



**DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION**

**COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2021**

**PY1040 (N2): Basic Psychological Processes – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Ali M. AL-Asadi      **PHONE:** 780-539-2061  
**OFFICE:** C-311B      **E-MAIL:** [aalasadi@gprc.ab.ca](mailto:aalasadi@gprc.ab.ca)  
**OFFICE HOURS:** By appointments

**IMPORTANT: Please remember this is a university course, and you are a university student.**

**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 bases of behaviour, neurophysiology, sensation, perception, learning, states of consciousness, memory and cognition.

**PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:** None

**REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:**

- AL-Asadi, A. M. (2019). Principles of Psychology. Open-Sourced textbook. Chapters of the textbook are posted on this course's D2L site at: <https://myclass.gprc.ab.ca/d2l/home>
- Additional option: you may also acquire a free copy of the Openstax textbook titled Psychology (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) by Spielman, R. M., Jenkins, W. J., and Lovett, M. D (2021) for extra resources (<http://cnx.org/content/col131502/1.4>)

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** Lectures, Discussions, & Video Conference

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** This course introduces students to:

- 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 behaviour

- 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 gain the abilities to:

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

**TRANSFERABILITY:**

This course is considered a University Transferable Course; however, 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 accepted for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.**

**EVALUATIONS:**

Exam 1 Chapters 1 & 2	25%
Exam 2 Chapters 3 & 4	25%
Exam 3 Chapters 5 & 6	25%
Final Exam Chapters 7 & 8	25%

\* Remember, all exams may include questions from lectures that may not be covered by your textbook.

\* All exams must be written in-class. Under special circumstances, an exam may be written remotely with an approved invigilator.

**GRADING CRITERIA:**

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100	C+	2.3	66-69
A	4.0	90-94	C	2.0	63-65
A-	3.7	85-89	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	80-84	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	75-79	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-74	F	0.0	00-49

### COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Week 1	Chapter 1: Introduction and History of Psychology	
Week 2	Chapter 1: Introduction and History of Psychology Chapter 2: Research Methodology & Statistics	
Week 3	Chapter 2: Research Methodology & Statistics Chapter 3: Evolutionary Psychology & Biological Basis of Behaviour (Brain & Behaviour)	
Week 4	<b>Test1</b> Chapter 3: Evolutionary Psychology & Biological Basis of Behaviour (Brain & Behaviour)	<b>E1 25%: Ch 1, 2</b>
Week 5	Chapter 4: Alternate States of Consciousness	
Week 6	<b>Test 2</b> Chapter 5: Sensation & Perception	<b>E2 25%: Ch 3 &amp; 4</b>
Week 7	Chapter 5: Sensation & Perception	
Week 8	Chapter 6: Learning & Behaviour Analysis	
Week 9	<b>Test 3</b> Chapter 7: Memory	<b>E3 25%: Ch 5 &amp; 6</b>
Week 10	Chapter 7: Memory	
Week 11	Chapter 7: Memory Chapter 8: Cognitive Processes and Intelligence	
Week 12	Chapter 8: Cognitive Processes and Intelligence	
Week 13	Chapter 8: Cognitive Processes and Intelligence	
Week 14 Final Exam	Discussion and Review	<b>E4 25% Ch 7 &amp; 8 Final Exams are Scheduled by the Registrar Office</b>

### STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

The assigned readings and exercises for each class should be completed before attending that class, except for the first class. As this course depends heavily on discussion and at times exercises and illustrations, attendance at all sessions is required and is critical to the student's success in the course.

In case of illness or emergency, notify the instructor as soon as possible. If you find yourself having difficulty in this course, please contact the instructor immediately for assistance. If you simply want more discussion with the instructor about any aspect of the course, please visit my office during office hours or at a more convenient pre-arranged time.

If a student foresees that he/she will be unable to write a test or exam at a scheduled time due to illness or emergency, he/she should notify the instructor immediately, preferably one day in advance. A message may be left on the instructor's voice mail (780-539-2061) or e-mail ([aalasadi@gprc.ab.ca](mailto:aalasadi@gprc.ab.ca)) together with a phone number where the student may be reached to arrange for an alternative date to write the test, if feasible. Failure to notify the instructor will result in a grade of zero for the test that was missed unless proof is presented that the student was physically or mentally unable to do so due to a sudden illness or emergency or to unavoidable circumstances beyond the student's control.

It is expected that all students will display a professional attitude and behaviour in the classroom. This includes reliability, respect for and cooperation with your fellow students and the instructor, attention to fellow student questions and instructor's response, determination to achieve first-class work while meeting deadlines, and constructive response to criticism.

### **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 exams.**

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

### **Additional Information**

1. The format of each exam will be discussed in class.
2. Exam grades are final, and there is no substitute work for your poor exam grade.
3. The nature and topics of your written paper will be discussed in class
4. It is your responsibility to read each and every chapter and assigned reading (if any) and attend all lectures.
5. Lectures will not always cover material in your chapters. Lectures may cover topics and include materials that are not covered by your textbook. It is, therefore, imperative that you attend every class as your exams may include materials from the lectures that are not covered by your textbook.
6. It is expected that students will display a professional attitude and behaviour. These attitudes and behaviours are many and will be discussed in class. Any violation or misconduct may result in dismissal from the class.
7. Talk to me if you have concerns or you are experiencing difficulties that may have a negative impact on your academic performance.