

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2025

PY1040 (F2): BASIC PSYCHOLOGICAL PROCESSES - 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR: Connie Korpan, PhD

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OFFICE: C312

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OFFICE HOURS: Mondays 10:00-11:00, Tuesdays 1:00-2:00, 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 behavior. 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: OER (Open Education Resource) Textbook Chapters 1- 8. Chapters of the open-source textbook are posted on the *myClass* <https://myclass.nwpolytech.ca/d2l/home/22714>

DELIVERY MODE(S): In-Person (On-Campus)

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 a basic level of 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

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page

<https://transferalberta.alberta.ca/>

NOTE: Grades of D or D+ may not be accepted for transfer to most other post-secondary institutions. In other words, most institutions will not accept your course for transfer credit if your grade is **less than C-**. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability

EVALUATIONS:

- 4 Quizzes—5% each; total = 20%
- Midterm Exam = 30 %
- Final Exam = 35%
- Lecture Attendance/Class Participation= 5%
- Chapter Assignments—course total = 10%

PLEASE NOTE: In order to preserve an evaluation system that is fair to ALL students, requests for additional/substitute work will NOT be granted to students wishing to compensate for poor grades on assignments, quizzes, midterm exam or final exam.

EVALUATIONS (CONTINUED):

- **Quizzes:** There will be four in-class quizzes based on material covered in the textbook as well as the lectures. These are closed-book exams, each in multiple-choice format. (Do not confuse these quizzes with the Chapter Assignments (described on the next page). Each quiz is worth 5%, for a course total of 20%. **The dates of the quizzes are posted on page 4. Please refer to page 5 of this course outline for information on missed quizzes.**
- **Midterm and Final Exams:** The midterm and final exams will be based on material covered in both the textbook and lectures. They will be closed-book exams. **THE FINAL EXAM WILL NOT BE CUMULATIVE.** The midterm is worth 30% and the final exam is worth 35%. The date of the midterm is posted on page 4 of this outline. The final exam date is to be determined by Student Services (note that the final exam period is from December 13 and 20, inclusive). *Please refer to page 5 of this outline for information on missing the midterm exam or final exam.*
 - **Activities such as holidays or employment are not considered excusable reasons for missing any exam. Students who chose to miss an exam for employment, holiday, or other unexcused reasons may receive a "0" on the exam.**
- **Participation/Attendance/Online Discussions:** Student input during lectures is enthusiastically welcomed and strongly encouraged. There are a variety of ways that students can participate, such as asking relevant questions and/or making insightful comments during the lectures. Attendance will be taken every class and 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.

- **Chapter Assignments.** There will be 8 multiple-choice chapter assignments, each comprised of questions taken from the textbook material. These are open-book assignments to be completed out of class. 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 *myClass* (under the Chapter Assignments widget). You will answer the questions of each assignment by clicking the relevant link. Deadlines for each assignment are noted in 3 ways: this course outline (page 4), the PDF Chapter Assignment booklet posted on *myClass*, as well as on the assignment links found on *myClass*. **Please write these deadlines on your calendar; it is your responsibility to know the deadline of each assignment.** **Note: The assignments are generally due before I cover the material in class as they are designed to help prepare you for the lectures.** Also, note that *myClass* refers to these assignments as "Quizzes"; the assignments are also accessible by clicking "Quizzes" on the blue banner at the top of the *myClass* page.

GRADING CRITERION

Reminder: Grades of D or D+ may not be accepted for transfer to most other post-secondary institutions. In other words, most institutions will not accept your course for transfer credit **if your grade is less than C-**. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	90-94	C	2.0	63-66
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

Note: The grading criterion outlined in the NWP calendar is a guideline and may vary from class to class. The grading criterion described above is an adjustment of the one outlined in the NWP calendar (specifically for grades ranging from B- to A+).

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE

	TOPIC	REQUIRED READINGS	*myClass Chapter Assignment Deadline 11:59 P.M.
SEPT 3	Course Overview	-	
SEPT 5/10/12	Introduction to Psychology	Chapter 1	SEPT 9
SEPT 17/19/24	Research Methods in Psychology	Chapter 2	SEPT 16
SEPT 26	QUIZ 1 (CHPTS 1 & 2)		
SEPT 26, OCT 1/3/8	Biopsychology	Chapter 3	SEPT 30
OCT 15/17/22/24	States of Consciousness	Chapter 4	OCT 14
OCT 24	QUIZ 2 (CHPTS 3 & 4)		
OCT 29	MIDTERM (CHPTS 1 TO 4)		
OCT 31, NOV 5/7	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 5	OCT 30
NOV 7/19/21	Learning	Chapter 6	NOV 6
NOV 26	QUIZ 3 (CHPTS 5 & 6)		
NOV 26/28, DEC 3	Thinking & Intelligence	Chapter 7	NOV 27
DEC 3/5/10	Memory	Chapter 8	DEC 2
DEC 10	QUIZ 4 (CHPTS 7 & 8)		
**BETWEEN DEC 13-20	FINAL EXAM (CHPTS 5 TO 8)		

* The deadlines listed above are the dates when the *myClass* assignments will be closed (at 11:59 p.m.—i.e., one minute before midnight). The assignments will NOT be reopened after the deadlines have passed. **Reminder: The assignments are generally due BEFORE I cover the material in class as they are designed to help prepare you for the lectures.**

**The date of the final exam will be set by Student Services during the final exam period (December 13 to 20, inclusive). The final exam will not be scheduled early for students who plan their holidays or other activities during the final exam period.



STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. **TALK TO ME IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS OR IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTIES THAT MAY HAVE A 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), issues with learning and issues writing exams. Please know that I will keep your concerns confidential.

ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES/EXAM ACCOMMODATIONS: Exam accommodations may be requested by students whose learning disabilities affect processing and comprehending printed material, learning, and/or concentration (either due to the condition itself, or the effects of the medication which is used to treat the condition). Accommodation can also be sought by students with conditions that include, but are not limited to, mental health conditions, chronic illness, neurological disorders, visual disabilities, and motor disabilities.

To determine whether you qualify for exam accommodations, you must book an appointment with an advisor at Accessibility Services. **NOTE: They will request documentation supporting your need for exam accommodation.** If you are approved, an advisor will inform me. Moving forward, I send the exams to Accessibility Services and adjust the exam according to their

recommendations (e.g., extended writing time). **Therefore, if you are accepted for exam accommodations, you will write your exams with Accessibility Services, not ProctorU.**

NOTE: YOU MUST SCHEDULE EACH EXAM NO LESS THAN 5 BUSINESS DAYS BEFORE EACH EXAM; THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE YOU IF YOU MISS THEIR 5-DAY DEADLINE. For more information, check <https://libguides.nwpolytech.ca/learningcommons/AccessibilityServices>

2. RESPECTFUL BEHAVIOR

Students are expected to exhibit respectful behavior toward the instructor, guest speakers, and other students. We will discuss 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. 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 NWP calendar for more information regarding student conduct. It is also expected that students arrive to class on time and stay in class; arriving late and leaving/returning is disruptive to the class.

CELL PHONE USAGE DURING CLASS TIME IS NOT ALLOWED. This activity is not only distracting to you, but negatively impacts other students. Computers/other electronic devices (e.g., iPads) may be used only for note-taking. Students who use electronic devices for reasons other than note-taking will be asked to put their devices away.

3. ATTEND CLASS AT THE SCHEDULED CLASS TIMES:

Students are expected to attend lectures at the scheduled class times. Attendance will be taken every class and may be taken more than once each class.

Missed Lecture Material: Although notes are available on *myClass*, they are not complete; attendance is required to get full lecture information. If you miss a class, 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 5 of this course outline. Missed quizzes will generally *not* be rescheduled. If you miss a quiz due to verified illness, dentistry, accident, emergency, or NWP obligations (e.g., you are away due to the requirements of another course, athletics) the weight of the quiz will be transferred; the weight of Quiz 1 or 2 will be transferred to the midterm exam, the weight of 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 be assigned a "0".

According to NWP 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 midterm. Students who miss the midterm without explanation will receive a "0" on the midterm. Absences from a registrar-

scheduled Final Exam fall under NWP 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.

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., chapter assignments deadlines are on page 5 of this 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—*myClass* chapter assignments can be 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, PowerPoint lecture slides, and handouts. Although the instructor feels that all the material in the textbook 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 ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

Sept 12 Last day to add courses or drop courses for a full refund (in most programs)
Last day to pay Fall semester fees (except for students on an approved payment plan) Last day to opt-out of Student Health/Dental Plan

Sept 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation—No Class

Oct 13 Thanksgiving Day—No Class

Nov 10–14 Fall Break (GP)—No Classes

Nov 28 Last day to withdraw from classes (most programs) with a "W"

Dec 11 Last day of classes in Fall semester for most programs

Dec 13–20 Final exam period of Fall semester for most programs

