

**South Plains College**  
**Common Course Syllabus: PSYC 2330**  
Last revised 8/2022  
**Fall 2022**

**Department:** Behavioral Sciences

**Discipline:** Psychology

**Course Number:** PSYC 2320

**Course Title:** Biological Psychology

**Available Formats:** Conventional

**Campuses:** Levelland, Downtown

**Course Description:** This course 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.

**Prerequisites:** PSYC 2301 General Psychology

**Credit:** 3 **Lecture:** 3 **Lab:** 0

**Textbook:** Psychology As A Biological Science (2020) Abnormal Psychology 2nd Edition (2018) by Robert Biswas-Diener, Portland State University & Ed Diener, University of Utah Publisher: NOBA

**This is a free OER textbook and a PDF version will be available on Blackboard.** Additionally, the textbook can be accessed using the URL below.

URL: <https://nobaproject.com/textbooks/psychology-as-a-biological-science>

**Supplies:** none unless specified in the specific instructor information

**Course Evaluation:** See the instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in evaluating student performance. However, all courses will have multiple exams and a written assignment that is designated by the instructor.

**COVID Statement:** If you are experiencing any of the following symptoms, please do not attend class and either seek medical attention or test for COVID-19.

- Cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing
- Fever or chills
- Muscles or body aches
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- New loss of taste and smell

Please also notify DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN, Associate Director of Health & Wellness, at [dedens@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:dedens@southplainscollege.edu) or 806-716-2376. Proof of a positive test is required. A home test is sufficient but students must submit a photo of the positive result. The date of test must be written on the test

result and an ID included in the photo. If tested elsewhere (clinic, pharmacy, etc.), please submit a copy of the doctor's note or email notification. Results may be emailed to DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN at [dedens@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:dedens@southplainscollege.edu).

A student is clear to return to class without further assessment from DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN if they have completed the 5-day isolation period, symptoms have improved, and they are without fever for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

Students must communicate with DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN prior to their return date if still symptomatic at the end of the 5-day isolation.

**Plagiarism and Cheating:** Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, examinations, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, or a mail order term paper mill;
2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or
4. Missing in-text citations.

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet, apps) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment;
4. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage;
5. Taking an examination for another;
6. Altering grade records;
7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment;
8. Rewriting another student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's;
9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

**Student Code of Conduct Policy:** Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others' behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

**Diversity Statement:** In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

**Disability 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 Office) 806-716-2577, Lubbock Centers (located at the Lubbock Downtown Center) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

**Nondiscrimination Policy:** 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 for Student Affairs, South Plains College, 1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336. Phone number 806-716-2360.

**Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement:** If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, Under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To [activate](#) accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Director of Health and Wellness. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact the Director of Health and Wellness at 806-716-2362 or [email cgilster@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:cgilster@southplainscollege.edu) for assistance.

### **SPC Bookstore Price Match Guarantee Policy:**

If you find a lower price on a textbook, the South Plains College bookstore will match that price. The difference will be given to the student on a bookstore gift certificate! The gift certificate can be spent on anything in the store.

If students have already purchased textbooks and then find a better price later, the South Plains College bookstore will price match through the first week of the semester. The student must have a copy of the receipt and the book has to be in stock at the competition at the time of the price match.

The South Plains College bookstore will happily price match BN.com & books on Amazon noted as *ships from and sold by Amazon.com*. Online marketplaces such as *Other Sellers* on Amazon, Amazon's Warehouse Deals, *fulfilled by Amazon*, BN.com Marketplace, and peer-to-peer pricing are not eligible. They will price match the exact textbook, in the same edition and format, including all accompanying materials, like workbooks and CDs.

A textbook is only eligible for price match if it is in stock on a competitor's website at time of the price match request. Additional membership discounts and offers cannot be applied to the student's refund.

Price matching is only available on in-store purchases. Digital books, access codes sold via publisher sites, rentals and special orders are not eligible. Only one price match per title per customer is allowed.

Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus and policies, as well as notify students of any changes, at any point during the semester.

# Instructor's Course Information: Dr. Harris (DOWNTOWN 2013)

Course Information: PSYC 2330\_001 Biological Psychology

Monday and Wednesday: 1:00pm-2:15pm, ADMIN Rm 155

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday: 2:30pm-3:30pm in Levelland (ADMIN Rm152)

Tuesday & Thursday: 11:00am-1:00pm Downtown (Rm 2013)

4:00pm-5:00pm Downtown (Rm 2013)

Friday: By Appointment

Email Address: [jharris@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:jharris@southplainscollege.edu)

Textbook: Psychology As A Biological Science (2020) Abnormal Psychology 2nd Edition (2018) by Robert Biswas-Diener, Portland State University & Ed Diener, University of Utah Publisher: NOBA

**This is a free OER textbook and a PDF version will be available on Blackboard.** Additionally, the textbook can be accessed using the URL below.

URL: <https://nobaproject.com/textbooks/psychology-as-a-biological-science>

Student Conduct: The student handbook clearly defines appropriate classroom conduct. A student can be asked to leave the class for inappropriate conduct. You should not disrupt the class since you interfere with the learning process for your peers. Talking, sleeping, cell phones ringing, or other disruptive behaviors will result in a warning and then can result in the student being dropped from the class. If you must have a phone for sick children or emergency reasons, please put the phone on vibrate because a ringing/singing phone is very disruptive to the class.

Student Conduct: The student handbook clearly defines appropriate classroom conduct. A student can be asked to leave the class for inappropriate conduct. You should not disrupt the class since you interfere with the learning process for your peers. Talking, sleeping, cell phones ringing, or other disruptive behaviors will result in a warning and then can result in the student being dropped from the class. If you must have a phone for sick children or emergency reasons, please put the phone on vibrate because a ringing/singing phone is very disruptive to the class.

Late Work and Missed Assignments: Work is due on the dates assigned and cannot be made up if missed. Assignments are due on the date assigned and there is a late penalty for each day the work is late.

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 start with your instructor.

Diversity Statement: In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be. (Faculty Handbook 4.1.1.1)

Equal Opportunity: South Plains College strives to accommodate the individual needs of all students in order to enhance their opportunities for success in the context of a comprehensive community college setting. It is the policy of South Plains College to offer all opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability or age. In addition, this instructor will not tolerate remarks nor gestures that can be construed to be sexist, racist, heterosexist or in any way disparaging to another person in this classroom.

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 Office) 806-716-2577, Lubbock Centers (located at the Lubbock Downtown Center) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

Writing Style: All written assignments should be presented using the conventions of Standard Written English. South Plains College requires all students to become proficient in "academic English," a form of English that is typically used in academic, professional, and business contexts. While slang, regional idioms, and informal kinds of self-expression are appropriate in some contexts, they are out of place in academic writing. Writing instructors and professors in courses across the campus expect all students to demonstrate proficiency in using the conventions of academic English in their written work, whether it is in-class exams or take-home essays.

Academic Integrity: See College Catalog "Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgement, is plagiarism..." Students found guilty of plagiarism will fail the work in question for the first offense and will be dropped from the course should a second offense occur. For further information and examples please see [www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org)

Grading Policy/Procedure: Your grade will be based upon a percentage of the total points with (900-1000 points) 90%=A; (800-899 points) 80%=B; (700-799) 70%=C; (600-699 points) 60%=D; (< 599 points) 59% and below = F.

	POINTS POSSIBLE	POINTS EARNED
EXAM 1	150	
EXAM 2	150	
EXAM 3	150	
EXAM 4	150	
WEEKLY PARTICIPATION ASSIGNMENTS	100	
WRITING ASSIGNMENT	100	
END OF SEMESTER PROJECT	200	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1000</b>	

**ALL EXAMS WILL BE COMPLETED ONLINE THROUGH BLACKBOARD.**

On scheduled exams days, there will be no in-person class held. Students can choose to take the exam from any location where they are able to access a computer. The exams will be available in Blackboard for a specific amount of time, they will be timed, once a student opens the exam they will not be able to close their browser until the exam is complete. The exam questions will be randomized so that no 2 students will take the same exam.

**Special Requirements: If you miss an exam, you cannot make it up, but your optional CUMULATIVE final exam can be used to replace either your lowest score or an exam you missed. If you miss more than two exams, you will be asked to drop the class.**

## Projects/Assignments:

**Writing Assignment (100 points):** A topic will be presented related to a mental health disorder which impacts our society currently. For example, a discussion paper might be introduced asking you to explore how healthcare workers may be at higher risk for PTSD during the pandemic. Additional instructions and a rubric will be provided before the 8<sup>th</sup> week of class. The paper will need to follow APA writing guidelines. For more information about APA writing style, please consult:

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/apa\\_style/apa\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/general\\_format.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html)

**Semester project (200 Points):** In an effort to demonstrate an important aspect of biopsychology, neuroplasticity, students will choose one of the five areas below to track efforts in learning (or relearning). Over the course of the semester, you will create 2 weekly “blog” entries documenting your efforts in learning a new skill. One of the weekly entries must contain a short video (less than 5 min) tracking your progress. At the end of the semester, students will write a 1-2 page summary of their experience in learning a new skill which will include: their reactions to their progress, discussion about any barriers to learning, and an overall evaluation of their new skill set. The points for this project will be divided over the weekly blogs (100 points) and the summary paper).

### Skill Areas:

1. Playing a new video game or board game
2. Learning the basics of a second language
3. Learn an art technique (knitting, painting, drawing, ceramics, etc)
4. Learning a new exercise technique (Zumba, yoga, kick boxing, etc)
5. Learn the basics of an instrument

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>EXAM/ASSIGNMENT</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED READING</b>
08/29	WELCOME		
08/31	PSYCHOLOGY AS A SCIENCE		MODULE 1
09/05		LABOR DAY	
09/07	PSYCHOLOGY AS A SCIENCE		MODULE 1
09/12	BIOLOGICAL BASIS OF BEHAVIOR		MODULE 2
09/14	BIOLOGICAL BASIS OF BEHAVIOR		MODULE 2
09/19		EXAM 1	
09/21	SENSATION AND PERCEPTION		MODULE 3
09/26	SENSATION AND PERCEPTION		MODULE 3
09/28	SENSATION AND PERCEPTION		MODULE 3
10/03	LEARNING AND MEMORY		MODULE 4
10/05	LEARNING AND MEMORY		MODULE 4
10/10	LEARNING AND MEMORY		MODULE 4
10/12		EXAM 2	
10/17	COGNITION AND LANGUAGE		MODULE 5
10/19	COGNITION AND LANGUAGE		MODULE 5
10/24	COGNITION AND LANGUAGE		MODULE 5
10/26	DEVELOPMENT		MODULE 6
10/28 (FRI)		WRITING ASSIGNMENT (DUE BY MIDNIGHT)	
10/31	DEVELOPMENT		MODULE 6
11/02	DEVELOPMENT		MODULE 6
11/07		EXAM 3	
11/09	SOCIAL		MODULE 7
11/14	SOCIAL		MODULE 7
11/16	EMOTIONS AND MOTIVATION		MODULE 9
11/21	EMOTIONS AND MOTIVATION		MODULE 9
11/23-11/25		THANKSGIVING BREAK	
11/28	DISORDERS		MODULE 9
11/30	DISORDERS		MODULE 10
12/05	DISORDERS		MODULE 10
12/07		EXAM 4	
12/09 (FRI)		END OF SEMESTER PROJECT DUE (BY MIDNIGHT)	
12/12-12/15	FINALS WEEK (FINAL OPTIONAL)		