

PSYCHOLOGY 1040

BASIC PSYCHOLOGICAL PROCESSES

2001-2002 (WINTER: T - TH)

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Larry Andreotti
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OFFICE HOURS: (M) 10:00 - 11:30, (F) 9:00 - 10:30, 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, (3rd Edition), by Kassir, 2001, Prentice-Hall.
2. Study guide for Psychology, (3rd Edition), by Regan, 2001, Prentice-Hall.
3. Taking sides: Clashing views on controversial psychological issues, (11th Edition), by Slife, 2000, The Dushkin/McGraw-Hill (Publisher).

A tentative timetable for the course is provided below. Any changes to the timetable will be announced in class.

| <u>DATES</u> | <u>KASSIN</u> | <u>TAKING SIDES</u> |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Jan. 3 - 10 | Chapter 1 (Introduction and methods) Appendix A (Statistics) | Issues #2 & #3 |
| Jan. 15 - 17 | Chapter 2 (Behavioral neuroscience) | Issue #11 |
| Jan. 22 - 24 | Chapter 5 (Learning) | |
| JANUARY 29 | EXAM I | |
| Jan. 31 - Feb. 7 | Chapter 6 (Memory) | Issue #9 |
| Feb. 12 - 14 | Chapter 7 (Thought and language) | |
| Feb 19 - March 5 | Chapter 3 (Sensation and perception) | |
| MARCH 7 | EXAM II | |
| March 12 - 26 ¹ | Chapter 4 (Consciousness) | |
| March 28 - April 2 | Chapter 8 (Motivation) | Issue #4 |
| April 9 - 11 | Chapter 9 (Emotion) | |

¹I will be attending a conference from March 18 - 22. There will be no classes during that period.

GRADING SYSTEM

| SCALE | TRANSLATION | <u>APPROXIMATE % EQUIVALENT</u> |
|----------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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> |
| 2 | | <u>26 - 44</u> |
| 1 | <u>Failure</u> | 0 - 25 |

Marks in the course will be weighted as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| January 29th Exam | 30% |
| March 7th Exam | 30% |
| Final exam | 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% |

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.

Students should attend all classes and are expected to display respect and consideration for other members of the class. Anyone unable to meet these expectations will be asked to leave the classroom and may be excluded from attending further classes (See listing of student's rights and responsibilities in the College Calendar).

Students will be introduced to WebCT, a software tool used to "enhance" various aspects of the course via the internet. WebCT allows the posting of course related information (the instructor's notes², student marks, a calendar of events, etc.) on the internet. It also allows for email communication between the instructor and the students, as well as for communication among students. Students should check the site on a regular basis for important information and announcements. Students who forget their passwords, or have other problems with the website, should see their instructor in his office or should contact Joanne Stiles in the library. Joanne's phone number is 539-2937. Her email can be sent to jstiles@gprc.ab.ca.

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 immediately³. 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 final exam at the scheduled time, 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 final 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.

²It should be pointed out that the instructor's notes posted on the web site were not prepared as stand-alone, self-explanatory documents. They were prepared solely as guides to help the instructor keep "on track" during the lecture. They are provided on the web site as backups for students who cannot attend any specific lecture/lectures. The notes are weak substitutes for actually attending those lectures

³For 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.