



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2016

PY1040 (B3): Basic Psychological Processes – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours

INSTRUCTOR: Amanda Unsworth

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OFFICE: C310

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OFFICE HOURS: 11:30-12:45 Tuesdays and Thursdays

*Please note: As a part-time instructor it is best to email me, as I will not be on campus on non-class days.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: None

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Gerrig, R. J., Zimbardo, P. G., Desmarais, S., & Ivanco, T. (2013). Psychology and Life (2 nd Canadian Edition). Pearson Publishing, Toronto, Canada.

OR (NOT BOTH!)

Gerrig, R.J., Zimbardo, P.G., Desmarais, S., & Ivanco, T. (2013). PY1040: Basic psychological processes: Custom Edition, G.P.R.C. Pearson Education, Canada.

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 bases of behaviour, neurophysiology, sensation, perception, learning, states of consciousness, memory and cognition.

CREDIT/CONTACT HOURS: 3 credits / 3 hours per week

DELIVERY MODE (S): Lectures and discussions

OBJECTIVES:

This Course introduces students to:

- 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 behaviour
- 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

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

As a result of taking this course, students will gain the abilities to:

- Demonstrate and articulate fundamental knowledge and comprehension of major concepts, theoretical perspectives and empirical findings in the areas of evolutionary psychology, brain and behaviour, sensation and perception, consciousness, learning, memory, and cognition
- Discuss and explain how principles discussed in these areas enable the understanding of psychological phenomena
- Identify and incorporate sociocultural factors in their explanations of psychological phenomena
- Demonstrate basic level understanding of various research methods used in scientific investigations of psychological phenomena
- Apply and evaluate their knowledge of basic research methodology to critically evaluate psychological research

TRANSFERABILITY: AU, UA, UC, UL, MacEwan U, CUC, CUC of Alberta, KUC, LC

* Students should check with the receiving institution concerning transferability as all arrangements are subject to change.

**Grades of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institution to ensure transferability

GRADING CRITERIA: Grades will be assigned on the Letter Grading System.

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE			
GRADING CONVERSION CHART			
Alpha Grade	4-Point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Designation
A+	4.0	90-100	EXCELLENT
A	4.0	85-89	
A-	3.7	80-84	FIRST CLASS STANDING
B+	3.3	77-79	
B	3.0	73-76	GOOD
B-	2.7	70-72	
C+	2.3	67-69	SATISFACTORY
C	2.0	63-66	
C-	1.7	60-62	
D+	1.3	55-59	MINIMAL PASS
D	1.0	50-54	
F	0.0	0-49	FAIL
WF	0.0	0	FAIL, withdraw after deadline

Please note that most Universities will not accept your course for transfer credit IF your grade is less than C-. This means ***DO NOT GET LESS THAN "C-" IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO TRANSFER TO UNIVERSITY.***

EVALUATIONS:

Exam #1 (Chapters 1, 2, 3)	20%
Exam #2 (Chapters 4, 5)	25%
Exam #3 (Chapters 6, 7)	25%
Exam #4 (Chapters 8, 9, 10)	30%
Total	100%

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

The assigned readings and exercises for each class should be completed before attending that class, except for the first class. As this course will depend heavily practice exercises, attendance at all sessions is required and is critical to the student's success in the course. Please note that students who miss more than 10% of classes without an acceptable excuse may be debarred from writing the final exam. In case of illness or emergency, notify the instructor as soon as possible.

If you find yourself having difficulty in this course, please contact the instructor immediately for assistance. If you simply want more discussion with the instructor about any aspect of the course, please visit during office hours. If you have a disability, please self-identify to the instructor if you require any specialized supports.

Please be sure to familiarize yourself with moodle as all communication with students outside of class and office hours will be done via email to your GPRC email account. Be sure to check your college email often or forward messages to your regular email account.

If a student is unable to attend an in-class test or quiz, the instructor must be advised before the test/quiz is administered. In-person or e-mail notification is acceptable. The test/quiz will usually then be written at a later time at the testing centre or pre-arranged location. Failure to notify the instructor of an absence will result in a grade of 0 on that test/quiz.

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 constructive response to criticism. This means that rude comments, disregard for class start/end times, deadlines, in class texting, facebooking, talking, listening to music, playing games, emailing, and working on other course material is considered disrespectful to the learning environment and will not be tolerated. Students engaged in these behaviours during class will be asked to leave and will be marked absent without excuse.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Admission Guide at

<http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/>

Or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at

<http://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

Instructors reserve the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on written assignments. Instructors also reserve the right to ban the use of any form of

electronics (cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, tablets, scanning pens, electronic dictionaries, etc.) during class and during exams.

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Week	Topic	Required Readings	
Week 1: Jan 7	Course Outline		
Week 2: Jan 12 & 14	Psychology & Life	Chapter 1	
Week 3: Jan 19 & 21	Research Methods/ Statistical Supplement	Chapter 2/3	
Week 4: Jan 26 & 28	Statistical Supplement	Chapter 3	Exam 1 (1,2&3): Jan 28 (20%)
Week 5: Feb 2 & 4	Evolutionary Psychology	Chapter 4	
Week 6: Feb 9 & 11	Biological Basis of Behaviour	Chapter 5	
Week 7: Feb 16 & 18	<i>No Classes- Winter Break</i>		
Week 8: Feb 23 & 25	Biological Basis of Behaviour	Chapter 5	Exam 2 (4&5): Feb 25 (25%)
Week 9: Mar 1 & 3	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 6	
Week 10: Mar 8 & 10	Sensation and Perception /Mind, Consciousness and Alternate States	Chapter 6/7	
Week 11: Mar 15 & 17	Mind, Consciousness and Alternate States	Chapter 7	
Week 12: Mar 22 & 24	Learning and Behaviour	Chapter 8	Exam 3 (6&7): Mar 22 (25%)
Week 13: Mar 29 & 31	Learning and Behaviour/Memory	Chapter 8/9	
Week 14: April 5 & 7	Memory/Cognitive Process	Chapter 9/10	
Week 15: April 12 &14	Cognitive Process	Chapter 10	
April 15-26	Exam Period		Exam 4 (8,9&10) TBA by Registrar Office (30%)

Note: Timeline tentative and is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.