

Grande Prairie Regional College

Psychology 1040: Basic Psychological Processes (Section B3)

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30 to 3:50 p.m.

Room D308

January 6 to April 27, 2009

Instructor: Jo-Anne Tomie Office Number: C205 Office Phone: 780-539-2739 Email: jtomie@gprc.ab.ca	Course Credit: 3 Student Contact Hours: 3 per week Transferability: UA, UC, UL, AU, AF, CU, CUC, KUC
Office Hours: M/W/F: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. T: 4:15 to 5:15 p.m. Th: 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. Others: By appointment	Delivery Mode: Lecture Prerequisites: None

Course Description:

This is an introductory course in Psychology. Within this course, principles and development of perception, motivation, brain and behavior relationships, learning and thinking and their significance to the psychological functioning of the individual will be explored. This course is a prerequisite for most other psychology courses, and is normally followed by PY1050.

Required Textbook:

Gazzaniga, M.S., & Heatherton, T.F. (2006). *Psychological Science (Second Edition)*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.

Blackboard:

Some course resources (course outline, handouts, study questions) will be posted to Blackboard during the term. Blackboard is web-based teaching and learning software that all Grande Prairie Regional College students have access to. Blackboard is located at the following website:

<http://blackboard.gprc.ab.ca>

The first time you log onto Blackboard, use your student ID number as the username, and your birthdate in the form YYYYMmmDD as your password (e.g., 1924Sep05). Future logons are made with your student ID number and your own personal password, that Blackboard will force you to create the first time you logon.

Course Structure:

This course will cover the majority of the material from Chapters 1 through 8 in the required textbook. Related material from other resources may be included as well.

Chapter 1: *Introduction to Psychological Science*

Themes, History, and Foundations of Psychological Science; Diversity in Modern Psychological Science

Chapter 2: *Research Methodology*

Scientific Inquiry; Types of Research, Data Collecting Strategies, and Data Analyzing Tools Used in Psychology. ***Related Material:*** Psychological Literature Searching, and the APA Publication and Citation Style.

Chapter 3: *Genetic and Biological Foundations*

Genes and Behaviour; Nervous System Organization and Cellular Function; Neurotransmitters and Behaviour; Nervous System and Endocrine System Integration

Chapter 4: *The Brain and Consciousness*

Brain Structure and Function; Neural Plasticity; Hemispheric Specializations; Consciousness, Sleeping, and Dreaming

Chapter 5: *Sensation, Perception, and Attention*

Sensory Processes (Gustation, Olfaction, Somatosensation, Audition, Vision); Perceptual Processes (Object, Depth, Size, and Motion Perception; Perceptual Constancies); Attention and Perception Relations

Chapter 6: *Learning and Reward*

Classical Conditioning; Operant Conditioning; Observational Learning; Biological and Neuronal Underpinnings of Learning and Reward

Chapter 7: *Memory*

Three-Stage Memory Model; Different Memory Systems; Organization of Memory; Neural Underpinnings of Memory; Forgetting, and Memory Distortions

Chapter 8: *Thinking and Intelligence*

Representation of Information in the Mind; Decision Making and Problem Solving; Intelligence

Evaluation:

Exam #1 – Tuesday, February 3 rd	33%
Exam #2 – Thursday, March 12 th	33%
Final Exam	34%

Exams:

The exams will consist of **multiple choice and possibly some short answer questions**, and will be **closed book**. **Exam #1** will be worth 33% of the final grade, will be administered in class on **Tuesday, February 3rd**, and will cover everything covered in class from January 6th to January

29th, inclusive. **Exam #2** will be worth 33% of the final grade, will be administered in class on **Thursday, March 12th**, and will cover everything covered in class from February 5th to March 10th, inclusive. The **Final Exam** will be worth 34% of the final grade, will be administered **sometime between April 16th and 27th, at the time and on the date scheduled by the Registrar's office**, and will cover the **entire course**, with more emphasis on Chapters 6, 7, and 8 than on other material.

Exam #1 and Exam #2 must be written at the times and on the dates noted above, and the Final Exam must be written at the time and on the date scheduled by the Registrar's office. The Registrar's final exam schedule should be available by March 1st.

Missed exams will receive grades of zero. Make-up exams will only be administered for valid and documentable medical or related reasons approved by the instructor.

The final exam may NOT be written earlier than the Registrar scheduled date. Deferred final exams may be granted if an examination is missed due to illness, domestic problems, or a conflict with religious beliefs (see page 44 of the 2008-2009 printed GPRC calendar), **but will not be granted for holidays or employment.** To be considered for a deferred final examination, you must notify the Registrar's Office within forty-eight hours (before or after) of the scheduled examination time. Medical documentation may be required. Deferred examinations must be completed within twenty days of the end of the examination period.

Class Attendance

It is highly recommended that you attend class regularly. You are responsible for knowing all of the material covered in class for examination purposes, and some of the material covered in the class might not be included in the textbook.

Letter Grades:

The following table will be used to convert final percentage averages into a letter grade:

95-100	A+	75-79	B	60-63	C-
90-94	A	70-74	B-	55-59	D+
85-89	A-	67-69	C+	50-54	D
80-84	B+	64-66	C	0-49	F

Tentative Course Schedule:

Please NOTE that this schedule is **tentative**, and might change slightly as the term progresses. The material will be covered in the order shown, but might be covered at a slightly different pace. **The dates for the exams are firm, however, and will not change.**

January 6	Introduce this course; Begin Chapter 1
January 8	Chapter 1, continued
January 13	Complete Chapter 1; Begin Chapter 2
January 15	Chapter 2, continued
January 20	Chapter 2, continued
January 22	Complete Chapter 2; Begin Chapter 3
January 27	Chapter 3, continued
January 29	Complete Chapter 3
February 3	Exam #1 - Covers all class material from January 6 to 29, inclusive
February 5	Begin Chapter 4
February 10	Chapter 4, continued
February 12	Chapter 4, continued
February 17	No Class – Winter Break
February 19	No Class – Winter Break
February 24	Complete Chapter 4; Begin Chapter 5
February 26	Chapter 5, continued
March 3	Chapter 5, continued
March 5	Complete Chapter 5; Begin Chapter 6
March 10	Chapter 6, continued
March 12	Exam #2 – Covers all class material from February 5 to March 10, inclusive
March 17	Chapter 6, continued
March 19	Complete Chapter 6; Begin Chapter 7
March 24	Chapter 7, continued
March 26	Chapter 7, continued
March 31	Complete Chapter 7; Begin Chapter 8
April 2	Chapter 8, continued
April 7	Chapter 8, continued
April 9	Complete Chapter 8; Begin Chapters 1 to 8 review
April 14	Chapters 1 to 8 review, continued
Final Exam -- Sometime between April 16th and 27th – Registrar Scheduled Covers Entire Course, with more emphasis on Chapters 6, 7, and 8 than on other material	

Other Noteworthy Dates:

January 19 – final date to **Drop** this course from your Fall schedule

March 1 –Registrar’s Final Exam Schedule should be available

March 16 – final date to **Withdraw** from this course without academic penalty

Students with Special Needs:

Students who require special accommodations must register with Disability Services and must inform the instructor about their needs in a timely manner. Registration with Disability Services does take time, and does require submission and review of appropriate documentation. Instructors require reasonable prior notice in order to arrange for needed accommodations.

Classroom Behaviour:

It is assumed that students are mature and considerate adults, who will behave as such, and who will treat the instructor and all of their fellow students with the utmost respect at all times. Disruptive behavior, such as talking with neighbors excessively during lectures, playing computer games, or emailing or text-messaging others during lectures, etc., is not welcome in this class. You may be asked to leave the classroom if you behave in disrespectful ways. Electronic devices such as cell phones, text-messaging devices, video cameras, audio recorders, i-pods and the like **must be turned off** during classroom time.

Cheating, and Plagiarism:

If cheating or plagiarism is detected during this course the GPRC ***Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating*** policy will be immediately invoked. This policy can be seen on the following website:

<http://www.gprc.ab.ca/downloads/documents/Student%20Misconduct%20Plagiarism%20and%20Cheating.pdf>

Cheating and plagiarism are serious academic offences, that can result in failing grades being awarded or in forced withdrawal from GPRC. Cheating and plagiarism are defined on page 49 of the 2008-2009 printed GPRC calendar, in the section about ***Student Conduct, Rights and Responsibilities*** (see pages 47 to 51 of the printed 2008-2009 GPRC calendar). You are encouraged to read this section of the printed calendar, and in particular, page 49.

As noted on page 49 of the 2008-2009 printed GPRC calendar, “Plagiarism involves submitting work (words, ideas, images, or data) in a course as if it were your own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not”. “Cheating on tests or examinations includes, but is not limited to” behaviors such as unauthorized communications with others during an examination, or unauthorized use of textbooks, notebooks, or other resources during an examination. ***“If you voluntarily and consciously aid another student in the commission of one of these offences, you are also guilty of academic misconduct”.***

A Final Note:

If you have any questions during the term, definitely do feel more than free to consult with me, and I will certainly strive to be as helpful as I can to you. **I do NOT lend out my lecture notes or slides, though, and so please do NOT ask for these! Thanks!**

I hope you all find something in this course that you enjoy, and I look forward to working with you all during this term! ☺
