

# Physiological Psychology | PSYC 3316

## Contact Information

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Office Hours MW 3:30-4:30 or by appointment

## Course Description

Introduction to the physiological substrates of behavior; including basic neuroanatomy, research techniques, basic physiology, sensory processes and central nervous system functions. Prerequisites: PSYC 2301 and PSYC 2388.

## Required Text

**Garrett, B., & Hough, G. (2017). 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. Brain & Behavior: An Introduction to Behavioral Neuroscience. SAGE Publications.**

### Additional Readings

You will be provided with supplemental readings through Blackboard that will help you understand different topics. You will be expected to find readings on your own from peer-reviewed sources. If you cannot find a PDF of the article, interlibrary loan can usually locate it for you.

## Objectives

- As a result of taking this course, you will be able to:
- Design a teaching tool to explain to the general public how a neuron works, including how neurons communicate and how the brain uses electrical signals
- Make informed decisions about the ethics of animal research, including policy recommendations and educating members of the general public
- Identify ways in which culture and language can influence perception, brain development, and cognition
- Provide a nuanced view of the study of human intelligence, using the current literature on general cognitive ability to take an evidence-based stance while maintaining cultural sensitivity.

## Late Work

Due dates and times are clearly listed on every assignment. In general, **work for the week is due at midnight on Sundays**. Work turned in after the due date and time is considered late and will not be accepted. No exceptions. If you have an emergency situation, notify me ASAP for consideration, and include any necessary documentation. This is a basic time-management skill you must learn to succeed in college and in life. Make a schedule, work ahead; you've got this!

## Grades

All assignments will be submitted through blackboard, and instructions/rubrics will be available on blackboard unless otherwise noted.

Your final grade in this class will be calculated as a simple average: your points earned divided by the maximum number of points you could have earned. Keep up with your grades so that you know where you stand in the class.

In this class you can earn up to a total of 100 points. See the course calendar for points available for each assignment.

**A = 90-100 Points**

**B = 80-89 Points**

**C = 70-79 Points**

**D = 60-69 Points**

**F = 59 and fewer Points**

There will be four exams total, covering the most recent materials covered. The fourth exam (final exam) may also contain items that assess overarching themes/important ideas from across the semester. There will be four small projects throughout the semester.

## Time Commitment

Federal law mandates that each "hour" of course credit requires two hours outside of class. As such, we expect you to spend time outside of class studying (*even if we don't assign any homework*)! You will be tempted to make that time as close to zero as possible. This is a big trap that you *\*must\** avoid. A full-time student (12+ hours of class) is a full-time job, and expect to spend at least 36+ hours a week.

## Quality of Written Work

All written work should be academic quality submitted in APA format in order to expect full credit.

## Withdrawal Policy

Any withdrawals after the last day for an automatic "W" date established by the university will receive the grade of "F".

## Schedule of Assignments

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Due</b>
1	8/26/2024	Chapter 1. What Is Behavioral Neuroscience?		
2	9/2/2024	Chapter 2. Communication Within the Nervous System	Assignment 1	9/9
3	9/9/2024	Chapter 3. The Organization and Functions of the Nervous System	Exam 1	9/16
4	9/16/2024	Chapter 4. The Methods and Ethics of Research	Assignment 2	9/23
5	9/23/2024	Chapter 5. Drugs, Addiction, and Reward		
6	9/30/2024	Chapter 6. Motivation and the Regulation of Internal States	Exam 2	10/7
7	10/7/2024	Chapter 8. Emotion and Health		
8	10/14/2024	Chapter 9. Hearing and Language	Assignment 3	10/21
9	10/21/2024	Chapter 10. Vision and Visual Perception		
10	10/28/2024	Chapter 11. The Body Sense and Movement	Exam 3	11/4
11	11/4/2024	Chapter 12. Learning and Memory		
12	11/11/2024	Chapter 13. Intelligence and Cognitive Functioning	Assignment 4	11/18
13	11/18/2024	Chapter 14. Psychological Disorders		
14	11/25/2024	<i>Thanksgiving Week</i>		
15	12/2/2024	Chapter 15. Sleep and Consciousness	Exam 4	12/11
			All Assignments Due	12/11

## Important University Policies and Resources

**Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities:** The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights protection for individuals with disabilities. Title II of the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require that students with disabilities be guaranteed equal access to the learning environment through the provision of reasonable and appropriate accommodations of their disability. If you have a disability that may require an accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is [dss@tamusa.edu](mailto:dss@tamusa.edu).

**Academic Learning Center:** All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center is an appointment based center where appointments are made through the Navigate platform. Students access Navigate through Jagwire in the Student Services tab. The Center is active on campus outreaching to students to highlight services offered. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing [tutoring@tamusa.edu](mailto:tutoring@tamusa.edu) or calling (210)-784-1332. Appointments can also be made through JagWire under the services tab.

**Counseling Resources:** As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you or someone you know is experiencing life stressors, emotional difficulties, or mental health concerns at Texas A&M University — San Antonio, please contact the Student Counseling Center (SCC) located in Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance) or call 210-784-1331 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday — Friday. After-hours crisis support is available by calling 210-784-1331. Please contact UPD at 911 if harm to self or harm to others is imminent. All mental health services provided by the SCC are free, confidential (to the extent permitted by law), and are not part of a student's academic or university record. SCC provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information, please visit [www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling](http://www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling)

**Emergency Preparedness:** JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification system. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff, and faculty who are registered in JagE Alert, will have the option to receive a text message, email, and/or phone call with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcpportal.com/>. More information about Emergency Preparedness and the Emergency Response Guide can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/upd/index.html>.

**Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance:** According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any

student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

**Jaguar Writing Center:** The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the student services tab. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at [www.tamusa.edu/Writing-Center](http://www.tamusa.edu/Writing-Center). The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing [writingcenter@tamusa.edu](mailto:writingcenter@tamusa.edu).

**Meeting Basic Needs:** Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students ([DOS@tamusa.edu](mailto:DOS@tamusa.edu)) for support. In addition, you may notify the instructor if you are comfortable doing so.

**Military Affairs:** Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, about special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots' Casa in-person, Room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at [military@tamusa.edu](mailto:military@tamusa.edu) or (210)784-1397.

**Religious Observances:** Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under A&M System policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

**Respect for Diversity:** We understand that our students represent diverse backgrounds and perspectives. When we are equity-minded, we are aware of differences and inequalities and are willing to discuss them so we can act to resolve them. The University is committed to building cultural competencies, or the attitudes, skills, and knowledge that enable individuals and organizations to acknowledge cultural differences and incorporate these differences in working with people from diverse cultures. Respecting and accepting people different than you is vital to your success in the classroom, on campus, and as a future professional in the global community. While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

- Share their unique experiences, values, and beliefs.
- Be open to the views of others.
- Honor the uniqueness of their colleagues.
- Value each other's opinions and communicate respectfully.
- Use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in this course and across the A&M-San Antonio community.

**The Six-Drop Rule:** Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the

maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as “F” grades and will impact the student’s GPA.

**Statement of Harassment and Discrimination:** Texas A&M

University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality, diversity, pluralism, and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the university. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and other healthcare providers) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about an incident of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university’s Title IX Coordinator. If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331, Modular C.

**Students’ Rights and Responsibilities:** The purpose of the following statement is to enumerate the essential provisions of students’ freedoms and responsibilities to learn at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. All students are required to follow all policies and regulations as set forth by The Texas A&M University System, including the A&M-San Antonio Student Code of Conduct.

*Students’ Rights*

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no university rule or procedure that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition, and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the university, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

*Students’ Responsibilities*

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and staff, and the administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted and compliant with the University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, and in the University Catalog.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University’s obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their University email for any updates or official University notifications.
6. We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.