

PSYCHOLOGY 1040

BASIC PSYCHOLOGICAL PROCESSES

§ 1999-2000 (T - TH)

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

INSTRUCTOR: L. R. ANDREOTTI
OFFICE NUMBER: C403
PHONE NUMBER: 539-2994
OFFICE HOURS: (M-W-F) 10:00-11:00, or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course, in combination with Psychology 1050 is intended to provide a general introductory survey of the field of psychology. Specific topics examined in this course include: methodological techniques and problems, basic principles of conditioning and learning, thinking and problem solving, memory, sensation and perception, the physiological basis of behavior, emotion, motivation and sexuality.

The course is not designed to be a course in applied psychology. Instead, it is intended to familiarize the student with the terminology employed by psychologists, to develop the student's tolerance for ambiguity (e.g., an appreciation for why psychologists disagree), and to develop an understanding of basic psychological concepts and processes.

Most importantly, the course is intended to introduce the study of psychology as a science.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The successful student should demonstrate an understanding of the relevant concepts, terminology and theoretical assumptions which will be examined. The student should also be able to demonstrate a basic familiarity with, and an understanding of, the relevant experimental procedures and the results of our more significant psychological studies.

TEXTS:

1. Psychology, (2nd Edition), by Kassir, 1998, Prentice-Hall.
2. Study guide for Psychology, (2nd Edition), by Regan, 1998, Prentice-Hall.
3. Taking sides: Clashing views on controversial psychological issues, (10th Edition), by Slife, 1998, The Dushkin Group (Publisher).

A tentative timetable for the course is provided below. Various changes in the timetable may be announced in class.

<u>DATES</u>	<u>KASSIR</u>	<u>TAKING SIDES</u>
Sept. 9 - 16	Chapter 1 (Introduction and methods) Appendix A (Statistics)	
Sept. 21 - 23	Chapter 2 (Behavioral neuroscience)	
Sept. 28 - 30	Chapter 5 (Learning)	
OCTOBER 5	EXAM I	
Oct. 12 - 19	Chapter 6 (Memory)	
Oct. 21 - 26	Chapter 7 (Thought and language)	
Oct. 28 - Nov. 4	Chapter 3 (Sensation and perception)	
NOVEMBER 9	EXAM II	
Nov. 16 - 23	Chapter 4 (Consciousness)	
Nov. 25 - 30	Chapter 8 (Motivation)	Issue #4 & #5
Dec. 2 - 9	Chapter 9 (Emotion)	

GRADING SYSTEM

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

Marks in the course will be weighted as follows:

October 5th Exam	30%
November 9th Exam	30%
Third exam ¹ (Date to be announced by the Registrar's office)	30%
Discussion of Taking Sides	<u>10%</u> 100%

Marks for in-class discussions of the issues from Taking Sides will be based primarily upon student participation. Grades for each discussion will be assigned as follows:

<u>Quality/involvement</u>	<u>Grade assigned</u>
Excellent/well prepared/good participation	100%
Moderate preparation/participation	85%
Present/unprepared/ inadequate participation	50%
Unexcused absence	0%

¹This exam will not be a final exam.

It should be noted that students will be held accountable for lectures delivered in addition to any announcements made in class. If any student is unable to attend a particular class, it will his/her responsibility to find out what was missed.

If it becomes apparent to a student that s/he will be unable to write an exam or attend a class discussion of the assigned readings at a scheduled time, the student should notify the instructor immediately². In the event that the student cannot reach the instructor in person, s/he should leave a message for the instructor on the answering machine (539-2994). If the student is unable to write the third exam at the scheduled time³, he/she should notify the instructor immediately and make arrangements to write a deferred exam.

As a general rule, there will be no opportunities to re-write missed exams. The exam marks are **final**. You will not have the opportunity to rewrite an exam, nor will you be allowed to prepare a written assignment, to make up for a poor exam mark.

The exam dates listed on this handout are tentative and are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Students should not make plans for travel, holidays, employment, etc., which would interfere with their writing exams during any scheduled class time. As well, students should not make plans that would conflict with their writing the third exam during the times established in the final exam timetable (times to be announced by the Registrar's office).

Since the information recorded on this sheet will be required by the student throughout the semester, I recommend that precautions be taken to insure that it is not lost.

It is essential that students become familiar with the policies described in this course outline.

Students are strongly encouraged to see me after class or in my office (C403) if they are having difficulty in the course or simply wish a further discussion of the material.

²For a student to receive an excused absence from an exam, or in-class discussion of readings; it is essential that the student notify the instructor prior to the time that the exam or discussion exercise is to be held.

³It should be noted that the final examination timetable will be announced by the Registrar's office.