

**GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE**  
**PSYCHOLOGY 1040 (PY 1040)**  
**BASIC PSYCHOLOGICAL PROCESSES**  
**COURSE OUTLINE**

Winter Semester, 1998-99

**INSTRUCTOR** : **DR. KENDEL TANG**  
**OFFICE NO.** : **C427**  
**OFFICE PHONE NO.** : **539 - 2867**  
**OFFICE HOURS** : **2:00 - 3:00 p.m., M-T-W-R-F**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Basic Psychological Processes (PY 1040) is a general introductory course in psychology. It is designed to familiarize students with the terminology, concepts, principles, research approaches, and ethics of the science of behaviour and mental processes. Specifically, this course will examine the relationship between behaviour and brain processes, the nature and operational complexities of sensation, perception, consciousness, learning, memory, cognition, emotion, motivation, language and human development.

This course will analyze the results of empirical studies that attempt to describe, explain, predict, and control or influence behaviour with the ultimate goal of understanding human beings and enhancing their total (physical and psychological) functioning. Emphasis will also be placed on how psychologists and other related professionals approach the study of basic psychological processes. Students will also be encouraged to look for applications of psychological principles to daily life and the importance of psychology to future occupational endeavours.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The course is intended to help students achieve the following objectives:

1. To acquire an adequate understanding of the relationship between various brain processes and behaviour as well as the methods used to study brain functioning
2. To analyze the psychological processes of sensation, perception, consciousness, learning, memory, cognition, emotion, and motivation
3. To understand the structure and function of language and the stages of human development with its concomitant physical, social, emotional, and cognitive changes.
4. To assume greater responsibility for one's own learning through active involvement in class activities and course assignments
5. To develop an appreciation for the complexity of human behaviour and its basic underlying psychological processes
6. To demonstrate some applications of empirically established psychological principles to daily life.

## TEXT

Dworetzky, J. P. (1997). Psychology (6th ed.). Toronto, Brooks/Cole Publishing Company.  
(Purchase of the accompanying study guide is highly recommended.)

## GRADING SYSTEM

<u>SCALE</u>	<u>TRANSLATION</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE % EQUIVALENT</u>
9		90 - 100
8	Excellent	80 - 89
7		72 - 79
6	Good	65 - 71
5		57 - 64
4	Pass	50 - 56
3	Failure	45 - 49
2	Failure	26 - 44
1	Failure	0 - 25

Marks in the course will be weighted as follows:

Average of chapter tests	30%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	35%
Class Involvement (based on degree of participation in class discussions, asking questions and other learning activities)	10%
Total:	100%

## ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

Students will be held accountable for lectures delivered, readings assigned, and for any announcements that will be made in class. If a student is unable to attend a particular class, it will be his/her responsibility to find out what was missed. For optimal learning and readiness for class participation, students are expected to attend class regularly (no less than 80% attendance) and should read the assigned chapters before coming to class on the dates indicated on the timetable, except for the first session. Past class records show that very rarely can a grade of 8 be obtained by a student with less than 80% class attendance. Similarly, a grade of 5 can be rarely obtained by a student with less than 50% class attendance.

If a student foresees that he/she will be unable to write an exam or a test at a scheduled time due

to illness or an emergency, the student should notify the instructor immediately, preferably one day in advance. A message may be left on the instructor's answering machine (539 - 2867) together with the phone number where the student may be reached to arrange for an alternative date to write the test, if feasible. Failure to notify the instructor will result in a grade of zero for the test that was missed. If a student is unable to write the final exam at the scheduled time because of illness or an emergency, he/she should notify the instructor immediately and submit an application to the Registrar's office for permission to write a deferred exam. (See the College calendar about deferred exams.) Students are strongly advised against making any plans that will prevent them from writing tests or exams on the scheduled dates.

Students are cordially invited to see the instructor after class either in his office, the hallway, or the cafeteria to talk about any concerns or to simply discuss further the course material. Appointments may be arranged outside of posted office hours. No appointment is necessary to see the instructor during the office hours indicated in this course outline.

**Please keep this course outline for future reference.**

**Record of Test Marks**

Test 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Midterm Exam \_\_\_\_\_

Test 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Final Exam \_\_\_\_\_

**TIMETABLE**  
**PY 1040**  
**Winter Semester, 1998-99**

<b><u>DATES</u></b>	<b><u>TOPICS</u></b>	<b><u>TESTS AND EXAMS</u></b>
Jan. 7	Chapter 1: Introduction to Psychology Appendix B: Statistics	
14	Chapter 2: The Biological Bases of Behavior	
21	Chapter 3: Lifespan Development I: Infancy, Childhood, and Adolescence	
28	Chapter 4: Lifespan Development II: Adulthood and Aging	
		Test 1: Jan. 28 (Ch. 1 - 3 and Appendix B)
Feb. 4	Chapter 8: Learning and Conditioning	
11	Chapter 9: Memory	
18	Chapter 9: Memory	Midterm Exam: Feb. 18 (Ch. 1 - 4, 8 - 9, and Appendix B)
25	(Winter Break)	
Mar. 4	Chapter 5: Sensation	
11	Chapter 6: Perception	
18	Chapter 7: States of Consciousness	
25	Chapter 7: States of Consciousness	Test 2: Mar. 25 (Ch. 5 - 7)
Apr. 1	Chapter 10: Thought and Language	
8	Chapter 11: Motivation and Sexuality	
15	Chapter 12: Emotion	
22		Final Exam: Apr. 22, Room A212, 6:30 - 9:20 p.m.

**Note: The final exam will include all assigned chapters and lecture materials. This timetable is subject to change. Any future changes made to it will be announced in class.**