

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2022

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@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. (2022). 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 (2nd 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 and Discussions

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 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 <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	23%
Exam 2 Chapters 3 & 4	23%
Exam 3 Chapters 5 & 6	23%

Final Exam Chapters 7 & 8 23%

Attendance and Participation 8%

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

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

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

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	Test 1 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 Final Exam	Discussion and Review	E4 25% Ch 7 & 8 Final Exams are Scheduled by the Registrar's Office

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Each class's assigned readings and exercises should be completed before attending that class, except for the first class. As this course depends heavily on discussion and, at times, practice 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 have difficulty in this course, please contact me immediately for assistance. If you simply want more discussion about any aspect of the course, please visit my office during office hours or at a more convenient pre-arranged time.

You are accountable for delivered lectures, assigned readings, and any announcements that will be made in class from time to time. 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 (no less than 80% attendance) and to read the assigned chapters/topics before coming to class on the dates indicated on the timetable, except, of course, for the first session. Past course records show that class attendance is highly correlated with the final grade in the course.

If you foresee that you will be unable to write a test or exam at the scheduled time due to illness or emergency, you should notify me immediately, preferably one day in advance. A message may be left on my voice mail (780-539-2061) or e-mail (aalasadi@gprc.ab.ca) together with a phone number where you 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 you were physically or mentally unable to do so due to a sudden illness or 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 your fellow students and the instructor, attention to fellow students' questions and instructor's response, determination to achieve first-class work while meeting deadlines, and constructive response to criticism.

Please keep this course information sheet for future reference.

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 Student Conduct section of the Northwestern Polytechnic Calendar at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/programs/calendar/> or the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy which can be found at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

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.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>

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 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.