – neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, neurotransmission, and neuroendocrinology.
3. Identify the structures and function that underlie sensation, perception, and motor control.
4. Identify and discuss the regulation of behavior, including motivation and emotion, sexual behavior, and biological rhythms.
5. Articulate the biological components of learning, memory, and language.
6. Describe the biological underpinnings of age-related changes in cognition and socioemotional functioning over the lifespan.
7. Examine how biological processes impact health and well-being.

*(All learning outcome will be assessed by objective exams, written assignment, and/or class projects and will measure CT, COM, EQS, SR.)*

## **Course Outline**

### **Unit 1**

Introduction

Ch. 1: Structure and Function: Neuroanatomy and Research Methods

### **Unit 2**

Ch. 2: Neurophysiology: Neural Signals

Ch. 3: The Chemistry of Behavior: Neurotransmitters and Neuropharmacology

Ch. 4: Development of the Brain

### **Unit 3**

Ch. 8: Hormones and Sex

Ch. 9: Homeostasis: Internal Regulation

Ch. 10: Biological Rhythms and Sleep

Ch. 11: Emotions, Aggression, and Stress

### **Unit 4**

Ch. 12: Psychopathology

Ch. 13: Memory and Learning

Ch. 14: Attention and Higher Cognition

Ch. 15: Language and Lateralization

This course outline is *subject to change*. Updated information, more specific details and any other changes will be announced in class and posted in Brightspace.

## **Course Grading Information**

Please note that I do not use a point system. Grades are based on weighted percentages.

**Class Assignments:** Homework will be assigned throughout the semester. Each assignment will help you understand the class material and prepare for the exams. Assignments will be discussed in class and posted on Brightspace. Assignment deadlines will allow ample time for the work to be completed. Therefore no late assignments will be accepted. All of the assignment grades will be averaged and will be 28% of your final course grade. Earning A's on all of your assignments will be very helpful if you perform poorly on any of the exams. On the other hand, if you do not do these assignments, then your low assignment average will harm your final grade.

**Exams:** *Four Unit Exams will be given.* Exams will typically consist of multiple choice questions, but can include essay, short answer, matching and fill-in-the-blank questions. The exams will cover material presented in class as well as assigned readings from the textbook. (In other words, there may be material on the test that was not covered by the instructor during class but that was from the assigned readings! There also will be information covered in class that is not covered in your textbook!)

**Final Grade:** The four-unit exam grades are each worth 18% of your final course grade. The average of your assignment grades makes up 28% of your final grade, for a total of 100%. An average of 90 or above is an A, 80-89 is a B, 70-79 is a C, 60-69 is a D, and an average below 60 is an F.

No exam grades will be dropped, and exams may not be taken over. Exams will not be returned to the student nor will they be discussed in class. However, I strongly encourage students to make an appointment with me to review your exams in my office.

### **Late Work, Attendance, and Make-Up Work Policies**

Frequently asked questions regarding late work, make up work, extra credit, etc.:

1. Is there any extra credit? No. There are enough assignments that if you complete them, you should make a satisfactory grade in class.
2. May I make up missed assignments? No. So, it would be wise to work ahead and stay ahead just in case: your frog croaks, your dog chokes, your computer smokes, etc.
3. May I turn in assignments late? No. I will give you ample time to complete the class assignments so that you can turn them in on time.
4. May I make up a missed exam? Absolutely! You are allowed to make up **one** missed exam. If you miss a second exam you will be assigned a zero for that exam. But, you will lose 10 points\* for having the extra study time and taking it late. And you must contact the instructor within 1 week of the missed exam to schedule a makeup exam or risk being dropped from the course with a "W." (\*If you are absent on an exam day for one of the reasons listed in the attendance policy, and you have documentation showing the reason for your absence, then you may not lose 10 points for taking a makeup exam. *Please meet with the instructor one-on-one to discuss your situation.*) See the entire Make-up exam policy listed below.
5. I did really poorly on an exam. Can I take it over to improve my grade? No. Exams may not be taken over. Make sure you do all of your class assignments to help average out your poor test grade. Also, make some changes in your studying so that you don't repeat your poor performance.
6. I did really poorly on an exam. Can I drop my lowest test grade? No. All of your test grades and assignment grades will contribute to your final grade. No grades will be dropped. Make sure you do all of your class assignments to help average out your poor test grade. Also, make some changes in your studying so that you don't repeat your poor performance.

**Make-up exams:** Just so you know, taking a make-up exam is a BAD idea!!! Don't do it!!! You and your instructor will be much happier if you take the exams as scheduled. However, because life is full of unexpected obstacles, you are allowed to make up **one** missed exam. If you miss a second exam you will be assigned a zero for that exam. If you do miss an exam, you will lose 10 points\*. You must contact the instructor within one week of the missed exam to schedule a makeup exam. If you do not contact the instructor within one week of the missed exam, the instructor reserves the right to assign you a zero or withdraw you from the course with a "W." Remember, you will lose 10 points for taking the exam late and you can only make up one missed exam during the semester. Taking the exam late allows you extra study time, which is not fair to those students who took the exam at the scheduled time. (\*If you are absent on an exam day for one of the reasons listed in the attendance policy, and you have documentation showing the reason for your absence, then you may not lose 10 points for taking a makeup exam. However, you still

have to contact me within one week and you still can only make up one exam throughout the semester. Please meet with the instructor one-on-one to discuss your situation.)

### **Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy**

**Expectations regarding student behavior in the classroom:** While the University experience is one which values academic freedom and liberty, it cannot reach its goals of facilitating learning if some structure does not exist. To that end, then, please review the following list of appropriate behaviors and act accordingly.

- Students are expected to be on time, find a seat, and be prepared to engage in the work of the class (e.g., taking notes, participating in Socratic questioning or group activities, etc.).
- Students are expected to stay in class until the class is dismissed unless prior arrangements have been made for an early dismissal.
- Students are expected to stay alert throughout the class.
- Students are expected to refrain from talking with their peers while the professor or other students are speaking.
- Students are expected to participate until the end of class.
- Students are expected to use good manners, be courteous and act with decorum toward their peers and anyone who may be in class facilitating the learning process.
- Students are encouraged to ask questions at any time. Students are expected to raise their hands in order to participate in discussion or in raising questions.
- Work is expected on the date it is due.
- Students are expected to turn off cell phones, pagers, radios, and other such electronic devices during class. Exceptions are permitted only with the professor's prior consent.
- Students are expected to abide by all policies in the MCC Highlander Guide.

If a student chooses to violate these expectations, I reserve the right to publicly ask that the behavior be changed and/or that the student leave the classroom. Repeat offenders may be permanently removed from the class with either an F or a W.

**Expectations regarding student behavior on EXAM DAY:** If you are more than 10 minutes late on the day of an exam, you may NOT enter and take the exam. You will have to take a make-up exam (and you only can make up one exam during the semester). If you know you are more than 10 minutes late on exam day, please do not enter the classroom. Wait until class is over to talk with me about your make-up exam. Entering late is disruptive and unfair to those who arrived on time. PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY, AND DO NOT BE LATE ON EXAM DAYS! On exam day you may NOT have a cell phone, ipad, tablet, any other mp3 player, calculator, pocket pc, or any other item on your desk, in your pocket, on your lap, etc. You may not have earphones, etc. in your ears. Cell phones must be turned off or otherwise silent and put away. You may not answer a phone call or receive a text message during the exam. All books, notebooks, papers, etc, must be in a backpack or bag and the backpack or bag must be closed. Baseball caps or other brimmed hats must be removed or turned backwards. You may not talk with another student nor may you look, glance, gaze, etc. at another student's test or scantron. Since my exams are seldom more than an hour long, you may not leave class to go to the restroom during an exam. Please feel free to contact me to discuss or clarify any of these requirements. As the instructor, I reserve the right to amend or add to this list as needed. If any of these rules are violated, I reserve the right to take your exam and assign you a zero for that exam.

**Plagiarism / Cheating:** Plagiarism is cheating and is defined as the unacknowledged borrowing of information, wording, organization, or ideas. Whether the original source is public (e.g., a newspaper, book, journal article, the Web) or private (e.g., a classmate's paper), you need to indicate your indebtedness to it. Where you repeat the exact

language of your source, you must treat the borrowed material as a quotation and place it within quotation marks. However, by merely changing a few words or the word order or by paraphrasing, you do not avoid plagiarism. Examples of plagiarism / cheating can include (but are not limited to) turning in identical or similar assignments, cheating on an in-class exam, quiz or assignment by looking at another student's paper, by collaborating with another student, or by using other sources of information, or having someone else complete your online assignments. If plagiarism or cheating is suspected, the instructor reserves the right to give all of the students involved a "zero" for the assignment, to assign an alternative assignment or exam, or to withdraw the students from the class. Consequences are at the discretion of the instructor. Instances of plagiarism / cheating will be reported to Student Discipline.

### **McLennan College Academic Integrity Statement**

**\* Click Here for the MCC Academic Integrity Statement**  
([www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity](http://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity))

The link above will provide you with information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

### **McLennan Attendance Policy**

**\* Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy**  
(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have additional guidelines specific to this course.

In our blended course I will take attendance during all in-person classes and during all zoom classes. In addition to coming to class, participation includes completing the unit assignments and tests by the due dates (assignments are anything assigned to be turned in to the instructor by a particular date). As long as a student is completing unit assignments, taking quizzes, and taking exams by the required due dates, he or she is considered to be participating. *If a student does not complete 80% of all assignments, he or she will be considered non-participating and may be dropped according to the guidelines of the attendance policy. If a student does not participate in the course for a total of 21 days (3 weeks), he or she will be considered non-participating and may be dropped according to the guidelines of the attendance policy. Finally, if a student fails to take an exam and does not contact the instructor and make up the exam within 1 week of the end of the exam, the student may be dropped according to the guidelines of the attendance policy.* If you plan to drop the course, please message or email me and let me know. It is your responsibility to notify me that you intend to withdraw. If you do not initiate the drop for the course, it may result in a grade of F for the course. Students are responsible for knowing my specific attendance policy as well the entire McLennan College attendance policy.

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\* You will need to access each link separately through your Web browser (for example: Internet Explorer, Mozilla, Chrome, or Safari) to print each link's information.

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## ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

### **Student Support/Resources:**

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact a success coach by calling (254) 299-8226. Students can visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. to schedule a meeting with a success coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff based on household size. Text (254) 870-7573 to schedule a pantry appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

### **MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:**

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at [https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency\\_Grant\\_Application.pdf](https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf).

### **Minimum Technical Skills:**

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

### **Backup Plan for Technology:**

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be contacted/notified through your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

\* [Click Here for the Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace](https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty%20and%20Staff%20Commons/requirements.html)  
(<https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty%20and%20Staff%20Commons/requirements.html>)

Click on the link above for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

**Email Policy:**

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails.

**Instructional Uses of Email:**

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with her/his students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

**Email on Mobile Devices:**

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails.

**Forwarding Emails:**

You may forward the emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may become lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

**Accommodations/ADA Statement**

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. Instructors should not provide accommodations unless approved by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit [mclennan.edu/disability](http://mclennan.edu/disability).

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

[disabilities@mclennan.edu](mailto:disabilities@mclennan.edu)

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

\* [Click Here for more information about Title IX](http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix)  
([www.mclennan.edu/titleix](http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix))

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at

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[titleix@mclennan.edu](mailto:titleix@mclennan.edu) or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Chief of Staff for Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) at 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC by calling 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting the following website: <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>.

McLennan's Title IX webpage (<http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/>) contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, or domestic violence.

*\* You will need to access each link separately through your web browser (for example Mozilla Firefox, Chrome, Microsoft Edge, or Safari) to print each link's information.*