



**DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION**

**COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2017**

**PY1040 (A3): Basic Psychological Processes – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Cheryl Bereziuk                      **PHONE:** 780 539 2739  
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**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday and Tuesdays 230 – 4 pm or by appointment

**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.

**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*

**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 addressed 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:** UA, UC, UL, AU, CUC, BU, GMU, KUC

**\*Warning:** Although we strive to make the transferability information in this document up-to-date and accurate, **the student has the final responsibility for ensuring the transferability of this course to Alberta Colleges and Universities.** Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca> or, if you do not want to navigate through few links, at <http://alis.alberta.ca/ps/tsp/ta/tbi/onlineSearch.html?SearchMode=S&step=2>

\*\* Grade 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 institutions to ensure transferability**

**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 or assignments 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).

As per the GPRC Policy on Student Rights and Responsibilities It is the student's responsibility to write tests at the times scheduled by the instructor. If a student has a valid and serious 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 serious 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 only for serious emergency situations and presented to the instructor in person. Only the most extreme of situations will be granted a deferral if advance permission is not sought from the instructor. **Email requests will not be entertained.** Multiple requests for deferred exams or assignments are not granted irrespective of reason(s). 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.

**GRADING CRITERIA:**

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	90-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-89		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

## **COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:**

January 5	Class begins
January 31	Exam #1 (Chapters 1, 2, 3: Introduction to Psychology/History of Psychology, Research Methods, Statistics)
February 28	Exam #2 (Chapters 4, 5: Evolutionary Psychology, Biological Psychology)
March 21	Exam #3 (Chapters 6, 7: Sensation and Perception, Mind, Consciousness, and Altered States)
April 11	Last scheduled lecture
TBA (April 17 - 27)	Exam #4 (Chapters 8, 9, 10: Behaviourism, Memory, Cognition)

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:** As per the GPRC Policy on Student Rights and Responsibilities It is the student's responsibility to arrive on time and remain for the duration of scheduled classes. 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 preferably from a fellow student and to complete the assigned readings. Missed classes will not be considered as a sufficient reason for missing an exam even if the date of the exam was changed during class time. 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.

*The instructor does not allow the use of electronic devices at any time during classes. If you believe you have a valid reason for using a computer or electronic device during class time this must be negotiated with the instructor in advance. All cell phones and electronic devices must be both turned off and put away in purses/briefcases for the duration of class time and you may not ever record any aspect of the lecture nor take photographs of overheads/notes. Any cell phone use or ringing/buzzing during class time will mean you will forfeit your device to the instructor for the remainder of the class.*

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:**

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 Calendar at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies>

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.**

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