MᶜLENNAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS
AND
INSTRUCTOR PLAN

BIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY

PSYC 2330, Spring 2024

JONATHAN TERRELL, Ph.D.

NOTE: This is an 8-week course.
NOTE: This is an Online course.

Spring 2024

Course Description:

PSYC 2330 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 and/or Corequisites:
Prerequisites: PSYC 2301 General Psychology. For additional information regarding the course content, see Learning Outcomes below.

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

This is a fully online course—all content is pre-loaded into Brightspace, and you will be able to work through the content at your own pace each week. While I have listed a required textbook below, the enterprising student should feel confident in succeeding in the course with only the resources already built into Brightspace. I do realize that the textbook is expensive—acquiring a used book, renting a copy, or simply doing without are all viable options.

I am an adjunct instructor, and given the online nature of the course will not hold office hours on the MCC campus. I will check MCC email frequently, and am available by appointment on Zoom if you have any questions or concerns that cannot be handled via email. I also have a question and answer forum in the course—this is a great place to ask questions as you work through content each week.

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Jonathan Terrell
MCC E-mail: jterrell@mclennan.edu
Office Phone Number:
Office Location: Zoom (email me to schedule a meeting time)
Office/Teacher Conference Hours: On Zoom, by appointment
Other Instruction Information:

Optional Text & Materials:

Title: Biological Psychology (optional)
Author: James Kalat
Edition: 13
Publisher: Cengage Wadsworth
ISBN: ISBN: 978-1-337-40820-2; Looseleaf ISBN: 978-1-337-61861-8

Please note, this textbook is not required. The course is designed so that the modules provide you all the information you need. This book (which is pretty expensive) should only be considered as an optional supplement.

MCC Bookstore Website

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

This course consists of 14 Modules, each roughly aligning to a chapter in the textbook. Each module contains 3-4 sub-modules, and each sub-module contains a short video lecture (5-10 minutes), additional reading and videos to watch, and a practice quiz. Some modules also include discussion board prompts.

At the end of each module, there is an exam review that will help you get prepared for the module exam. There is also a question board where you can ask questions that I will answer prior to you taking your exam. Finally, each module has a short exam (most of them range from 12-15 multiple choice questions). Your scores on these exams comprise your entire grade in the course. However, completing discussion assignments, practice quizzes, and exam reviews will earn you extra credit points on those exams. Asking questions in the discussion board will also earn you extra points.

The discussions, practice quizzes, and exam reviews are all optional assignments. This means that, technically, the only required assignments in the class are the Module Exams. However, completing all of the other assignments will greatly assist you in preparing for the exams. The point structure of the course will award you a 15-20% curve on each exam IF you complete all the extra credit assignments. This format gives you the flexibility to allow multiple assignments to contribute to your grade if you choose for them to, or to simply complete the exams if you're confident that you can succeed in the course without the extra work. You're also welcome to do some of the extra credit assignments, but not all. It's completely up to you how much you take

advantage of these opportunities. **However, please note: No additional extra credit will be offered.**

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 discussions

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.

Course Schedule:

Modules will be open for one week each, starting at 12:00 AM on Monday and remaining open until 11:59 PM on Sunday. You can choose to do your work when you want, but I strongly recommend the following schedule:

- Monday-Wednesday: Read the textbook, watch the lectures and take notes, and complete all additional learning activities in the modules
- Wednesday: Ask questions on the Question Forum for each module
- Thursday: Complete Practice Quizzes, Discussion Boards, and the Exam Review
- Friday: Take the Module Exams

Week	Activity	Due Date
1	Module 1	Exams due 1/14/24
2	Module 2	Exams due 1/21/24
3	Module 3	Exams due 1/28/24
4	Module 4	Exams due 2/4/24
5	Module 5	Exams due 2/11/24
6	Module 6	Exams due 2/18/24
7	Module 7	Exams due 2/25/24
8	Module 8	Exams due 3/3/24
9	Spring Break, Mar 4-8	
10	Module 9	Exams due 3/17/24
11	Module 10	Exams due 3/24/24
12	Module 11	Exams due 3/31/24
13	Module 12	Exams due 4/7/24
14	Module 13	Exams due 4/14/24
15	Module 14	Exams due 4/21/24
	Discussions, practice quizzes, exam reviews, and question board questions are all due on Thursday each week to receive extra credit.	

Course Grading Information:
Assignments and Activities:

Discussion Boards. Each session will have at least two discussion board prompts. **Posting or replying to one of the threads associated with these prompts will earn you 0.50 extra points on that module's exam.** In order to receive credit, a post must be deemed as related to that thread's topic, and contain at least 100 words. They should all be at least around a paragraph long, and contribute to the flow of information on the thread.   As clarification, posts containing only "I agree." Or "LOL!" or other such short reactions will not count as participation for extra credit. Neither will posts that are completely off-topic, such as writing about what happened on a TV show when that has absolutely no bearing on the thread's topic. *NOTE: While you are encouraged to post and reply to as many threads as you want, you will not receive multiple bonuses for multiple posts. 0.50 points is the most you can receive in any module for discussion posts.*

Exam Reviews. Each module will have a review assignment that can be completed. **Successfully completing these reviews will earn you 0.75 extra points on that module's exam.** Please note the word "successfully" above. While I'll ultimately be giving completion grades for the assignments, I reserve the right to give "incomplete" grades for assignments that are incorrect or incomplete. Most of the assignments are not that difficult, but if a complete lack of comprehension is evident, you may receive no credit or be asked to resubmit the assignment for credit.

Question board posting. The class has a question discussion board in each module to which you can post questions. These questions should have to do with the content in the module that you're currently working on, and be designed for me to answer (like raising your hand and asking a question in class). **If you upload a question, either in text form or in video form by the posted deadline, you will receive 0.25 extra points on that module's test.** So, you can ask a question for each module assigned during the week, and earn extra credit on each module exam that week. The same question cannot be asked more than once and receive credit, so please be sure that you check the questions that have already been asked before posting yours. These questions will be due by Wednesday at midnight each week in order to receive extra credit.
NOTE: Naturally you can ask me questions at any time, regardless of the deadline. There is only a deadline for asking these questions that will earn you bonus points.

Sample question: "I'm having trouble understanding the differences between neurons and glia. Do only neurons send messages? Or do glia also send them over short distances?"

I'll respond to all the questions that are submitted so that everyone can review the thread (kind of like an exam review) before you take the module exam. Just make sure that the question that you ask relates to the class. "What's your favorite movie?" won't earn you any points. (Though, I don't mind answering additional unrelated questions if you've already posted one to count for your points.)

Practice quizzes. Each sub-module has a short practice quiz between 1 and 3 questions long. These multiple choice questions will let you test your comprehension before taking the module exam. Questions about the answers to these practice quizzes might be great things to post on the question

board. These quizzes aren't for a grade. However, if you **complete <mark>each</mark> practice quiz in a session, you will receive 0.50 points on that session's test.** *Note: This is an all-or-nothing bonus. If you complete three of the practice quizzes in a session but not the other two, you will not receive any bonus points. You should take EACH practice quiz in a session.*

Summary. Completion of each of the four activities described above will add a total of 2 points to each module exam. **If each of the activities is completed in each module, it will amount to a 12-15% curve in the class!** Plus, if you do each of these activities, you will be much better prepared to complete the Module exam—it's a win-win!

Notes about activities and assignments. In order to receive the extra credit points, all assignments and activities must be submitted by the due dates posted. **No late submissions will be accepted.** One of the main aims of these assignments is to keep you engaged and active with the course as it progresses. Therefore, all of these assignments and activities will have a specific due date during the time that their session is active. **You will not be allowed to submit these assignments after the due date, or after the module is closed.** Due dates will be outlined in the course calendar and in the schedule at the end of this syllabus.

Note about module exams. Module exams must be completed by the posted due date. Late exams will not be accepted. If you have a conflict and need to ask for additional time to complete a test, contact me BEFORE the deadline for completing the test has passed. Requests to reopen an exam after the deadline has passed will not be considered. If you have problems with your internet connection or with Brightspace that result in a problem submitting your exam, it is imperative that you notify me BEFORE the test is due. <mark>**At my discretion, I will reopen tests or extend deadlines as appropriate, but only if the request is made before the test is due.**</mark>

Sample grade calculation.

Module	Test Points	Discussion	Review	Question	Prac. Quizzes	Total	Points possible	Test Grade
1	11	0..50	0.75	--	--	12.25	15	82%
2	18	0.50	0.75	0.25	0.50	20	20	100%

Your final grade will be derived by averaging together the 14 Module test grades. At this point, the student above has a 91 average in the class (82 and 100 averaged).

Final grades will be assigned as follows:

Grade	Percentage
A	90% ->
B	80% ->
C	70% ->
D	60% ->
F	< 60%

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

Please be respectful of other students and your instructor as you post questions and discussion board content.

Course Attendance/Participation Guidelines:

If a student is not in attendance in accordance with the policies/guidelines of the class as outlined in the course syllabus as of the course census date, faculty are required to drop students from their class roster prior to certifying the respective class roster. A student's financial aid will be re-evaluated accordingly and the student will only receive funding for those courses attended as of the course census date.

Before the 60% point of the semester, a student who is absent for 25% or more of a face-to-face or blended course or who miss 25% or more of assigned work for an online course will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of W. A student may also request to be withdrawn with a grade of W before the 60% point of the semester. After the 60% point of the semester, the student may request to be withdrawn if the student is passing, or be assigned the final grade earned at the end of the semester after grades have been updated to reflect missing work.

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.

McLENNAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

<u>Accommodations/ADA Statement:</u>
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

<u>Title IX:</u>
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. Claudette Jackson, (Accommodations/Title IX) at (254) 299-8465. MCC employees are mandatory reporters and must report incidents immediately to the Title IX Coordinator. Individuals may also contact the MCC Police Department at (254) 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/

Additionally, Title IX provides rights and protections for pregnant and newly parenting students. 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/

Academic Support and Tutoring is here to help students with all their course-related needs. Specializing in one-on-one tutoring, developing study skills, and effectively writing essays. Academic Support and Tutoring can be found in the Library and main floor of the Learning Commons. This service is available to students in person or through Zoom. You can contact the Academic Support and Tutoring team via Zoom or email (ast@mclennan.edu) by going to our website (https://www.mclennan.edu/academic-support-and-tutoring/)

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 either MCC CREW – Campus Resources Education Web by calling (254) 299-8561 or by emailing crew@mclennan.edu or a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing success@mclennan.edu.

Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff. To schedule an appointment, go to https://calendly.com/paulannespantry-mcc/15min.

The CREW, Success Coaches, and Paulanne's Pantry are all located on the second floor of the Student Services building in Success Coaching Services.

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:
Please view our Academic integrity statement for more information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating. The unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) for classwork can be a violation of the College's General Conduct Policy. Whether AI is authorized in a course and the parameters in which AI can be used in a course will be outlined by each instructor.

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. For more information about your student email account, go to www.mclennan.edu/studentemail.

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.

You can find help on the McLennan website about connecting your McLennan email account to your mobile device:
- Email Setup for iPhones and iPads
- Email Setup for Androids

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.

For more helpful information about technology at MCC, go to MCC's Tech Support or email helpdesk@mclennan.edu.

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.