



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE — FALL 2018

PY1040 (B2): BASIC PSYCHOLOGICAL PROCESSES - 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 weeks

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Connie Korpan **PHONE:** Office (780) 539-2032
OFFICE: C312 **E-MAIL:** ckorpan@gprc.ab.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00-11:00 or by appointment

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This first introductory course in psychology gives students an understanding of themselves and other people through the study of basic concepts, principles, theories, and methods used in the scientific study of behaviour. The course covers research methods in psychology, the biological basis, neurophysiology, sensation, perception, learning, states of consciousness, memory and cognition. This course is a prerequisite for most other psychology courses and is normally followed by PY1050.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: None

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS: Pearson Custom Library (2014) PY1040 Basic Psychological Processes Custom Edition, GPRC **OR** Gerrig, R.J., Zimbardo, P.G., Desmarais, S., & Ivanko, T. (2012). *Psychology and life* (2nd Canadian Edition)

DELIVERY MODE(S): Lectures, class discussions and take-home exercises.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: In this course, student will be taught

- the major theories, perspectives and concepts in the fields of psychology
- the various research methods and the ethical issues in the use of humans and other animals in research
- the theory of evolution and its principles
- the relationship between biological structures and processes and their psychological manifestations
- the states of consciousness and how they are affected by various factors
- how the environment determines behaviour through the principles of learning
- the interaction of nature and nurture in determining behavior
- the aspects of memory and their reciprocal relationship with behaviour and other mental processes
- the cognitive processes involved in language comprehension and production, as well as problem solving and reasoning

LEARNING OUTCOMES: As a result of taking this course, students will be able to

- demonstrate fundamental knowledge and comprehension of major concepts, theoretical perspectives and empirical findings in the areas of evolutionary psychology, brain and behavior, sensation and perception, consciousness, learning, memory, and cognition
- discuss how principles discussed in these areas enable the understanding of psychological phenomena
- incorporate sociocultural factors in their explanations of psychological phenomena
- demonstrate basic level understanding of various research methods used in scientific investigations of psychological phenomena
- apply their knowledge of basic research methodology to critically evaluate psychological research

TRANSFERABILITY: UA, UC, UL, AU, GMU, BU, CUE, KUC, LC

***Warning:** Although we strive to make the transferability information in this document up-to-date and accurate, **the student has the final responsibility for ensuring the transferability of this course to Alberta Colleges and Universities.** Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at Alberta Transfer Guide at <http://transferalberta.alberta.ca/transfer-alberta-search/#/audienceTypeStep>

**** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.**

EVALUATIONS:

1. 4 Quizzes—total = 20%
2. Midterm Exam = 30 %; Final Exam = 35%
3. Attendance/Participation = 5 %
4. Chapter & Class Assignments—total = 10%

1. **Quizzes.** There will be four quizzes; each will be in a multiple choice format. Each quiz is worth 5%, for a total of 20%. Quiz dates are posted on page 4 of this outline. **Please refer to page 6 of this course outline for more information on missed quizzes.**
2. **Midterm and Final Exam.** The midterm and final exams will include multiple-choice and short answer questions. The multiple choice questions are taken “primarily” from the test-bank and the short answer questions will be taken primarily from the lecture material. The final exam **will not be cumulative**; it will cover material from after the midterm to the end of term. The midterm is worth 30% and final exam are worth 35% each. **Please refer to pages 6 of this outline for more information on missing the midterm or final exam.**

2. **Participation/Attendance.** Student input during lectures is enthusiastically welcomed and strongly encouraged. There are a variety of ways that you can contribute to the lectures, such as asking relevant questions, making insightful comments during the lectures, contributing to discussion during group work. Attendance will be taken every class. Attendance may be taken more than once during a class period. **Please note that in my courses, students who miss more than 10% of classes without an acceptable excuse may be debarred from writing the final exam.**

3. **Chapter Assignments.** There will be 9 multiple choice chapter assignments, each comprised of questions taken from the test bank Your marks across all the assignments will be averaged. The average mark of all the assignments is worth 10% of your overall grade. These assignments will be posted on Moodle and you will answer the questions on Moodle. Soft and Hard deadlines for each assignment will be announced in class and indicated on Moodle.

GRADING CRITERION

Alpha Grade	4-Pt Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Designation
A+	4.0	97 - 100	Excellent
A	4.0	94-96	
A-	3.7	90-93	First Class Standing
B+	3.3	85-89	
B	3.0	80-84	Good
B-	2.7	75-79	
C+	2.3	70-74	Satisfactory
C	2.0	65-69	
C-	1.7	60 - 64	
D+	1.3	55 - 59	Poor
D	1.0	50 - 54	Minimal Pass at GPRC
F	0.0	0 - 49	Fail –no credit received
WF	0.0		Fail—withdrawal after deadline

Please note that the grading criterion outlined in the calendar is a guideline and may vary from class to class.

TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE

	TOPIC	*REQUIRED READINGS	**Moodle Deadline 11:59 P.M.
SEPT 6	True False Questions	-	
SEPT 11/13	Psychology and Life	Chapter 1	SEPT 10
SEPT 18/20/25	Research Methods in Psychology/Stats	Chapter 2 & 3	SEPT 17
SEPT 27	QUIZ 1 (CHPTS 1 & 2, 3)		
SEPT 27 OCT 4/9	Evolutionary Psychology	Chapter 4	SEPT 26
OCT 11/16/18	The Biological Bases of Behaviour	Chapter 5	OCT 10
OCT 18	QUIZ 2 (CHPTS 4 & 5)		
OCT 23	MIDTERM (CHPTS 1 TO 5)		
OCT 25/30 NOV 1	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 6	OCT 24
NOV 6/8/15	Mind, Consciousness, Altered States	Chapter 7	NOV 5
NOV 15	QUIZ 3 (CHPTS 6 & 7)		
NOV 20/22	Learning and Behavioural Analyses	Chapter 8	NOV 19
NOV 27/29	Memory	Chapter 9	NOV 26
DEC 4	Cognitive Processes	Chapter 10	DEC 3
DEC 6	QUIZ 4 (CHPTS 8, 9, 10)		
***BETWEEN DEC 10-19	FINAL EXAM (CHPTS 6 TO 10)		

*Chapter numbers are based on the Custom Edition textbook.

** The deadlines listed above are the dates when the Moodle assignments will be closed (at 11:59 p.m.—i.e., one minute before midnight) and the answer keys posted. The assignments will **NOT** be reopened after the deadlines have passed.)

***The date of the final exam will be set by Student Services. Activities such as holidays or employment during this period are **not** considered excusable reasons for missing a final exam. Students who chose to miss a final exam for employment, holiday, or similar reasons may receive a “0” on the final exam. Also note that a final exam will **not** be scheduled early for students who plan their holidays or other activities during the final exam period.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

- Sept 14 Last day to add courses or drop courses for full refund (in most programs) & last day to pay Fall semester fees (except for students on an approved payment plan)
- Sept 24 Last day to opt out of Student Health/Dental Plan
- Oct 8 Thanksgiving—No Classes
- Oct 30 Last day to withdraw from classes(most programs) with a “W”
- Nov 12-13 Fall Break—No Classes
- Nov 30 Deadline to apply for Winter courses
- Dec 7 Last day of classes for Fall semester
- Dec 10 - 19 Final exam period

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. **TALK TO ME IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS OR YOU ARE EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTIES** that may have negative impact on your academic performance. These concerns may include personal challenges or class-related issues (e.g., difficulty with material, disruptions from other students). Please know that I will keep your concerns confidential.

FYI: Exam accommodations are used by any number of students whose disabilities affect processing and comprehending printed material, learning, or concentration (either the condition itself, or the effects of the medication which is used to treat the condition), as well as by students with disabilities or medical conditions that require them to take rest periods. Examples include (but are not limited to) students who have mental health conditions, chronic illness, neurological disorders, mobility disabilities, and many more.

If you require exam accommodation, you must make arrangements with *Accessibility Supports and Disability Services* (in Student Services). You will need to provide them with documentation supporting your request for an accommodation. For more information, please speak to an advisor and refer to <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/services/accessibility/examaccom.html>

2. **EXHIBIT RESPECTFUL BEHAVIOR** to the instructor, guest speakers and other students



- a. **DO NOT DISTRACT OTHERS during class:**

- **Arrive to class on time and stay in class** for the duration of the class (barring exceptional circumstances). Deal with eating/drinking/bathroom needs before or after class; classes are only 80 minutes long, so this expectation should be easy to manage.
- **Do NOT talk in class** while the instructor is lecturing or discussing course-related topics with other students
- **Do NOT use your cellphone, computer, tablet, or other electronics during class time.**

Keep your cellphones in your bag. If you use your phone during class for texting or for other activities, I reserve the right to remove your cell phone for the duration of the class or to ask you to leave the classroom.

Computer use during class time is not allowed. Exceptions will be made for those who, due to special needs, require a computer for note taking purposes. You must provide evidence of such special needs and clear the use of computers with me.



b. **DISPLAY PROFESSIONAL ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOURS**

We will discuss a number of topics in class that may cause disagreement. It is expected that all participants will deal with such disagreements WITHOUT resorting to behaviors/comments that are dismissive, demeaning or threatening to others. Swearing and use of slurs against individuals or groups (racial, religious, gender, etc.) are unacceptable. It is also expected that students refrain from engaging in other rude behaviors (e.g., reading the newspaper, putting your feet up on the desk).

Students unable to meet these expectations will be required to leave the class in the interest of preserving the learning opportunities of other students. Please refer to the calendar for more information regarding student conduct

3. **ATTEND CLASS:** FYI—attendance will be taken every class.

Missed Lecture Material: Although notes are available on Moodle, they are not complete; attendance is required to get full lecture information. You are to obtain missed material by approaching a classmate, *not* the instructor. It would be *unfair* for students who miss lectures to be advantaged by getting the instructor's notes.

Missed Quizzes/Exams: Dates for the quizzes and midterm are included on page 8 of this course outline. Missed quizzes will *not* be rescheduled. If you miss a quiz due to verified illness, dentistry, accident, emergency, or GPRC obligations (e.g., you are away due to the requirements of another course) the weight of the quiz will be transferred; missed Quiz 1 or 2 will be transferred to the midterm exam, missed Quiz 3 or 4 will be transferred to the final exam. Quizzes missed for reasons that do not include verified illness, dentistry, accident, or emergency, will be assigned a "0" (zero). Holidays, employment, etc. are NOT considered to be excusable reasons to miss any exam in this course. Furthermore, quizzes missed without explanation from the student will assigned a "0".

According to GPRC policy, deferring a missed Midterm Exam is at the discretion of the instructor. In my courses, students who miss a midterm because of illness, dentistry, accident, or emergency (verified) may write the midterm at a later date (set by me—I will choose a date that is mutually convenient for me and the student). When students miss the midterm for reasons that do not include verified illness, dentistry, accident, or emergency, a "0" is assigned to that the midterm. Students who miss the midterm without explanation will receive a "0" on the midterm. Absences from a registrar-scheduled Final Exam fall under GPRC Examination Policy. It is the responsibility of the student to be informed about these policies prior to the final examination period.

If you miss the final exam due to illness, you will be required to submit an application to the Registrar's office for permission to write a deferred exam and must do so within 48 hours of the scheduled exam time. You may defer the final exam for up to 20 days of the end of the examination period. You will be required to provide documentation for your illness.

Missed Class Announcements/Handouts: On occasion, I may make announcements in class regarding course materials, changes in exam/assignment dates (if any), etc. Furthermore, course handouts may be distributed from time to time. If you miss a class, it is up to you to check with me or classmates to determine whether important announcements were made or whether materials were distributed during missed classes.

4. **LEARN & RECORD ASSIGNMENT DEADLINES AND EXAMINATION DATES/TIMES**

These dates/times are announced in class and/or are included on course materials (e.g., Moodle, course outline). For the sake of fairness for ALL students, assignment deadlines will NOT be extended for those who miss an assignment. If you know that you will be away when an assignment is due, it is expected that you hand in that assignment earlier than the announced/posted date. FYI—Moodle chapter assignments can started/completed before the announced/posted deadlines.

5. **OUT-OF-CLASS WORK**

Students are expected to prepare for each lecture by reading the assigned chapters and handouts. Students who prepare for lectures learn and perform much better than students who do not prepare.

Although the instructor feels that all the material in the text book is important and interesting, limited class time prevents discussion of all the material covered in the assigned chapters. You are responsible for learning the material covered in the assigned chapters, including material that is not discussed in class. Please feel free to approach me outside of class if you wish to get clarification on this material.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the section on Plagiarism and Cheating in the College policy titled Student Misconduct: Academic and Non-Academic at (<https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/fetch.php?ID=68>).

Instructors reserve the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on written assignments. **Instructors also reserve the right to ban the use of any form of electronics (cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, tablets, scanning pens, electronic dictionaries, etc.) during class and during exams.**

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy: Please refer to college's website <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/> to access this link.

Friendship Centre: The Friendship Centre at Grande Prairie Regional College provides a space for all students to meet, do homework, retrieve or leave messages, obtain community resources material, or just relax. The on-campus Friendship Centre is available for sharing circles, gatherings, study groups, and tutoring sessions. Everyone is welcome.

Campus Security: You should be aware that GPRC is no safer than the rest of Grande Prairie. Attacks on campus, as well as theft and vandalism have been occurring with increasing frequency. For your safety, Campus Security will provide a 24-hour Safe Walk service anywhere on campus. Call 780-539-2700 or use the blue phones on campus.

Learning Support Centre: The Learning Support Centre is available to all students who wish to improve their academic skills and ability to learn. Students can receive help with their writing (essay structure, grammar, formatting), as well as with math and science problems. Workshops on exam anxiety, study skills, noting taking, and other important skills are also offered here. The Learning Centre is in the Library.