

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

**Fall 2022**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

**COURSE DATES, MODALITY, AND LOCATION**

08/22/2022 – 12/9/2022

This is a 100% online course and uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>].

**INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Simone M. Alvarez, Sc.D.

**Office:** N/A

**Phone:** N/A

**Email:** *simone.alvarez@tamuct.edu*

**Office Hours**

I will be available via WebEx or Zoom. Date and time can be arranged prior via email on an appointment-basis.

**Student-instructor interaction**

Emails are checked daily and will try my best to respond within 24 hours (except on weekends). Appointments can also be set for virtual meetings. Just e-mail me to arrange a date and time.

**Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas**

**SAFEZONE.** SafeZone provides a public safety application that gives you the ability to call for help with the push of a button. It also provides Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate emergency information quickly via push notifications, email, and text messages. All students automatically receive email and text messages via their myCT accounts.

Downloading SafeZone allows access to push notifications and enables you to connect directly for help through the app.

You can download SafeZone from the app store and use your myCT credentials to log in. If you would like more information, you can visit the [SafeZone](http://www.safezoneapp.com) website [[www.safezoneapp.com](http://www.safezoneapp.com)].

To register SafeZone on your phone, please follow these 3 easy steps:

1. Download the SafeZone App from your phone store using the link below:
  - [iPhone/iPad](https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756): [<https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756>]
  - [Android Phone / Tablet](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp)  
[<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp>]
2. Launch the app and enter your myCT email address (e.g. {name}@tamuct.edu)
3. Complete your profile and accept the terms of service

**For updates on COVID information**, please monitor the University [website](https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/)  
[<https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/>]

## **COURSE INFORMATION**

### **Course Overview and description**

Study biological basis of behavior. Learn in-depth examination of physical structure of the human body 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.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

- Identify systems and structures of the nervous system, describe and explain their functions
- Identify and describe sensory and motor systems
- Describe neurodevelopment, neuroplasticity, and neurosystem damage
- Describe the endocrine system and its impact on behavior
- Describe the role of the brain in learning, memory, and language
- Describe the fundamental characteristics (from a biopsychology perspective) of hunger and eating, sexual behavior, sleep, and drug use
- Describe the role of the nervous system in health and disease
- Describe and apply the principles of biopsychology to better understand behavior, and behavioral and physiological problems

### **Required Reading and Textbook(s)**

Pinel, J. P. (2018). *Biopsychology*. Pearson education (10th ed.). (ISBN: 9780134203690)

### **Recommended Reading**

American Psychological Association. (2019). *Publication manual of the American psychological association* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, DC: Author. (ISBN: 978-1-4338-3216-1)

**Research Experience Requirement:** Students in selected psychology courses (PSYC 3307, PSYC 3309, PSYC 3312, PSYC 3330, PSYC 4320) are required to engage in research experience activities as part of the course. The research experience activity includes writing summaries of peer reviewed research articles that are related to the course content. If students choose not to write article summaries, they can participate in research studies directly related to psychology to gain this experience.

**Sign Up:** To receive credit for a research experience activity, students must create an account in SONA. The university SONA account is where students will enter their research article summaries or sign up to participate in research projects (<https://tamuct.sona-systems.com>). Students should view the introductory tutorial video before using SONA

([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_1OnT2ZU6QQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_1OnT2ZU6QQ)). Students who have problems signing up for SONA or have questions should contact the professor of the course.

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

- 1 credit for each summary of a peer-reviewed, research article •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)

Students who drop a class after having earned research experience credit cannot apply any accumulated credit from that class towards future semesters; however, credits in SONA can be transferred from one course to another in the same semester. Credits from previous semesters are not permitted to be transferred for current semester use.

**Penalties:** Any student who has not earned 1 research credit before the mid-term of the course 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 be penalized 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**

### **What you will be graded on:**

#### **I. Chapter Quizzes (25 pts each x 17 = 425 pts total):**

There will be 17 Chapter quizzes during this course. Quizzes will be online, open book, and open note but must be completed individually. Quizzes must be taken in Canvas on the dates in the attached schedule (see course calendar). Once begun, quizzes must be completed within the timeframe indicated in Canvas. You will be given one opportunity to take each quiz. Make sure that you are someplace with a reliable connection to Canvas. Student computer or student internet service provider problems will not be accepted as an excuse for failing to take or complete the quiz. Students will only be allowed to retest if there is a problem with Canvas or with university computing facilities. If a problem occurs with university equipment, please have the computing lab staff document the problem. Alternate test forms may be presented to the students. If you want to challenge a test item, you will do so in writing no later than 1-day after the test has been closed. You are required to provide me with the question, your argument as to why the quiz question is incorrect and any supporting information from the text or your notes supporting your argument. Your misunderstanding or misinterpretation of the item is not justification to present a challenge to the quiz. Students are on the honor system for these quizzes and any violation will result in the student receiving a zero (0) for the quiz and the

possibility of further sanctions according to university policy (see Academic Honesty & Integrity, below). Make-up quizzes will only be given for university excused absences. The professor reserves the right to change the quiz format for make-up quizzes (e.g. essay as opposed to objective). Appropriate documentation will be required to be given a make-up quiz. If you know that you will not be able to take a quiz by the due date, contact me **PRIOR** to the scheduled date, alternate arrangements may be made at my discretion.

## II. Concept essay (100 pts)

Each student will be required to create a concept essay, worth 100 points. The resulting paper should be written in **current APA style**, 3-4 pages, excluding cover sheet and references. Additional guidelines and a grading rubric will be posted in a separate document on Canvas.

## III. Homework (25 pts each x 5 = 125 pts total)

Overall, there will be five homework assignments. Students are required to submit their assignments through the appropriate assignment tab in Canvas. Students should work on these homework assignments individually.

## IV. Discussion questions + responses to classmates (25 pts each x 4 = 100 pts total)

You will have five discussion board posts during the semester and will be required to comment according to the instructions in the assignment (i.e., number of original posts and posts to classmates). All posts must be substantive and demonstrate that you are actively engaged with the material. Some discussion questions may require you to conduct internet research. In order to get full credit for your individual and response posts, you must create and respond to the questions as outlined by the grading criteria for the instruction assignment in Canvas. Each discussion is worth 25 points (The initial post is worth 15 points, each of the two responses to your classmates is worth 5 points).

You can find your questions posted in the “Discussions” tab in Canvas. Posts will open and will close at the day and time indicated in Canvas.

## V. Comprehensive Final Exam (250 pts)

A comprehensive final examination that includes all content discussed in the course will be available during final exam week. The exam must be completed by the due date indicated in the syllabus. You may use your book and notes when taking the exam. However, using internet resources and/or working with another individual to complete the exam constitute academic dishonesty and will result in failure of the exam and potentially other academic consequences.

### Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

Discussion questions/responses (4 x 25)	100
Homework (5 x 25)	125
Quizzes (17 x 25)	425
Concept essay	100
Final exam	250
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TOTAL	1000

Course grades will be based on the percentage of total points earned by each student and will be assigned as follows:

A	90-100 % 900-1000 pts Mastery of content	B	80-89 % 800-899 pts Above average understanding of content	C	70-79 % 700-799 pts Average understanding of content	D	60-69 % 600-699 pts Below average understanding of content	F (<60 %)	<600 pts Failure to understand content
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### Posting of Grades

Grades will be kept on Canvas gradebook. Grades will be posted for assignments no later than a week from assignment submission. Students should monitor their grading status through this tool.

### Grading Policies

Students are to adhere to deadlines for submission of assignments as stated in each assignment description or syllabus. **There is no tolerance for late submissions, students must work within deadlines!** All online work submitted for class MUST be submitted through the assignment links on Canvas; no work submitted by email will be accepted unless arranged with me beforehand. There is a solution for every problem, so please contact me early on if you encounter any issues.

### COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

#### Complete Course Calendar

Module	Dates	Chapt er(s)	Topic	Assignment due
Getting started	-Obtain a copy of the textbook and familiarize yourself with the syllabus -Establish library access from home and Identify at least two computers w/internet access that you can use for class <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To stay on track, check off completed work			
1	8/22 - 9/04 (2 weeks)	1+5	Introduction to Biopsychology Research Methods in Biopsychology	<input type="checkbox"/> Post Discussion #1 <input type="checkbox"/> Homework #1 <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz Chapter 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz Chapter 5
2	9/05 - 9/18 (2 weeks)	2,3,4	Foundations of Biopsychology	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion #2 <input type="checkbox"/> Homework #2 <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz Chapter 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz Chapter 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz Chapter 4
3	9/19 -10/02 (2 weeks)	6,7,8	Sensory and Motor Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>SONA: 1 credit due (10/2)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion #3 <input type="checkbox"/> Homework #3 <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz Chapter 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz Chapter 7

				<input type="checkbox"/> Quiz Chapter 8
4	10/03 -10/16 (2 weeks)	9,10, 11	Brain Plasticity	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion #4 <input type="checkbox"/> Homework #4 <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz Chapter 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz Chapter 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz Chapter 11
5	10/17 - 10/30 (2 weeks)	12,13	Biopsychology of Motivation I	<input type="checkbox"/> Quiz Chapter 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz Chapter 13
6	10/31 - 11/13 (2 weeks)	14,15	Biopsychology of Motivation II	<input type="checkbox"/> Quiz Chapter 14 <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz Chapter 15 <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Concept Essay</b>
7	11/14 - 11/27 (2 weeks)	16,17	Disorders of Cognition and Emotion	<input type="checkbox"/> Quiz Chapter 16 <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz Chapter 17
8	11/28 - 12/9 (2 weeks)		Final Exam	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>SONA: 3 credits due 12/05</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Final Exam due 12/9 NLT 23:59</b>

### Important University Dates

<https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/academic-calendar.html>

### TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

#### Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. **We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.**

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

#### Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select "Chat with Canvas Support," submit a support request through "Report a Problem," or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

## Online Proctored Testing

A&M-Central Texas uses Proctorio for online identity verification and proctored testing. This service is provided at no direct cost to students. If the course requires identity verification or proctored testing, the technology requirements are: Any computer meeting the minimum computing requirements, plus web camera, speaker, and microphone (or headset). Proctorio also requires the Chrome web browser with their custom plug in.

## Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

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

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

*Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.*

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## UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

### 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 Warrior Center for Student Success, Equity 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, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such. For more information, please visit our [Access & Inclusion](#) Canvas page (log-in required)  
[<https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717>]

### Academic Integrity

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 the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the student conduct process](#),  
[<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html>].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a referral](#),  
[[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout\\_id=0](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0)].

## Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the [Drop Request](#) Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[<https://federation.ngwebsolutions.com/sp/startSSO.ping?PartnerIdpId=https://eis-prod.ec.tamuct.edu:443/samlSso&SpSessionAuthnAdapterId=tamuctDF&TargetResource=https%3a%2f%2fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2fSubmit%2fStart%2f53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612>].

Faculty cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show 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 will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

## Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant, experiencing pregnancy-related conditions, 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. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](#) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html>]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](#) online, please visit the website [<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 at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

## Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both virtually and in-person. Student success coaching is available online upon request. If you have a question, are interested in becoming a tutor, or in need of success coaching contact the Warrior Center for Student Success, Equity and Inclusion at (254) 501-5836, visit the Warrior Center at 212 Warrior Hall, or by emailing [WarriorCenter@tamuct.edu](mailto:WarriorCenter@tamuct.edu). To schedule tutoring sessions and view tutor availability, please visit [Tutor Matching Services](#) [<https://tutormatchingservice.com/TAMUCT>] or visit the Tutoring Center in 111 Warrior Hall.

Chat live with a remote tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is



an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

### **University Library & Archives**

The University Library & Archives provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 400,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 96,000 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 24 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 virtually through WebEx, Microsoft Teams or in-person at the library. [Schedule an appointment here](https://tamuct.libcal.com/appointments/?g=6956) [https://tamuct.libcal.com/appointments/?g=6956]. 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 website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index]

### **University Writing Center**

University Writing Center: Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (A&M–Central Texas) is a free service open to all A&M–Central Texas students. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday in Warrior Hall 416 (with online tutoring available every hour as well) with satellite hours available online only Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday 12:00-3:00 p.m. 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! Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via [WCOonline](#)

[<https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu) if you have any questions about the UWC, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor.

## OPTIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS

### 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 TAMUCT, 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 Student Wellness and Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of 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 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 [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html>].

### Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the [referral](#) online

[[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout\\_id=2](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2)].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](#) website for more information [<https://www.tamuct.edu/bit>]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5805.

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## OTHER POLICIES

### #Professor reserves the right to amend the syllabus at any time#

#### 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 Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

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([simone.alvarez@tamuct.edu](mailto:simone.alvarez@tamuct.edu))