



## DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

### COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2017

#### **PY1040 (D2): Basic Psychological Processes – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Denise Nowicki      **PHONE:** 780-539-2792  
**OFFICE:** C402      **E-MAIL:** dnowicki@gprc.ab.ca  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesdays 10:15 am – 11:15 am 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.

**PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:** None

#### **REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:**

- Gerrig, R.J., Zimbardo, P.G., Desmarais, S., & Ivanko, T. (2012). *Psychology and life*. (2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Edition). Pearson Canada.

**OR**

- Gerrig, R.J., Zimbardo, P.G., Desmarais, S., & Ivanko, T. (2014). *PY1040: Basic psychological processes: Custom Edition, GPRC*. Pearson Education, Canada.

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** Lectures, discussions, and written work.

**COURSE 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 behavior.
- 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 be able to:

- Demonstrate fundamental knowledge and comprehension of major concepts, theoretical perspectives and empirical findings in the areas of evolutionary psychology, brain and behavior, sensation and perception, consciousness, learning, memory, and cognition.
- Discuss how principles discussed in these areas enable the understanding of psychological phenomena.
- 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 their knowledge of basic research methodology to critically evaluate psychological research.

**TRANSFERABILITY:** UA, UC, UL, AU, GMU, CU, CUC, 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>

A 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 & 2a, and in-class discussions	23%
Exam 2	Chapters 3 & 4, and in-class discussions	23%
Exam 3	Chapters 5 & 6, and in-class discussions	23%
Final Exam	Chapters 7, 8 & 9, and in-class discussions	31%

Remember, all exams may include questions from lectures that may not be covered by your textbook.

**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	95-100	C+	2.3	66-69
A	4.0	90-94	C	2.0	63-65
A-	3.7	85-89	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	80-84	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	75-79	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-74	F	0.0	00-49

**COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:**

**Note:** These discussion topics/dates may be modified and/or other topics may be added.

Please login to Moodle for updated information.

Week	Topics	Additional Information
Week 1/2	Chapter 1: Introduction to Psychology & Life	
Sept. 4	Labour Day	No Classes. Limited access to College buildings.
Week 3/4	Chapter 2: Research Methodology & Statistical Supplement	
Sept. 21	Exam 1	Chapters 1, 2, 2a and In-Class Discussions
Week 5/6	Chapter 3: Evolutionary Psychology	
Week 6/7	Chapter 4: Biological Basis of Behaviour (Brain & Behaviour)	
October 9	Thanksgiving	No Classes. Limited access.
Oct. 17	Exam 2	Chapters 3, 4 and Discussions
Week 8/9	Chapter 5: Sensation & Perception	
Week 10/11	Chapter 6: Mind, Consciousness, and Alternate States	
Nov. 9	Exam 3	Chapters 5, 6 and Discussions
Week 12/13	Chapter 7: Learning & Behaviour Analysis	
Nov. 10-13		Fall Break. No Classes
Nov. 11	Remembrance Day	No Classes. Limited access.
Week 13/14	Chapter 8: Memory	
Week 14/15	Chapter 9: Cognitive Processes	
	Final Exam: TBA Scheduled by the Registrar	Chapters 7, 8, 9 and Discussions

**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 on in-class discussion and activities, attendance at all sessions is required and is critical to the student's success in the course. In case of illness or emergency, notify the instructor as soon as possible. If you find yourself having difficulty in this course, please contact me immediately for assistance. If you simply want more discussion with me about any aspect of the course, please visit my office during office hours or at a more convenient pre-arranged time.

Students will be held accountable for lectures delivered, readings assigned, and any announcement that will be made in class from time to time. If you are unable to attend a particular class, it will be your responsibility to find out what was missed. For optimal learning and readiness for class participation, you are expected to attend class regularly and to read the assigned chapters before coming to class on the dates indicated on the timetable, except, of course, for the first session. Past course records show that class attendance is highly correlated with final grade in the course.

If you will be unable to write an exam at the scheduled time due to illness or emergency, you must contact me before the exam is administered. A message may be left on my voice mail (780-539-2792) or e-mail ([dnowicki@gprc.ab.ca](mailto:dnowicki@gprc.ab.ca)) together with a phone number where you may be reached to arrange for an alternative date to write the exam, if feasible. Failure to notify me will result in a grade of zero for the exam that was missed.

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.

**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.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

1. The format of each exam will be discussed in class.
2. Exam grades are final and there is no substitute work for your poor exam grade.
3. It is your responsibility to read each and every chapter and assigned reading (if any) and attend all lectures.
4. Lectures will not always cover material in your chapters. It is therefore imperative that you attend every class as your exams may include materials from the lectures that are not covered by your textbook.
5. It is expected that students will display a professional attitude and behaviour. These attitudes and behaviours are many and will be discussed in class. Any violation or misconduct may result in dismissal from the class.
6. Talk to me if you have concerns or you are experiencing difficulties that may have negative impact on your academic performance.

**Please keep this course information sheet for future reference.**