

Texas A&M University - Central Texas  
PSYC 3312-110  
Biological Foundations of Behavior

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**Instructor:** Walter Murphy      **Office:** FH 418b      **Phone:** 254-519-5761  
**Email:** murphyw@tamuct.edu (use this email address only; *do not email me through Canvas*)  
**Office hours:** By appointment (see me in class or email me to set up an appointment)

**Mode of instruction and course access:**

This is a Web-Enhanced course which includes online components. Course materials and information are available at <https://tamuct.instructure.com>. Students will use their university email username and password to logon to this system.

**Student-instructor interaction:**

The class will meet face-to-face, but with some course materials on Canvas, including discussion forums. Students are expected to get all coursework completed by the deadlines indicated.

**Late work will NOT be accepted, so plan carefully to get all work in on time**, especially online work. All work **MUST** be submitted through the relevant links on Canvas; **ANY WORK SUBMITTED BY EMAIL WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED UNLESS I HAVE SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED THAT BEFOREHAND.**

Class meetings will include lectures, class discussions, group work, and student presentations. A big part of your grade will be based on your work in the anatomy coloring textbook, which each student **must work on independently**. Do NOT discuss how to color any part of the textbook with anyone else except me. Students will complete the coloring during class time; you may not use any notes during the coloring time. Because most of the coursework is done in class, students must attend class and participate in class activities to do well in the course. Absences and lack of participation, as well as frequent late arrivals/ early departures, will have a negative effect on your overall course grade. If you need to miss class for any reason, email me (or ask someone else to) as soon as possible; for the absence to be excused, I'll need you to bring me documentation of the reason for your absence. Note that **ONLY WORK THAT IS SUBMITTED NO LATER than the class START TIME on the last day of class (December 10 at 6:00 pm)** will be counted toward your course grade. Please **DO NOT** USE Canvas' internal email to contact me; doing that just delays my reply to you. Instead, email directly to my tamuct.edu email and **ONLY** from your A&M-Central Texas student email address. Following current university policies, I will not reply to email sent from students' personal email addresses. To contact classmates, use the A&M-Central Texas student email addresses given in the Introduction discussion (Discussion 1) or you can ask general questions to the class using the Classmate Questions discussion forum (Discussion 0).

## **Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University – Central Texas:**

911Cellular is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in 911Cellular through their myCT email account. Connect at 911Cellular at <https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management> to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. Your staying enrolled in 911Cellular allows university officials to quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

#### **Course description:**

Study biological basis of behavior. Learn in-depth examination of physical structure of the human nervous system and the role of chemical and electrical operations within it. Emphasis will be placed on the developmental, cognitive, affective, and behavioral effects of such operations, and recent research will be reviewed.

#### **Course objectives (aka Student learning outcomes):**

**LO 1.** *Demonstrate factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)*

**LO 2.** *Apply course material to improve thinking, problem-solving, and decisions*

**LO 3.** *Practice skills in working with others as a member of a team*

**LO 4.** *Demonstrate skills in expressing oneself in oral presentations or in writing*

#### **Course reading materials:**

##### ***Required Reading – Textbook:***

Pinel, J. P. J. & Edwards, M. (2008). *A colorful introduction to the anatomy of the human brain* (2nd ed.). Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon. ISBN: 978-0205-54874-3

**YOU MUST HAVE A TEXTBOOK THAT HAS PAGES THAT ARE *NOT* COLORED IN YET. IF YOU BOUGHT OR RENTED A USED EDITION OF THE TEXT THAT HAS THE PAGES COLORED ALREADY, IT WILL NOT WORK FOR THIS CLASS. PLEASE SEE ME ASAP IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO EXCHANGE YOUR BOOK.**

#### **Academic integrity and classroom conduct policy:**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a

commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action. More information can be found at <https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html>. Students must ask before using electronic devices in class; if you need to text or make a phone call, you need to leave the room and come back when you're done. Note that some assignments are specifically designed to allow collaboration with other students; this is indicated in the assignment description. **All other work should be completed individually without help from other students.** If you're unsure which assignments allow you to work with others, ask the course instructor. For discussion forum posts, be respectful of the ideas and opinions of all class members; inappropriate language and interactions will lead to being blocked for the rest of the semester from the discussions and the loss of related points. To get the most out of this class and all your classes, treat them like a job; come to class prepared each day, take responsibility for your own work, and respect other class members and your instructor.

**Copyright notice:** Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author and/or course instructor. Violation of copyright is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas' Code of Academic Integrity. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

**APA format:** In July 2009, the American Psychological Association released the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of their publication manual. Although some students may not be familiar with APA format, it is critical to know for psychology writing, so I want to help you become familiar with it. This course requires ALL WORK to meet the standards of the 6<sup>th</sup> edition; all relevant grading rubrics include an APA format component.

**Research Experience Requirement (aka SONA work):** Students in selected psychology courses (PSYC 3307, PSYC 3309, PSYC 3330, PSYC 3312, PSYC 4320) are required to engage in research experience activities as part of the course. The research experience activity includes either writing summaries of peer-reviewed empirical research articles, participating in research studies directly related to psychology, or a combination of both.

**Sign Up for SONA:** To receive credit for a research experience activity, students must sign up to participate in a research study or write a research summary through the Counseling and Psychology Research Sign-Up System hosted by SONA at <https://tamuct.sona-systems.com>. Students should access the A&M-Central Texas SONA website and request an account using their A&M-Central Texas email account. Students must verify their account requests before being granted access to the system. Once the account is verified, students will be able to sign up

for research experience activities. A tutorial video is provided about using SONA at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1OnT2ZU6QQ>. Students who have problems signing up for SONA or have questions should contact the SONA coordinator Melissa Sanchez; her email address is [ms057@my.tamuct.edu](mailto:ms057@my.tamuct.edu).

**Credits for SONA:** Students are required to complete 3 research credits in this course. The first research credit must be earned before the middle of the course (midterm). Credit is allotted as follows and is determined by the researcher (not the course instructor) based on estimated participation time:

- 1 credit for each hour (60 minutes) of research participation (in-person or online)
- 1/2 credit for each 1/2 hour (30 minutes) of research participation (in-person or online)
- 1 credit for each summary of a peer-reviewed, empirical research article.

Students who drop a class after having earned research experience credit cannot apply any accumulated credit from that class towards the next time they take the course.

**Penalties for incomplete SONA work:** Any student who has not earned 1 research credit before the halfway point of the course (midterm) will be penalized 1 letter grade on the final course grade. Any student who has not earned all required research credits prior to the opening of the final exam period for the course will lose 1 letter grade on the final course grade for every research credit short of the required 3 research credits (e.g., missing 2 credits will result in a 2 letter grade reduction in the final course grade).

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Coursework grading:** (*with related learning outcomes*)

Textbook coloring work	<b>LO1, LO2</b>	(12 chs. @ 2% ea)	24%	(6 pts/ chapter)
Group PPT presentations	<b>LO1, LO3, LO4</b>	(2 @ 12.5% ea)	25%	(50 pts ea)
Article review paper	<b>LO1, LO2, LO4</b>		15%	(30 points)
In-class group work	<b>LO1, LO3</b>	(3 @ 6% ea)	18%	(24 pts ea)
Discussion forums	<b>LO1, LO2, LO4</b>	(4 @ 3% ea)	12%	(3 pts ea)
Class participation			6%	(6 pts)
Completion of SONA work				grade lowered if work not completed

**Grading scale/Posting of grades:** Grades in this course are earned, not given. Students earn grades by actively reading course material, by participating in discussion forums and in-class work, and by applying subject-matter content in discussion forums and on all assignments. Grades are determined based on the percentage of points earned on each assignment and the assignment's weight toward the overall course grade. The course grade totals shown in Canvas are not accurate and are therefore not shown. Grades will be posted in Canvas when grading for an assignment is completed; some work will take longer to grade. Feel free to ask me about any missing grades, but I cannot specific email grade information due to FERPA.

<u>Final Course Grade</u>	<u>University Definition</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
A	Excellent	90.00+ total points
B	Good	80.00-89.99 points
C	Fair	70.00-79.99 points
D	Poor	60.00-69.99 points
F	Failing	Below 60.00 points

### TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

**Technology Requirements:** Students should be able to perform basic computer skills such as to access the internet, log on to websites that require usernames and passwords, navigate tabs and links on web pages, open and send emails, create and send attachments, download and view attachments including Microsoft Word documents and PowerPoint slideshows, open and view streaming video, and create folders on personal computers to organize and save completed work. For this course, you will need reliable and frequent access to a computer and to the Internet; it is recommended that you use a wired (*not wireless*) connection to access and submit coursework. Loss of wireless connection while uploading is not an acceptable reason for late or missing work. **If you use non-Microsoft Office programs for coursework, you must save your coursework in the comparable Microsoft format for submission through Canvas** (e.g., MS Word or PowerPoint).

*Technology issues are not an excuse for missing a requirement or late submission of work; make sure your computer is configured correctly and address issues well in advance of deadlines. Also, always make sure your submitted coursework has uploaded to Canvas correctly.*

This course uses the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. Logon to our Canvas system at <https://tamuct.instructure.com> using the info below.

Username: Your MyCT username (xx123 or everything before the "@" in your MyCT e-mail address)

Initial password: Your MyCT password

Check the relevant Canvas guide for information about the browsers supported and computer compatibility in Canvas if you are having issues. If that doesn't help, the information below lets you know whom to contact for help.

a) For technology issues, students should contact Help Desk Central. HDC is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. *When calling for support make sure to let your support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.*

Email: [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu)

Phone: (254) 519-5466

Web Chat: <http://hdc.tamu.edu>

b) For anything inside of Canvas (uploading files, setting up notifications, using the calendar, etc.), students should contact Canvas Support, which is available from inside of Canvas by clicking on the “Help” link on the lefthand menu. Your help options are to select “Chat with Canvas Support,” to submit a support request to “Report a Problem”, or to call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

c) For issues related to specific course content and requirements, contact me by email or in class.

### COURSE CALENDAR

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Chapter Coloring Dates/ Coursework dates</u>
8/27 <u>9/3</u>	Syllabus; in-class activities <u>NO CLASS: Labor Day</u>	Syllabus, handouts	
9/10-9/17	Introduction	Chs. 1-2	
9/17-10/15	Brain structure <i>Brain development</i> <i>Cells in the nervous system</i> <i>Gross anatomy</i> <i>Brainstem</i> <i>Cerebrum</i>	Ch. 4 Ch. 3 Ch. 5 Ch. 6 Ch. 7	9/17 (chs. 1 & 2, 1 hour) 9/24 Group work 1 10/1 (chs. 3 & 4, 1 hour) 10/8 Group PPT presentation 1 <b>10/21 Review paper due*</b>
10/22-11/19  <u>11/12</u>	Basic level processes <i>Sensory systems</i> <i>Sensorimotor pathways</i> <u>NO CLASS: Veterans Day</u>	Ch. 8 Ch. 9	10/22 (chs. 5 & 6, 1 hour) 10/29 Group work 2 11/5 (chs. 7 & 8, 1 hour) 11/19 Group PPT presentation 2
11/26-12/10	Higher level processes <i>Memory</i> <i>Motivation</i> <i>Thinking</i>	Ch. 10 Ch. 11 Ch. 12	11/26 (chs. 9 & 10, 1 hour) 12/3 Group work 3 12/10 (chs. 11 & 12, 1 hour)

**\* WORK DUE NOT IN CLASS BUT ON THE NIGHT BEFORE**

Coloring will be done on the dates shown above during the last hour of class; bring your

textbook and crayons/colored pencils to class on those days. Due dates for discussion forums are shown in the relevant forum. PPTs must be uploaded to Canvas prior to the day of presentation; due dates are shown in the relevant PPT assignment link. Note that dates and other policies listed may be changed as needed and, if so, changes will be announced in class or through the Announcements section of Canvas. **Students are responsible for being aware of ALL changes made.**

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES AND POLICIES**

**Drop Policy:** If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a Drop Request Form, available at [https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop\\_Request\\_Form.pdf](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf).

Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the University Calendar by which the form must be completed, signed, and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show up as enrolled, FOLLOW UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you could receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

**Academic Accommodations:** At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the University's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion at (254) 501-5831. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such. For more information please visit our Access & Inclusion webpage at <https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html>.

### **Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students:**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. For more information, please visit the A&M-Central Texas Student Affairs webpage at <https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html>. If you would like to read more about these requirements and guidelines online, please visit the DOE's Office of Civil Rights website at <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf>.

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender – including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs Office at 254-501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator with any issues at [compliance@tamuct.edu](mailto:compliance@tamuct.edu).

**Tutoring:** Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111. If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at 254-519-5796 or by emailing Dr. DeEadra Albert-Green at [deeadra.albertgreen@tamuct.edu](mailto:deeadra.albertgreen@tamuct.edu).

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log-in and receive FREE online tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in over forty subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas or on the class's Canvas page.

**The University Writing Center:** Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) is a free workspace open to all A&M-Central Texas students from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. This semester, the UWC is also offering online only hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Students may arrange a one-on-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available) or by making an appointment via WOnline at <https://tamuct.mywconline.com>. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu) to schedule an online tutoring session or if you have any questions about the University Writing Center.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help! If you have any questions about the University Writing Center, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Bowles.

**University Library:** The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 72,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On-campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available twenty-four hours a day through our online chat service and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed



journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our library webpage at <http://tamuct.libguides.com/index>.

### **A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas:**

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at A&M-Central Texas, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through the Student Counseling Center (254-501-5955) located in Warrior Hall 207L.

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and to tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the university's Title IX webpage at <https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titlexi.html>.

Finally, if you have any questions or concerns about the class or problems with the coursework or course materials, please contact me by email or in person. I'll reply to emails as soon as I can, usually within 24 hours (except on weekends). You can also discuss issues with your classmates in the relevant discussion forum. The only exception is if you have technology issues with Canvas. For those, please let me know what's going on, but ask for help from Help Desk Central or Canvas Support. Contact info for both is given above.