

MAR 30 2000

Course Outline
PSYCHOLOGY 1040: BASIC PSYCHOLOGICAL PROCESSES
Grande Prairie Regional College through Yellowhead Regional Educational Consortium
February-May 2000

Instructor: Dr. Michelle Soucy Dahl

Phone: 723-3711 (office)

E-mail: michsouc@gyrd.ab.ca

Class Time: Wednesdays 6:00 pm-9:00 pm

Text: Kassin, S. (1998). Psychology (2nd Edition), Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

This course is intended as a general introduction to psychology as a science. An overview of theoretical perspectives in psychology and basic research methods will be explored, as well as an in-depth survey of the brain and how it affects our behavior. Other topics will include such areas as consciousness, sensation and perception, learning, thinking, language, memory, emotions and motivation. The objective of this course is to enhance your critical thinking skills that will allow you to evaluate scientific and non-scientific claims about human behavior. 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 all classes, read the text, and participate in classroom discussions, demonstrations and experiments.

Performance Appraisal:

Weekly Journal	20%
Midterm exam	30%
Research Project	50% (Part I=20%; Part II=30%).

Your final mark will be converted to GPRC 9-point grading system (see calendar)

YOUR PSYCHOLOGICAL SEMESTER

February 16th	Chapter 1: Introduction to the course
February 23rd	Chapter 1: Scientific Methods, Ethics, & Classroom Experiments
March 1 st	Chapter 2: Behavioral Neuroscience: Systems & Communication Chapter 2: Behavioral Neuroscience: The Brain
March 8 th	Chapter 3: Sensation: Vision, hearing, touch, smell and taste
March 15 th	Chapter 3: Perception RESEARCH PROJECT (PART I)

March 22 nd	Chapter 4 : States of Consciousness
March 29 th	NO CLASSES-SPRING BREAK
April 5 th	Chapter 5: Learning: Classical and Operant Conditioning REVIEW
April 12 th	MIDTERM EXAMINATION
April 19 th	Chapter 6: Memory
April 26 th	Chapter 7: Cognition
May 3 rd	Chapter 7: Language
May 10 th	Chapter 8: Motivation
May 17 th	Chapter 9: Emotions
May 24 th	Review and Discussion
May 29 th	RESEARCH PROJECT DUE(PART II)

RESEARCH PROJECT

- The research project is intended to give you some hands on experience into the realm of psychology. You will be asked to identify an area of study and conduct an experiment, using proven psychological methods.
 - This assignment is worth 50% of your final grade.
 - This assignment is divided into 2 parts: Part I will outline your research proposal (what you intend to do); Part II will be the final written report outlining your hypothesis, participants, method, analysis and results (what you thought, who participated, how you did it, and what you found).
 - All research proposals must be approved by the instructor and consent forms signed, prior to proceeding with your study.
 - Types of research designs suggested for the research project:
 - Case study
 - Survey
 - Observation
 - Methods to measure psychological information:
 - Self-reports
 - Behavioral observations
 - Archival Records
 - Considerations:
 - Informed Consent
 - Confidentiality
 - Freedom to withdraw
 - Possible harm or discomfort
- ***** Time permitting, students will be required to present their research projects to the class.