

Grande Prairie Regional College

Psychology 1040: Basic Psychological Processes (Section D2)

Wednesdays and Fridays -- 1:00 to 2:20 p.m.

Room B302

September 5 to December 5, 2008

Instructor: Jo-Anne Tomie

Office Number: C205

Office Phone: 539-2739

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Office Hours:

Mondays, 9:30 -11:00 a.m.

Tuesdays through Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Other times, Drop in, or Make Appointment

Course Credit Hours: 3

Student Contact Hours: 3 per week

University Transferable: UA, UC,
UL, AU, AF, CU, CUC, KUC

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, practice quizzes) will be posted to Blackboard during the term. Blackboard is web-based teaching and learning software that all GPRC 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 might 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	25%
Exam #2	25%
Final Exam	30%
Annotated Bibliography	15%
Participation	5%

Exams:

The exams will consist of **multiple choice and/or short answer questions**, and will be **closed book**. **Exam #1** will be worth 25% of the final grade, will be administered in class on **Friday, October 3rd**, and will cover everything covered in class from September 5th to October 1st, inclusive. **Exam #2** will be worth 25% of the final grade, will be administered in class on **Wednesday, November 5th**, and will cover everything covered in class from October 8th to October 31st, inclusive. The **Final Exam** will be worth 30% of the final grade, will be administered **sometime between December 10th and 19th, at the time and on the date scheduled by the Registrar’s office**, and will cover the **entire course**, with more emphasis on Chapters 7 and 8 than on other chapters. The Registrar’s final exam schedule should be available by November 1st.

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

Annotated Bibliography:

An annotated bibliography will be **due at the beginning of class on Friday, November 21st**. This assignment will be worth 15% of your final grade. **The topic for your bibliography must be approved by the instructor before you begin work on your bibliography.** Details about this assignment – its necessary length, format, etc. -- will be handed out on the first day of class.

This bibliography must be handed in at the time and on the date noted. Bibliographies not handed in on time will receive grades of zero. Late bibliographies will only be accepted for valid and documentable medical or related reasons discussed with the instructor beforehand.

Participation:

Participation will account for 5% of your final grade, and will be assessed from **attendance** recorded by the instructor on occasion during the term, and from **behavioral conduct** in class.

Class Attendance

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. Your attendance might affect your exam grades, and your participation grade (see above). It is thus highly recommended that you attend class regularly.

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, bibliography, and library session are firm, however, and will not change.**

September 5	Introduce this course; Begin Chapter 1
September 10	Chapter 1, continued
September 12	Complete Chapter 1, Begin Chapter 2
September 17	Chapter 2, continued
September 19	Library Introduction - Class in the Alward Computer Lab in the Library
September 24	Complete Chapter 2, Begin Chapter 3
September 26	Chapter 3, continued
October 1	Complete Chapter 3
October 3	Exam #1 - Covers all class material from Sept 5 to Oct 1, inclusive
October 8	Begin Chapter 4
October 10	Chapter 4, continued
October 15	Complete Chapter 4, Begin Chapter 5
October 17	Chapter 5, continued
October 22	Complete Chapter 5; Begin Chapter 6
October 24	Chapter 6, continued
October 29	Complete Chapter 6
October 31	Chapters 4 to 6 review
November 5	Exam #2 – Covers all class material from Oct 8 to 31, inclusive
November 7	Begin Chapter 7
November 12	Chapter 7, continued
November 14	Chapter 7, continued
November 19	Complete Chapter 7; Begin Chapter 8
November 21	Annotated Bibliography Due at beginning of class
	Chapter 8, continued
November 26	Chapter 8, continued
November 28	Complete Chapter 8; Begin Chapters 1 to 8 review
December 3	Chapters 1 to 8 review, continued
December 5	Chapters 1 to 8 review, continued
Final Exam -- Sometime between December 10 to 19th – Registrar Scheduled Covers Entire Course, with more emphasis on Chapters 7 and 8 than other Chapters	

Other Noteworthy Dates:

September 30 – final date to **Drop** this course from your Fall schedule

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

November 6 – 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. Disruptive behavior, such as talking with neighbors during lectures, playing computer games, or emailing or text-messaging others during lectures, etc., is not welcome in this class. 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 (e.g., during the exams, or on the bibliography), 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.

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. I do NOT lend out my lecture notes, 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! ☺
