

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2026

PY1040 (E2): 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:	Dr. Ali M. AL-Asadi	PHONE:	780-539-2061
OFFICE:	C-311B	E-MAIL:	aalasadi@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	By appointments		

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. (2024). Principles of Psychology. Open-source textbook. Chapters of the textbook are posted on this course's D2L site at: <https://myclass.nwpolytech.ca/d2l/home>
- Additional option: you may also acquire a free copy of the OpenStax textbook titled Psychology (2nd Edition) by Spielman, R. M., Jenkins, W. J., and Lovett, M. D. (2025) for extra resources (<http://cnx.org/content/col31502/1.4>)

DELIVERY MODE(S): On-Campus. Also, recorded lectures are posted to myClass for your convenience.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: As a result of taking this course, students will gain the ability 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 of 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:

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

<https://transferalberta.alberta.ca/transfer-alberta-search/#/searchTypeStep>

**** For courses with alpha (letter) grading, a 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:

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 your textbook may not cover.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most institutions 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

Note: *This grading criterion is specific to this course and differs from the general criteria.

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Please note that the dates and the sequence of chapters are tentative and may change.

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	Test1 Chapter 3: Evolutionary Psychology & Biological Basis of Behaviour (Brain & Behaviour)	E1 25%: Ch 1, 2
Week 5	Chapter 4: Alternate States of Consciousness	
Week 6	Test 2 Chapter 5: Sensation & Perception	E2 25%: Ch 3 & 4
Week 7	Chapter 5: Sensation & Perception	
Week 8	Chapter 6: Learning & Behaviour Analysis	
Week 9	Test 3 Chapter 7: Memory	E3 25%: Ch 5 & 6
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	Discussion and Review	E4 25% Ch 7 & 8

Final Exam		Final Exams are Scheduled by the Registrar's Office
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STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Each class's assigned readings and exercises should be completed before attending that class. As this course relies heavily on discussion and illustrations, attendance at all sessions is crucial to the student's success in the course. In the event of illness or an emergency, please notify the instructor promptly. If you experience any difficulties in this course, please do not hesitate to contact me for assistance. Please let me know if you would like to discuss any aspect of the course or your aspirations.

You are accountable for delivered lectures, assigned readings, and any announcements that will occasionally be made in class. If you are unable to attend a particular class, it is your responsibility to find out what was missed. For optimal learning and readiness for class participation, you are expected to attend class regularly (with a minimum attendance rate of 80%) and read the assigned chapters/topics before coming to class on the dates indicated in the timetable. Past course records show that class attendance is highly correlated with the final grade in the course.

If you anticipate being unable to take a test or exam at the scheduled time due to illness or an emergency, please notify me immediately, preferably at least one day in advance. Please talk to me in person or via e-mail (aalasadi@nwpolytech.ca) to arrange an alternative date to write the test, if feasible. Failure to notify the instructor will result in a grade of zero for the missed tests unless proof is presented that you were physically or mentally unable to do so due to a sudden illness, emergency, or unavoidable circumstances beyond the student's control.

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

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/polytechnic-leadership/policies-directory>.

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

Additional Information

MOST IMPORTANT: 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.

Cell phones, tablets, notebooks, laptops, and other electronic devices are strictly forbidden in my classes and exams. Also, I use plagiarism and AI detection software for all written assignments and essays.

In Addition:

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 every chapter and the assigned reading (if any) and attend all lectures.
5. Lectures will not always cover the reading materials. Lectures may cover topics and include information that is not covered by your reading materials. Therefore, it is imperative that you attend every class, as your exams may include materials from the lectures that are not covered by the reading materials.
6. Students are expected to 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 if you are experiencing difficulties that may have a negative impact on your academic performance.

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

Please keep this course information sheet for future reference.