

COURSE OUTLINE

PSYCHOLOGY 1040(3): BASIC PSYCHOLOGICAL PROCESSES

Grande Prairie Regional College through Yellowhead Regional Educational Consortium
Edson Campus

Instructor: Dr. Kathleen Beauchemin

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Class times: Thursdays 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Text: PSYCHOLOGY 1998, (2nd Edition) by Saul Kassin; Prentice Hall, N.J. (Chapters 1-8)

This course is intended as a general introduction to psychology as a science. An overview of theoretical perspectives in psychology and basic research method will be explored. An in-depth survey of the brain and how it affects our behaviour will be discussed. Other topics will include such things as consciousness, sensation & perception, learning, thinking, language, memory, and motivation. Some of these topics do require a certain amount of new vocabulary acquisition. However, the primary goal of this course is NOT to have you simply memorize a lot of "gobbledegook." Rather, the objective will be to enhance your critical thinking skills that will allow you to evaluate scientific & non-scientific claims about human behaviour. The hope is that you as students, armed with some of the basic principles of psychology, will be able to apply this knowledge in your everyday lives.

Students are expected to attend classes regularly, read the text, and participate in classroom discussions, demonstrations & experiments.

EXAMINATIONS & MARKING: performance will be graded on the basis of:

Homework assignments (2@15%) =30%

Midterm exam =30%

Final exam =40%

* Final mark assigned by conversion to GPRC 9-point grading system (see calendar)

YOUR 1999 PSYCHOLOGICAL SEMESTER AT A GLANCE:

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| Sept 9 Chapter 1 | Introduction to psychology and its methods. |
| Sept 16 Chapter 1 | Scientific Methods, Ethics & Classroom Experiments |
| Sept 23 Chapter 2 | Behavioral Neuroscience: systems and communication |
| Sept 30 Chapter 2 | Behavioral Neuroscience: The brain |
| Oct 7 Chapter 3 | Sensation: vision, hearing, touch, smell & taste. |

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| Oct 14 Chapter 3 | <i>Perception: putting it all together</i> |
| Oct 21 Chapter 4 | <i>States of consciousness – attention, sleep, dreaming,</i> |
| Oct 28 Chapter 4 | <i>States of consciousness – drugs, hypnosis</i> |
| Nov 4 | <i>REVIEW AND MIDTERM EXAM</i> |
| Nov 11 | <i>REMEMBERANCE DAY HOLIDAY</i> |
| Nov 18 Chapter 5 | <i>Learning: classical and operant conditioning</i> |
| Nov 25 Chapter 6 | <i>Memory</i> |
| Dec 2 Chapter 7 | <i>Thought & Language</i> |
| Dec 9 Chapter 8 | <i>Motivation and Review</i> |
| Dec 16 | <i>FINAL EXAM</i> |