

McLennan C O M M U N I T Y C O L L E G E

WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS AND INSTRUCTOR PLAN

PSYC 2330 Biological Psychology

Susan Nash Spooner, Ph.D.

NOTE: This is a 16-week course.

COVID 19 Notice:

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals including your safety. We will continue to monitor the evolving situation with COVID 19 and adjust our safety guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. Please make sure to consult your faculty and the MCC website at <https://www.mclennan.edu/crisis-management/coronavirus-updates/index.html> on any changes to these guidelines.

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
Office Phone Number: 254-299-8932
Office: MAC 309

Please contact me using *your MCC email address*. I am at my computer between 8:30 and 9:30 most mornings, as well as many other times. Unless I am teaching class or in a meeting, I tend to check emails routinely throughout the day. However, please give me up to 24 hours to respond to you on weekdays. On many weekends I am unavailable. 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.

Conferences. If you need to visit with me, please send me an email using your MCC email account, and we can set up a time convenient to both of us. I am available at many times, especially if we meet on Zoom. ***If you need to visit with me, please let me know, and we will work something out!***

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.

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

A college course requires a great deal of personal discipline and work. Students enrolled in such courses should plan to work on those courses for approximately 6 or more hours/week in long semesters. In class I will lecture, we will have discussions, do activities, and take quizzes/exams over the material. The syllabus, the class outline, online class assignments, online quizzes, and your grades are posted Brightspace. You will be required to read, complete assignments, and take exams & quizzes. You also may do written reports/papers, post to a discussion board, conduct internet research, and work in an online tutorial software lab.

Reading is a primary means to understand the course assignments and the course content. A student must be willing to put in the work 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. The material can be dense, complex, and

challenging. Further, absorbing material from a textbook is entirely different than reading a news article or story. It may be helpful to take reading notes as you go. Summarizing the material helps you to put it in a form in which you can more easily remember it.

In addition to effective reading skills, students also must take good class notes. Taking efficient and complete class notes is essential to preparing for the exam. In this class, a significant amount of class material will be on the exams. I will discuss this in class and remind you to take notes that are well organized and easy to read. Because we will cover a significant amount of dense material in this course and because the material builds on itself, it is imperative that you diligently take good notes in class and be familiar with the textbook. .

Study time expected: You should log in to Brightspace and our course several times per week. You will be in class for 3 hours weekly, so you should expect to spend another 3+ hours working on the course outside of class.

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
Ch. 4: Development of the Brain

Unit 2

Ch. 2: Neurophysiology: Neural Signals
Ch. 3: The Chemistry of Behavior: Neurotransmitters and Neuropharmacology

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. No late assignments will be accepted. All 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.* Each exam will be worth 18% of your final grade. 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 (worth 18% each) are worth 72% of your final 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 / Conduct Policy:

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. If a student chooses to violate these expectations, I reserve the right to publicly request a change in their behavior and/or to leave the classroom. Repeat offenders may be permanently withdrawn from the class with an F or a W.

- 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 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, music, and other such electronic devices during class. Exceptions are permitted only with the professor's prior consent.
- Students are expected to have access to an up-to-date, functional computer on a regular basis to complete required course work. (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.)
- Students will be expected to check email, Brightspace announcements, etc. *several times each week.*
- Students are expected to abide by all policies in the MCC Highlander Guide.

Expectations regarding student behavior on in-person 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, calculator, or any other item on your desk, in your pocket, on your lap, etc. You may not have ear buds, etc. 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 and 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.

Online examples of plagiarism/cheating can include taking an exam for someone else, taking an exam in collaboration with someone who also is taking the exam, turning in the same assignment, and printing an exam and asking for a retake. If any type of plagiarism / cheating is suspected, all parties may receive a zero for the assignment, may be required to do an alternate assignment or exam, may be required to come to campus and make-up the assignment or exam, and/or may be dropped from the class. Consequences are at the discretion of the instructor. Instances of plagiarism/cheating will be reported to Student Discipline.

Zoom Class Lecture Requirements (Zoom will only be used if needed based on changing protocols at MCC):

- 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.

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.

Students will be counted absent from class meetings missed, beginning with the first official day of classes. Students, whether present or absent, are responsible for all material presented or assigned for a course and will be held accountable for such materials in the determination of course grades. As per the MCC Attendance Policy, you will be withdrawn from the course if you miss more than 25% of the class prior to the last day for student-initiated withdrawals. After the last day for student-initiated withdrawals, students will not be withdrawn, and all students will be assigned the grade they are earning in the class at the end of the semester. (We have 30 class meetings. Twenty-five percent of 30 is 7.5.)

** 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.*

McLennan

C O M M U N I T Y

COLLEGE

ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

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. For additional information, please visit www.mclennan.edu/disability.

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

disabilities@mclennan.edu

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

Title IX:

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 titleix@mclennan.edu or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Chief of Staff for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) at (254) 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>.

Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at www.mclennan.edu/titleix/. It 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.

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 or emailing SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu. Students may 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.

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:

Go to www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-and-Staff-Commons/requirements.html> for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

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 notified via 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.

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 their 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. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email Helpdesk@mclennan.edu for help.

Forwarding Emails:

You may forward 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 be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

Disclaimer:

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.