

Grande Prairie Regional College
Department of Arts and Education

Psychology 1040 (Basic Psychological Processes)
Lecture 3 (3-0-0) UT to UA, UC, UL, AU, AF, CU, CUC, KUC
Fall 2009

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10 - 11 am, Wednesday 1 - 2 pm, or by appointment

Textbook: Psychology and Life (Canadian Edition) by R. Gerrig, P. Zimbardo, S. Desmarais, T. Ivanco.

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: Principles and development of perception, motivation, brain and behaviour 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 PY 1050.

Content Description: Evaluations will be based on the following:

Exam #1	25%	October 2	Chapters 1, 2, 3
Research Proposal	10%	October 16	
Exam #2	25%	November 6	Chapters 4, 5 and 6
Chapter Assignments	15%		
Final Exam	25%	TBA	Chapters 7, 8 and 9

Please note that the dates listed on this outline are tentative and are subject to change. For the final examination students must be available between December 9 - 18. The Student Services Office will announce the date and time of the final exam later in the term. This information is also subject to change so students should confirm the posted exams schedules as they are updated.

Exams will consist of multiple-choice, short and long answer questions. Exams are not comprehensive. Normally requests to write a missed or deferred exam will not be granted except under the most extreme of circumstances, such as illness. The instructor will not normally ask for a medical note but may ask for such should an inordinate number of classes be missed, before a make-up exam will be arranged. I do expect a phone call or email in advance should you be missing any classes unless of course you are in the midst of a major

crisis, in which case let me know as soon as reasonably possible. Because of the H1N1 pandemic I encourage you to stay home if you are ill, maintain health practices like frequent hand-washing, and be sure to find a study partner (or two) in the class to get missed information from. Otherwise, students should ensure they will be available to write the scheduled exams. Please also bear in mind that exam marks are FINAL. This means you cannot rewrite an exam because of a poor grade and there are NO written assignments you can do to make up for a poor exam grade.

Cheating on an exam or any other form of academic misconduct such as plagiarism is taken very seriously and is punishable in a variety of ways. For more information on student rights and responsibilities, codes of conduct and the penalties that can be imposed for infractions please see pages 48 - 51 of the current college calendar. You are especially encouraged to familiarize yourself with the section on plagiarism on page 49 and ask your instructor if you are at all uncertain about this serious and often misunderstood form of academic misconduct.

For the research proposal you will have to find a magazine or newspaper article pertaining to some topic related to Psychology. You will probably want to find an article that makes some research claim. I strongly encourage you to check with the instructor to ensure the article/topic is appropriate before you begin the written portion of the project. Once approved you will provide a 1 - 2 page critique of the article focusing on questions that arise for you that are not answered in the article especially in regard to the study methodology used, appropriateness of participants selected, generalizability of results or any other topic that pertains to the scientific process or result of the experiment. The second part of this assignment will be your attempt to design a research study to answer one or several of the questions left unanswered in the original article. You will need to provide a hypothesis, decide who you want for participants and how they will be selected, determine instruments/equipment needed (you can assume you have a large research budget but you must use existing technology), and a description of the procedures of the study. The study can be either correlational or experimental and should follow standard ethical guidelines. This section of the project should be 4 - 5 pages in length. The project must be typed, plain, white paper, double-spaced, 12 point font, with one inch margins, and stapled. The original article (or photocopy) must be included at the back of the project. Spelling, grammar and sentence structure will also be considered during grading. The project is due at the beginning of class on the date assigned. Projects turned in after this time will receive a late penalty of 5% a day, including weekend days.

Please be advised that a lack of planning on your part will not constitute an emergency on the instructor's part. For example, leaving all work on the proposal to the last minute and then having a crisis will not necessarily get you an extension. Be aware that you may be asked to provide evidence of prior work before being granted an extension however extensions are rarely granted in lieu of the above late penalty.

Chapter assignments will largely be short in-class assignments pertaining to that day's chapter discussion. Most classes will have some sort of assignment that must be handed in during that class. Failure to be in class and not handing in an assignment will result in a

grade of zero with no opportunity for a make-up assignment. The exception to this is if you have an excused absence by contacting me in advance of class time. In these cases you will not get a make-up assignment but neither will you be docked marks for noncompliance. These assignments will range from a written response to a question, group activity/experiment, worksheets, summary of films/chapter material, pop quiz etc. If it is a group activity you will each have to hand in an individual assignment. Grading for these assignments will be simple: 0 for not submitted or a complete lack of effort, 1 for adequate but many errors, lack of understanding, and 2 for good effort with minimal errors.

Because lectures will not always cover the assigned readings your attendance is expected at all lectures. I reserve the right to bar you from writing the final exam if you have accumulated more than 10% of unexcused absences. Learning is an active process that will take effort on your part and so you will be expected to read the chapters in advance of class lecture, participate in activities, assignments and discussions in the classroom and communicate with the instructor when you encounter difficulties with course material. Your questions and comments are welcomed and encouraged at any time during the class. The instructor does NOT lend out lecture notes. Students are responsible for learning all of the assigned chapters even if the material has not been covered in class as well as any other topic, video, or subject covered during class time. If you have a disability, please self-identify to the instructor if you require any specialized supports.

It is expected that all students will display a professional attitude and behaviour in the classroom. This includes reliability, respect for and cooperation with your fellow students and the instructor, attention to fellow student questions and instructor's response, determination to achieve first-class work while meeting deadlines, and a mature response to constructive critique of your work. Turn off your cell phones as I reserve the right to answer any phone that rings and ask you to leave for the remainder of class. Students unable to meet these expectations will be required to leave the class in the interest of preserving the learning opportunities of other students.

NOTE: Any changes to the course outline will be made in consultation with the students during class time. Should you not be present in class when such a consultation is made it is your responsibility to acquire the changed information.

Course Schedule:

September 4 - October 2

Readings:	Chapter 1, 2 and 3
Assignments:	Exam #1 on October 2
Important dates:	Last day to add a class September 10 Last day to drop a class September 17 September 7 is a holiday

October 5 - November 6

Readings: Chapter 4, 5 and 6

Assignments: Research proposal on October 16
Exam #2 on November 6

Important dates: Last day to withdraw from a class is November 6
October 12 is a holiday

November 9 - December 7

Readings: Chapter 7, 8 and 9

Grade Schedule:

A+	4.0	90 - 100
A	4.0	85 - 89
A-	3.7	80 - 84
B+	3.3	77 - 79
B	3.0	73 - 76
B-	2.7	70 - 72
C+	2.3	67 - 69
C	2.0	63 - 66
C-	1.7	60 - 62
D+	1.3	55 - 59
D	1.0	50 - 54
F	0.0	0 - 49