

SPC Common Course Syllabus for PSYC 2330 Biological Psychology

Department: Behavioral Sciences

Discipline: Psychology

Course Number: PSYC 2330

Course Title: Biological Psychology Credit: 3 Lecture, 0 Lab

Satisfies a core curriculum requirement? Yes, Behavioral or Social Science

Prerequisites: TSI compliance in Reading, PSYC 2301 General Psychology

Available Formats: Conventional, INET, ITV

Campus: Levelland, Lubbock Downtown Center

Textbook: Biopsychology, 10th edition, Pinel, John P. J. and Barnes, Steven J., Pearson

Course Specific Instructions: Each instructor will attach his/her course specific instructions.

Course Description: 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.

Course Purpose/Rationale/Goal: To acquaint students with the brain mechanisms underlying mental processes and intelligent behavior. Topics will include the properties of brain cells, anatomy of the brain, and the neural circuit mechanisms underlying sensory perception, motor control, memory, and thinking.

Course Requirements: To maximize the potential to complete this course, a student should attend all class meetings and login to Blackboard at least twice weekly. In addition, satisfactorily complete all homework assignments and examinations in a timely manner, and satisfactorily complete all other projects or papers as assigned on the course specific instructions.

Course Evaluation: See the instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in evaluating student performance.

Student Learning Outcomes/Competencies:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Define and explain the biological foundations of behavior, including theories, history, and research methods.
- Describe the evolution and development of the nervous system – neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, neurotransmission, and neuroendocrinology.
- Identify the structures and function that underlie sensation, perception, and motor control.
- Identify and discuss the regulation of behavior, including motivation and emotion, sexual behavior, and biological rhythms.
- Articulate the biological components of learning, memory, and language.
- Describe the biological underpinnings of age-related changes in cognition and socioemotional functioning over the lifespan.
- Examine how biological processes impact health and well-being.

Core Objectives addressed:

- Communication skills - to include effective written, oral and visual communication. (SLO2, SLO4, SLO6)
- Critical thinking skills - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information. (SLO1, SLO4, SLO5, SLO6)
- Empirical and Quantitative skills- to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions. (SLO1, SLO5)
- Social Responsibility - to include the demonstrated intercultural knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities. (SLO1, SLO2, SLO3, SLO6)

Course Policies:

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in a course. The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined in the course syllabus.

When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor may permit the student to make up work missed. It is the student's responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period of time as determined by the instructor. Students are officially enrolled in all courses for which they pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Should a student, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, absences will be attributed to the student from the first class meeting.

Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. A student who does not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of "X" or "F" as determined by the instructor. Instructors are responsible for clearly stating their administrative drop policy in the course syllabus, and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of that policy.

It is the student's responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through MySPC using his or her student online account. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated, the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.

Academic Integrity: The attempt of any student to present as his or her own any work which he or she has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension. This policy relates to all forms of cheating and plagiarism. See Instructor's Course Information for additions to the academic integrity policy.

Student Conduct: A high standard of conduct is expected of all students. Students are subject to federal, state and local laws, as well as South Plains College rules and regulations. Any student who fails to perform according to expected standards may be asked to withdraw. Failure to comply with lawful direction of a classroom teacher relative to maintaining good order is considered misconduct on the part of the student. Repeated violations of disrupting a class may result in the student being dropped from that course (See Catalog/Student Guide for full policy). See Instructor's Course Information for additional policies related to student conduct.

Campus Concealed Carry - Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so.

Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the SPC policy at:

http://www.southplainscollege.edu/human_resources/policy_procedure/hhc.php

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716- 2396 or 9-1-1.

Appeal Process: The process of appeal is outlined in the college catalog. Basically, you would need to talk to the instructor, the department chair, and then the dean if the problem is not resolved. Be sure to always start with your instructor.

Diversity & Equal Rights: South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President of Student Affairs.

All students are entitled to equal rights under the affirmative action and equal opportunity laws. Students are also protected against unjust or biased academic evaluation, but at the same time, they are responsible for maintaining standards of academic performance established for each course in which they are enrolled. (See Catalog/Student Guide for full definitions and policies).

ADA Statement: Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland Student Health & Wellness Center 806-716-2577, Reese Center (also covers ATC) Building 8: 806-716-4675, Plainview Center Main Office: 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611, or the Health and Wellness main number at 806-716-2529.

Instructor's Course Information

Instructor: Dr. Serena Mangano

Course Information: PSYC 2330-601, Fall 2025

Modality: In person

Class Times: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm

Class Location: Lubbock Downtown Center, Room 2006

Office Hours (In Person and Online – Link on Blackboard):

- Monday: 12:30 pm – 5:00 pm
- Wednesday: 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
- Friday: 10:30 am - 12:30 pm
- By appointment

Office Location: Lubbock Downtown Center, Room 2004

Email Address: smangano@southplainscollege.edu

Phone: (806)716-4668

Course Websites: Blackboard (<https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com/>)

Textbook: Free readings, videos, and other resources are provided on Blackboard

Grading Policy and Method of Evaluation: It is possible to earn up to 500 points in this course, as follows:

	Points	%
Syllabus and Blackboard Contract	2.5	0.50%
Introductions on Blackboard	2.5	0.50%
Weekly Assignments	225	45.00%
Exams	225	45.00%
Movie Critique	45	9.00%
Total	500	100.00%

Final Grades will be determined by calculating the total amount of points earned by you this semester. These points are percentages of the scores in the previous chart.

A = 90% of 500, meaning you earn between 450 and 500 points

B = 80% of 500, meaning you earn between 400 and 449 points

C = 70% of 500, meaning you earn between 350 and 399 points

D = 60% of 500, meaning you earn between 300 and 349 points

F = less than 60% of 500, meaning you earn between 0 and 299 points

Syllabus and Blackboard Contract: This low-stake assignment is meant to encourage your knowledge of the syllabus and of Blackboard. See Class Schedule on Blackboard for due dates.

Introductions on Blackboard: Yes, you read it correctly! In this assignment, each student will introduce themselves to the class and me. See Class Schedule on Blackboard for due dates.

Weekly Assignments: They are worth 225 points. There will be one weekly collaborative activity in which you and your classmates will work together, offering comments, asking for clarifications, and adding your personal contribution. For these activities you will use Perusall, linked on Blackboard. Weekly assignments are available for seven days until their due date. Once the due date has passed, weekly assignments are no longer visible. See Class Schedule on Blackboard for due dates.

Exams: They are worth 225 points. Throughout the semester you will take four non-cumulative exams in class. Exams may contain multiple choice, true/false questions, and short answers, and will be largely based on material covered in class and in the chapters. The days of the exam, you will turn off and place your phones on your desks. The use of technology during exams will result in a zero. See Class Schedule on Blackboard for exam due dates and contents.

Movie Critique: This is worth 45 points. You will watch the movie *Awakenings* (1990) and discuss it collaboratively with your classmates in the light of what you have learned in the course. The link to the movie is provided on Blackboard, and you will use Perusall to write your critique. See the Class schedule on Blackboard for due dates. Late work is not accepted.

Academic Integrity: As stated in your college catalog, "Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgement, is plagiarism..." Students found guilty of plagiarism could fail or receive a zero on the work in question for the first offense and could be dropped from the course should a second offense occur. Cutting and pasting information directly from websites without citing your source also constitutes plagiarism. **I will check your**

assignments for plagiarism if I suspect it has occurred. If I determine that you are cheating on any phase of your course work, I will take action that could include giving you a “zero” on the course work or even possible dismissal from the course. Check out the following resources for more information on plagiarism and how to avoid it:
<http://www3.southplainscollege.edu/plagiarism/> or <http://tlt.its.psu.edu/plagiarism/tutorial>.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Resources: There are now websites that generate semi-unique material that somewhat resembles original material. Since technology is available to create this content, technology is also available to detect this content. Make no mistake, this is plagiarism. I am not asking AI to write assignments, *I am asking you, the student*, to write your comments and reflect on what you are learning. Personally, I could not care less about what AI writes. I am interested in what YOU, the student, have to say 😊 Having said this, if you submit work that I suspect it is not your own, original material, I will assign a grade of zero and will request a meeting with you. That zero can be replaced with a higher grade if you prove to me that said work was your own. Otherwise, the zero will stay, and the incident will be detailed to the Dean of Students for disciplinary actions.

Late Work and Missed Work: The work is due on the dates assigned and late submissions will not be accepted unless you have valid and verifiable documentation presented within 5 working days from the date. Documentation provided later will not be accepted. It is your responsibility to inform me of emergencies and provide me with the necessary documentation. Please remember that in college you cannot wait until the end of the semester to do the work.

Attendance and Participation: Since this is an in-person course, attendance is expected and will be taken during each class. You are not to come to class late or leave class before it is dismissed, as that is disruptive and disrespectful to your classmates and your instructor. Being late 10 or more minutes, or leaving class 10 or more minutes earlier will count as absence. If you have an emergency, please see me as soon as possible, and document your reason for arriving late/leaving early within 5 working days from the date of the emergency. Otherwise, you will be counted absent. If your absences become excessive and/or your work is unsatisfactory, I will ask you to meet me so that we can discuss how to proceed. I will work closely with the advising office so that all students are both held accountable and supported in their college experience.

For the **Schedule**, please see Blackboard (<https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com/>).

South Plains College policies concerning Disabilities, Non-discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy and Parenting Accommodations, CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation), Intellectual Exchange, Campus Concealed Carry, COVID-19, and AI (Artificial Intelligence) can be found here: [Syllabus Statements](#).

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

Respect for Your Professor and Your Classmates: All students will maintain and expect respect for professor's and fellow classmates' personal beliefs, values, morals and life situations. Insensitivity concerning race, language/accents, religion, gender, sexual orientation, mental/physical disability, psychological disorders, age, or socio-economic status (family situation), etc. will not be tolerated and will have consequences on the student's academic standing.

Proper Manners: Please be mindful of the required netiquette to interact online and in person with your classmates and with me. When you email me, you will use proper salutation (Dr. Mangano, not Miss, Mrs., Serena, or anything that is unprofessional), greetings, and the necessary formal register that is appropriate for communications with your professors. If you fail to do that, I will ask you to properly reword your emails before I answer you. This is college, and it is important that you learn to be professional in all your interactions. Inappropriate and rude behavior will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and will have serious consequences on your grades.

When you email me, please include your full name and the course you are taking, so that I can more readily understand your situation. Please only use your SPC email address for institutional communications.

I will email you back as soon as possible, but please allow 24 hours for my response. If you email me during the weekend, I will reply by the **next working day**.

Grading Timeframe: I will grade your assignments as promptly as I can, but please allow up to two (2) weeks after the due date to see your points updated in the Blackboard gradebook.

General Behavior: "Failure to comply with lawful directions of a classroom teacher relative to maintaining good order is considered misconduct on the part of the student. Repeated violations of disrupting a class will result in the student being dropped from the course." (See Student Guide).

DISCLAIMER:

Sensitive Nature of Humanities and Behavioral Science Courses

Given the dynamics of individual, relational, familial, societal, and cultural development and issues, behavioral studies courses address many sensitive issues; this course is no exception. Lifespan and relational issues occur in the context of sexual, racial/ethnic, political, religious/spiritual, economic/social class, and disability/challenge concerns. The discussion of such issues will increase the student's knowledge of developmental conditions in the modern world, but the information can be emotionally charged. It is also likely that the student will be exposed to diverse viewpoints; some viewpoints might differ from the student's personal views. If a student chooses to remain in class, then they will be expected to respect the diverse viewpoints represented in course material, as well as the viewpoints of their classmates. If the student is easily offended by discussion of such issues, then should consider whether to remain enrolled in the course.

Disclosure of Personal Information

This course addresses topics that are personal in nature. Students are encouraged to participate in class discussion/presentations but are not required to share personal information with classmates. It is recommended that students use discretion in self-disclosure with classmates and the instructor. While it is expected that fellow classmates will be respectful and not disclose information that is shared in class, the instructor cannot guarantee confidentiality of information. Thus, students are responsible for the information that they share and should not share information they do not want others to know.