

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE  
COURSE OUTLINE: PY1050  
SOCIAL AND INDIVIDUAL BEHAVIOUR  
Winter Semester, 1999 - 2000

INSTRUCTOR : DR. KENDEL TANG  
OFFICE : C427 OFFICE PHONE NO.: 539-2867  
OFFICE HOURS: : 10:00 - 11:00 a.m., M-W-F OR BY APPOINTMENT

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Social and Individual Behaviour (PY1050) is a sequel to Basic Psychological Processes (PY 1040) and together they constitute a general introductory survey of the comprehensive field of psychology. In this course, class lectures, group discussions, panel presentations and role-playing will be utilized to achieve a greater understanding of the intrapersonal and interpersonal aspects of human behaviour and mental processes. The major topics of this course are: human development, intelligence and intelligence testing, personality and the various theories that attempt to explain its nature and development, the relationship between psychological factors and physical health, psychological disorders and the major theories that explain their probable causes and suggest effective treatment approaches, and finally, social and multicultural factors that affect attitudes, perceptions, social behaviour, interpersonal attractions, and ethnic and sexual prejudices.

This course will also examine the results of experimental, correlational, and clinical studies that contribute to our greater understanding of psychological phenomena as well as shed light on how psychologists and other related professionals arrive at conclusions about the causes, correlates, and consequences of complex human behaviours. The course will also emphasize the relevance and importance of psychology to daily life and future occupational goals.

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course aims to enable students to achieve the following objectives:

1. To understand how people grow, mature, and change over the life span and the interactive contributions of nature and nurture to human development.
2. To become familiar with the nature of intelligence, the factors that affect its development and the ways by which it is assessed.
3. To acquire a basic understanding of personality, its assessment, and the various theories that attempt to explain its development.
4. To gain basic knowledge and understanding of the mind's role in the development of illness as well as in the maintenance and enhancement of physical well-being (health).
5. To understand the factors that contribute to or determine the development of psychological disorders and identify the various therapies that are currently used and their theoretical foundation.
6. To identify and explain interpersonal and social factors that determine attitudes, perceptions, love, friendship, prejudice, conflict, obedience, conformity, aggression, and cooperation.
7. To develop an enlightened tolerance of and appreciation for human differences and illustrate some observed applications of psychological concepts, principles, or theories that occur in real life.

8. Assume greater responsibility for one's own learning through reading the assigned chapters and active involvement in class activities and course assignments.

#### TEXT

Kassin, S. (1998). *Psychology* (2nd ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc.  
(Use of the accompanying study guide is highly recommended.)

#### GRADING SYSTEM

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

Marks in this course will be weighted as follows:

Average of chapter tests	30%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	35%
Class involvement (based on amount of participation in class discussions, asking oral or written questions, and in other class activities)	10%
Total:	100%

Note: The minimum grade for class involvement is the average of the scores obtained on all tests and exams given in the course. The maximum grade for class involvement is 100% which the instructor may give to students who are highly involved in class activities in addition to having high test scores.

#### ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

Students will be held accountable for lectures delivered and for announcements and assignments that will be made in class from time to time. If a student is unable to attend a particular class, it will be his/her responsibility to find out what was missed by asking his support group members.

All students are highly expected to achieve an attendance rate of at least 80%, excluding absences due to illness or emergencies. Past class records show that rarely can a grade of 5 be obtained by a student with less than 50% class attendance.

If a student foresees that s/he will be unable to write a test or an exam at a scheduled time, for some valid reason, such as an illness, s/he should notify the instructor immediately, preferably one day in advance, by leaving a message in the instructor's voice mail (539-2867) or e-mail (tang@gprc.ab.ca) together with a phone number where s/he may be reached to arrange an alternative time for writing the test, if feasible.

Failure to call without a good explanation will result in a grade of zero for the test that was missed. No penalty will be incurred by a student who can provide an acceptable explanation for missing to write the test. Students are expected to refrain from making any plans that will prevent them from writing the final exam. If an emergency occurs and a student is unable to write the final exam at the scheduled time and date, s/he should notify the instructor immediately and submit an application to the Registrar's office for permission to write a deferred exam. Read the College policy on deferred exams in the College calendar.

All students are cordially invited to see the instructor in his office or in the hallway to talk about any concerns or just to further discuss the lecture or 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. This is a kind of contract for the course.

### TIMETABLE

DATES	TOPICS	TESTS AND EXAMS
Jan. 4 - 6	Infancy and Childhood (Chapter 10)	
11 - 18	Adolescence and Adulthood (ch 11)	
25 - Feb. 1	Intelligence (ch. 12)	Test 1: Jan 22 (ch.10 - 11)
Feb. 3 - 10	Social Influences (ch 13)	
		Midterm Exam: Feb. 15 (ch. 10 - 13)
Feb. 17 & 29	Social and Cultural Groups (ch.14)	
21 - 25	<b>Winter Break</b>	
Mar. 2 - 9	Personality (ch. 15)	
16 - 21	Psychological Disorders (ch. 16)	
		Test 2: Mar. 14 (ch. 14 - 15)
23 - 30	Treatment (ch.17)	
Apr. 6 -13	Health and Well-being (ch. 18)	
14 - 26	Final Exam Period	

The final exam date will be announced by the Registrar's office. The final exam will include all assigned chapters and lecture materials.

Note: The above dates are approximate and tentative. Any changes that may be made to this timetable will be announced in class in consultation with students present. The prerequisite for this course is PY 1040.