



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2015

PY1040 (B2) BASIC PSYCHOLOGICAL PROCESSES – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours

INSTRUCTOR: Cheryl Bereziuk **PHONE:** 780 539 2739
OFFICE: C301 **E-MAIL:** CBereziuk@gprc.ab.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday and Thursdays 230 until 4 or by appointment

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: None

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS: Psychology and Life (Second Canadian Edition) by R. Gerrig, P. Zimbardo, S. Desmarais, and T. Ivanco: *Custom Edition for PY 1040*

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. This course is a prerequisite for most other psychology courses and is normally followed by PY 1050.

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

DELIVERY MODE: The course work includes lectures, class discussions, in-class group and individual work.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students will be taught the major theories, perspectives and concepts in the fields of psychology. Course material that will be specifically address by the instructor will be: 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 brain 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 aspects and functioning of the various memory structures and components, and the cognitive processes involved in language comprehension and production, as well as problem solving and reasoning.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Students will understand the basic principles and concepts from the major theories in Psychology as well as understand basic research methods and ethical issues in psychological research. Students will gain insight into the relationship between brain functioning and psychological manifestations as well as how consciousness is affected by factors such as psychotropic drug use or meditation. Students will learn how to apply the psychological principles of memory to their own study habits and understand how the environment and their own cognitive processes influence their behavior.

TRANSFERABILITY: GPRC has transfer agreements with the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, the University of Lethbridge, Athabasca University, Concordia University College, Canadian University College, Grant MacEwan University and King’s University College. 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, withdrawal after the deadline

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%

Any incomplete grades or grade contentions must be done BEFORE the last scheduled lecture (except for the final exam of course). After the last scheduled lecture all grades, as they appear on moodle, will stand. Any grade contentions for exams must be done in writing (word processed) and provide a detailed justification why the grade should be reconsidered with evidence (such as reference to specific page numbers and information in the text).

If a student has a valid reason for being unable to attend an exam, the instructor must be advised **in person before** the exam is administered. Failure to notify the instructor of an absence and/or lack of a valid reason will result in a grade of 0 with no option to write a deferred exam or make up assignment. Permission to grant a deferred exam is at the discretion of the instructor and is contingent on a valid reason presented to the instructor in person. Multiple requests for deferred exams or assignments are not typically granted irrespective of reason(s). Deferred exams (except final exams) are normally written in the student services office. Once permission from the instructor has been granted, contact student services to schedule the exam and then advise the instructor via email of the day and time at least two working days prior to the scheduled exam. Deferred exams must be completed and graded before the next scheduled exam or the grade will remain zero.

Exams can consist of multiple-choice, short and long answer questions. Exact details will be given to you later in the term regarding each specific exam structure. Students are not permitted to leave the exam room once the exam has started until the exam has been completed and turned in. All electronic devices are prohibited from use at any time during exams. All exam marks are final. This means you cannot rewrite an exam because of a poor grade and there are no extra assignments to make up for a poor exam grade.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES: Regular attendance is critical to success in this course. Should a student be unable to attend a class, it is the student's responsibility to acquire the missed material and to complete the assigned readings. The instructor does not lend out lecture notes.

Learning is an active process that will take effort on your part. Students are expected to read the chapters in advance of lectures, participate in activities and discussions in the classroom, and *communicate with the instructor when difficulties are encountered with the course material*. Students are responsible for learning all of the assigned chapters, even if all the material has not been covered in lecture, as well as any other topic or video covered during class time.

Students are expected to display a professional attitude and behavior in the classroom including academic honesty, respect for and cooperation with your colleagues and the instructor, attention to colleague's questions and the instructor's response, and a determination to meet deadlines. Students who are unable to meet these expectations will be required to leave the class in the interest of preserving the learning environment for the other students.

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. Please also be sure to specify exactly which course you are in when contacting the instructor.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING: Please see 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 www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/**. These are serious issues and will be dealt with severely. The instructor reserves the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services.

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

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

September 3	Class begins
September 29	Exam #1 (Chapters 1, 2, 3)
October 20	Exam #2 (Chapters 4, 5)
November 10	Exam #3 (Chapters 6, 7)
December 8	Last scheduled lecture
TBA (December 10 – 19)	Exam #4 (Chapters 8, 9, 10)

The dates listed on this outline are tentative and subject to change.