



**DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION**

**COURSE OUTLINE—FALL 2010**

**PY1040 BASIC PSYCHOLOGICAL PROCESSES 3 Credits (3-0-0) UT 45 Hours**

<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	Connie Korpan	<b>PHONE:</b>	Office (780) 539-2032
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<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 to 14:00 or by appointment		

**PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:** None

**REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:**

Gerrig, R.J., Zimbardo, P.G., Desmarais, S., & Ivanco, T. (2009). Psychology and Life (Canadian Edition)

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:**

This first introductory course in psychology gives students an understanding of themselves and other people through the study of basic concepts, principles, theories, and methods used in the scientific study of behaviour. The course covers research methods in psychology, the biological basis, neurophysiology, sensation, perception, learning, states of consciousness, memory and cognition. This course is a prerequisite for most other psychology courses and is normally followed by PY1050.

**CREDIT/CONTACT HOURS:**

PY1040 consists of three hours of instructional time each week.

**DELIVERY MODE(S):**

This course includes lectures, class discussions and take-home exercises.

**OBJECTIVES:**

As a result of taking this course, students will gain the abilities to define, explain, demonstrate, evaluate and articulate:

- the major theories, perspectives and concepts in the fields of psychology
- the various research methods and the ethical issues in the use of humans and other animals in research
- the theory of evolution and its principles
- the relationship between biological structures and processes and their psychological manifestations
- the states of consciousness and how they are affected by various factors
- how the environment determines behaviour through the principles of learning
- the interaction of nature and nurture in determining behavior
- the aspects of memory and their reciprocal relationship with behaviour and other mental processes
- the cognitive processes involved in language comprehension and production, as well as problem solving and reasoning

**TRANSFERABILITY:**

Students receiving grades of D or D+ will receive GPRC credit. These grades may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions, however. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact their receiving institution to ensure transferability. This course transfers to University of Alberta, University of Calgary, University of Lethbridge, Athabasca University, Concordia University College of Alberta, Canadian University College, Kings University College and Grant MacEwan University. Students should check with their receiving institution concerning transferability as all arrangements are subject to change.

**GRADING CRITERIA:**

1. 4 Quizzes—total = 20%
2. Midterm Exam = 30%; Final Exam = 35%
3. Attendance/Participation –5%
4. Chapter & Class Assignments—total = 10%

1. **Quizzes.** There will be four quizzes; each will be in a multiple choice format. Each quiz is worth 5%, for a total of 20%. Please refer to page 4 of this course outline for more information on missed quizzes.
2. **Midterm and Final Exam.** The midterm and final exams will include multiple-choice and short answer questions. The multiple choice questions are taken “primarily” from the test-bank and the short answer questions will be taken primarily from the lecture material. The final exam **will not be cumulative**; it will cover material from after the midterm to the end of term. The midterm is worth 30% and final exam are worth 35% each.  
Please refer to pages 4 and 5 of this outline for more information on missing the midterm or final exam.
3. **Attendance.** Student input during lectures is enthusiastically welcomed and strongly encouraged. There are a variety of ways that you can contribute to the lectures, such as asking relevant questions, making insightful comments during the lectures, contributing to discussion during group work. Attendance is taken during each class.
4. **Chapter Assignments.** There will be 9 multiple choice chapter assignments, each comprised of questions taken from Gerrig et.al. test bank. Your marks across all the assignments will be averaged. The average mark of all the assignments is worth 10% of your overall grade.

## EVALUATION

Alpha Grade	4-Pt Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Designation
A+	4.0	97 - 100	Excellent
A	4.0	94-96	
A-	3.7	90-93	First Class Standing
B+	3.3	85-89	
B	3.0	80-84	Good
B-	2.7	75-79	
C+	2.3	70-74	Satisfactory
C	2.0	65-69	
C-	1.7	60 - 64	
D+	1.3	55 - 59	Poor
D	1.0	50 - 54	Minimal Pass at GPRC
F	0.0	0 - 49	Fail –no credit received

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

### Lecture Attendance/Absences

Students are held accountable for all lecture materials and readings. It is your responsibility to keep up with class work. Therefore, you are expected to attend all lectures. Attendance will be taken every class.

**If you are absent from a class, all missed material is to be obtained by approaching a fellow student, not the instructor. It would be very unfair for students who miss lectures to be advantaged by getting the instructor's notes.** Typically, the quality of note-taking by students is quite variable. Therefore, if you miss a lecture and need to rely on another student as a source for the missed lecture material, it is advised that you **pick your sources very carefully.**

If you are missing a class for excusable reasons (e.g., illness, appointment) and wish to avoid having your attendance/participation grade docked, please email me at [ckorpan@gprc.ab.ca](mailto:ckorpan@gprc.ab.ca). Write "Absence from PY1040 Class" in the subject box and provide your explanation in the email. Please be aware that I may ask for documentation.

### Other Responsibilities

You are also expected to prepare for each lecture by reading the assigned chapters and handouts. Students who prepare for lectures learn and perform much better than students who do not prepare.

Although the instructor feels that all the material in the text book is important and interesting, **limited class time prevents discussion of all the material covered in the text.** You are responsible for learning textbook material (assigned chapters only) that is not discussed in class. Please feel free to approach me outside of class if you wish to get clarification on this material.

### Missed Quizzes/Exams

Dates for the quizzes and midterm are included on page 6 of this course outline. **Quizzes that are missed for any reason will not be rescheduled.** If a student misses a quiz due to **verified** illness, dentistry, accident, emergency, or GPRC obligations (e.g., you are away due to the requirements of another course) the **weight of the quiz will be transferred to the final exam.** If a student misses a quiz for reasons that do not include verified illness, dentistry, accident, or emergency, then a "0" (zero) will be assigned to that quiz. Holidays, employment, etc. are not considered to be excusable reasons to miss any exam in this

course. Missing any quiz without explanation from the student will result in a "0" on that quiz.

According to GPRC policy, deferring a missed **Midterm Exam** is at the discretion of the instructor. In my courses, students who miss a midterm because of illness, dentistry, accident, or emergency (verified) may write the midterm at a later date (set by me—I will chose a date that is mutually convenient). When students miss the midterm for reasons that do not include verified illness, dentistry, accident, or emergency, a "0" is assigned to that the midterm. Students who miss the midterm without explanation will receive a "0" on the midterm.

Absences from a registrar-scheduled **Final Exam** fall under GPRC Examination Policy. It is the responsibility of the student to be informed about these policies prior to the final examination period. A description of the policy is available in the GPRC Calendar and in the Student Handbook. Just to remind you, **final exams begin December 9 and end December 18. These dates are posted in the calendar (page 20) and thus have been available to GPRC students for months. Therefore, activities such as holidays or employment during this period are not considered excusable reasons for missing the final. Students who chose to miss the final exam for employment, holiday, or similar reasons will receive a "0" on the final exam. Also note that the final exam will not be scheduled early for students who plan their holidays or other activities during the final exam period.**

If the final exam is missed due to illness, you will be required to submit an application to the Registrar's office for permission to write a deferred exam and must do so within 48 hours of the scheduled exam time. You may defer the final exam for up to 20 days of the end of the examination period. **You will be required to provide documentation for your illness.** (Please see the College Calendar)

### **Student Conduct**

It is expected that all students will display a respectful attitude and behaviour in the classroom. This includes coming to class on time and leaving without disruption to others. Also expected is attention to the instructor and fellow students during discussions of topics relevant to the course. Disrespect will not be tolerated. Examples of disrespectful behaviour include talking while the instructor or fellow students are discussing course material, making rude, destructive comments, reading the newspaper, putting your feet up on the desk, putting your head down on the desk for a nap, and so on. Also, unless you are awaiting a call about something of a very very very very serious nature, **TURN OFF YOUR CELLPHONE RINGER!!!!!!**. Phones that ring during lectures cause a lot of distraction. Furthermore, people answering these calls during class cause even more distraction.

Loving to listen to music is wonderful, but **LISTEN TO YOUR MUSIC OUTSIDE OF CLASS!!!** Instructors and other students can often hear the music which creates a distraction. Furthermore, such behaviour is disrespectful to instructors. Finally, **TEXTING IN CLASS IS ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN!!!!** Although texting is not disruptive per se, it detracts from your learning and again, is quite disrespectful. Students unable to meet these expectations will be required to leave the class in the interest of preserving the learning opportunities of other students.

Please refer to pages 47-50 of the College calendar for more information regarding the conduct expected of students

### **PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:**

Please refer to pages 48 to 49 of the College calendar regarding plagiarism, cheating and the resultant penalties. These issues are serious and will be dealt with severely.

Instructors reserve the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on written assignments.

Instructors also reserve the right to bar the use of any form of electronics (cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, scanning pens, electronic dictionaries, etc.) during exams.

### **EXAM SCHEDULE**

Sept 30	Quiz 1 (Chapters 1, 2)
October 21	Quiz 2 (Chapters 3, 4)
October 26	Midterm Exam (Chapters 1-4)
November 16	Quiz 3 (Chapters 5, 6)
December 7	Quiz 4 (Chapters 7, 8, 9)
Between Dec 9-18	Final Exam (Chapters 5–9) The college sets the date for the final exams.

### **TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE**

<b>DURING THE WEEK OF</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>REQUIRED READINGS</b>
<b>September 2</b>	<b>Course Outline, True False Questions</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>September 7</b>	<b>What is psychology?</b>	<b>Chapter 1</b>
<b>September 14</b>	<b>Research Methods in Psychology</b>	<b>Chapter 2</b>
<b>September 30</b>	<b>Evolutionary Psychology</b>	<b>Chapter 3</b>
<b>October 12</b>	<b>The Biological Bases of Behaviour</b>	<b>Chapter 4</b>
<b>October 21 or 28</b>	<b>Sensation and Perception</b>	<b>Chapter 5</b>
<b>November 9</b>	<b>Mind, Consciousness, Altered States</b>	<b>Chapter 6</b>
<b>November 16</b>	<b>Learning and Behavioural Analyses</b>	<b>Chapter 7</b>
<b>November 23</b>	<b>Memory</b>	<b>Chapter 8</b>
<b>November 30</b>	<b>Cognitive Processes</b>	<b>Chapter 9</b>

### **OTHER IMPORTANT DATES**

- Sept 9            Last day to add fall and full-year courses
- Sept 16           Last day to drop courses without paying tuition for the dropped courses
- Sept 16           Last day to pay tuition without paying a penalty for late payment
- Oct 11            Thanksgiving—No Classes
- Nov 5             Last day to withdraw from courses with permission (without failure) or changing course status. Withdrawal from any course this date may result in a failing grade because a mark of 0% will be assigned to the incomplete portion of the course work.
- Nov 11& 12      Remembrance Day/Fall Break—No Classes
- Dec 7             Last Day Of classes for University Transfer courses

## **FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

**Student Rights:** Please refer to page 47 of the College Calendar regarding Student Rights.

**Academic Grievance:** Please refer to page 48 of the College Calendar regarding grievance procedures.

**Friendship Centre:** The Friendship Centre at Grande Prairie Regional College provides a space for all students to meet, do homework, retrieve or leave messages, obtain community resources material, or just relax. The on-campus Friendship Centre is available for sharing circles, gatherings, study groups, and tutoring sessions. Everyone is welcome.

**Campus Security:** You should be aware that GPRC is no safer than the rest of Grande Prairie. Attacks on campus, as well as theft and vandalism have been occurring with increasing frequency. For your safety, Campus Security will provide a 24-hour Safe Walk service anywhere on campus. Call 780-539-2700 or use the blue phones on campus.

**Learning Support Centre:** The Learning Support Centre is available to all students who wish to improve their academic skills and ability to learn. Students can receive help with their writing (essay structure, grammar, formatting), as well as with math and science problems. Workshops on exam anxiety, study skills, noting taking, and other important skills are also offered here. The Learning Centre is in the Library.