



**DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION**

**COURSE OUTLINE—WINTER 2016**

**PY1040 (H3) BASIC PSYCHOLOGICAL PROCESSES - 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Connie Korpan      **PHONE:** Office (780) 539-2032  
**OFFICE:** C-312      **E-MAIL:** [ckorpan@gprc.ab.ca](mailto:ckorpan@gprc.ab.ca)  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesdays 1:00-2:00 and Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. or by appointment

**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* (2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Edition)

**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.

**CREDIT/CONTACT HOURS:** 3 credits / 3 hours per week

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** This course includes lectures, class discussions and take-home exercises. This section is delivered face-to-face and via videoconference.

**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:**

- Athabasca University: PSYC 289 (3)
- Canadian University College: PSYC 1xx (3)
- Concordia University College of Alberta: PSY 104 (3)
- MacEwan University: PSYC 104 (3)
- King's University College, The: PSYC 250 (3)
- Lethbridge College PSY1160 (3)
- University of Alberta: PSYCO 104 (3) OR AUPSY 101 (3)
- University of Calgary: PSYC 200
- University of Lethbridge: PSYC 1000 (3)

Students receiving grades of D or D+ will receive GPRC credit. These grades may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions, however. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact their receiving institution to ensure transferability. In Alberta, this course transfers as follows.

**GRADING CRITERIA:**

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

## 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%. Please refer to page 5 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 page 6 of this outline for more information on missing the midterm or final exam.
  3. **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.**
  4. **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. Deadlines for each assignment will be announced in class and indicated on Moodle.

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:



### **1. CELLPHONES, COMPUTERS/TABLETS ETC. ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THIS CLASS NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**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.**

**Computers are not allowed, except for those with special needs who require it for note taking purposes. You need to clear the use of computers with me first. Computers will be disallowed completely for students who are found to be using their computer during the lecture for out-of-class activities.**

If you have problems meeting these expectations, I will be happy to assist you.

Bottom line—you are expected to pay attention in class, whether it be attending to me while I am lecturing/answering student questions, or to another student who is speaking to the class.

### **2. LECTURE ATTENDANCE/ABSENCES**

**COME ON TIME AND STAY IN CLASS**; deal with eating/drinking/bathroom needs before or after class. Classes are only 80 minutes long, so this expectation should be easy to manage; if you have a medical condition that challenges this expectation, please let me know. Arriving late and leaving during class is EXTREMELY DISTRACTING. **Students are not allowed to leave class during any exam.**

Students are held accountable for all lecture materials and readings. It is your responsibility to keep up with class work. Therefore, you are expected to attend all lectures. Attendance will be taken every class.

**If you are absent from a class, all missed material is to be obtained by approaching a fellow student, not the instructor. It would be very unfair for students who miss lectures to be advantaged by getting the instructor's notes.** Typically, the quality of note-taking by students is quite variable. Therefore, if you miss a lecture and need to rely on another student as a source for the missed lecture material, it is advised that you **pick your sources very carefully.**

If you are missing a class for excusable reasons (e.g., illness, appointment) and wish to avoid having your attendance/participation grade docked, please email me at [ckorpan@gprc.ab.ca](mailto:ckorpan@gprc.ab.ca).

Write **“Absence from PY1040 Class”** in the subject box and provide your explanation in the email. Please be aware that I may ask for documentation.

### **3. Other Responsibilities**

You are also 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 text.** You are responsible for learning textbook material (assigned chapters only) that is not discussed in class. Please feel free to approach me outside of class if you wish to get clarification on this material.

### **Missed Quizzes/Exams**

Dates for the quizzes and midterm are included on page 8 of this course outline. **Quizzes that are missed for any reason will not be rescheduled.** If a student misses 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 to the midterm (Quizzes 1/2) or final exam (Quizzes 3/4).** If a student misses a quiz for reasons that do not include verified illness, dentistry, accident, or emergency, then a “0” (zero) will be assigned to that quiz. Holidays, employment, etc. are not considered to be excusable reasons to miss any exam in this course. Missing a quiz without explanation from the student will result in a “0” on that quiz.

**Students who miss a midterm because of illness, dentistry, accident, or emergency (verified) must write the midterm at another date** (set by me—I will chose a date that is mutually convenient). I will **NOT** transfer the weight of the midterm to the final, as this practice will not allow me to adequately assess student learning of the first half of the course. 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 the final exam is missed 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.**

### **Student Conduct**



**It is expected that all students will display respectful attitude and behaviours** in the classroom. This includes coming to class on time and leaving without disruption to others. Also expected is attention to the instructor and fellow students during discussions of topics relevant to the course. Disrespect will not be tolerated. Examples of disrespectful behaviour include talking while the instructor or fellow students are discussing course material, making rude, destructive comments, reading the newspaper, putting your feet up on the desk, putting your head down on the desk for a nap, and so on. Also, unless you are awaiting a call about something of a very very very very serious nature, **TURN OFF YOUR CELLPHONE.** Phones that ring during lectures cause a lot of distraction. Furthermore, people answering these calls during class cause even more distraction. Loving to listen to music is wonderful, but **LISTEN TO YOUR MUSIC OUTSIDE OF CLASS.** Instructors and other students can often hear the music which creates a distraction. Furthermore, such behaviour is disrespectful to instructors. **AS STATED EARLIER, TEXTING, FACEBOOKING, PLAYING COMPUTER GAMES, CHECKING EMAILS, DOING ASSIGNMENTS FOR THIS COURSE AND OTHER COURSES, ETC. DURING CLASSTIME ARE NOT ALLOWED.** These types of expectations are based on common sense—you cannot learn the course material while engaging in these activities. Furthermore, research indicates that those around you are negatively affected by such activities. Finally, such activities are blatantly disrespectful. **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 pages 42-43 of the calendar for more information regarding the conduct expected of students

### **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 College Admission Guide at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/>

Or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>

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

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.

#### **COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:**

	TOPIC	REQUIRED READINGS
Jan 12	Course Outline, True False Questions	-
Jan 12	What is psychology?	Chapter 1
Jan 19	Research Methods in Psychology/Stats	Chapter 2 & 3
Jan 26	NO CLASS-H.S. Final Exam Week	
Feb 2	Research Methods in Psychology/Stats	Chapter 2 & 3
Feb 9	QUIZ 1 (CHPTS 1 & 2, 3)	
Feb 9	Evolutionary Psychology	Chapter 4
Feb 16	NO CLASS-Reading Week	
Feb 23/Mar 1	The Biological Bases of Behaviour	Chapter 5
Mar 1	QUIZ 2 (CHPTS 4 & 5)	
Mar 8	MIDTERM (CHPTS 1 TO 5)	
Mar 8/Mar 15	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 6
Mar 22	Mind, Consciousness, Altered States	Chapter 7
Mar 29	NO CLASS-Spring Break	
April 5	QUIZ 3 (CHPTS 6 & 7)	
April 5/12	Learning and Behavioural Analyses	Chapter 8
April 12/19	Memory	Chapter 9
April 19	Cognition	Chapter 10
April 19	QUIZ 4 (CHPTS 8, 9, 10)	
April 26	FINAL EXAM (CHPTS 6 to 10)	

#### **OTHER IMPORTANT DATES**

Jan 13	Last day to add courses (UT)
Jan 26*	H.S. Final Exams-No PY1040 H3 class
Feb 15-19	Winter Break—no classes
Mar 7	Last day to withdraw classes with a “W”
Mar 25	Good Friday-No classes



Mar 29          Spring Break-No PY1040 H3 class

\* Classes will not be held on Jan 26 to enable high school students to study for their high school final exams.

\*\* Class will not be held March 29 due to Spring Break

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

**Student Rights and Responsibilities:** Please refer to the following link:

[https://www.gprc.ab.ca/files/forms\\_documents/StudentRightsandResponsibilities.pdf](https://www.gprc.ab.ca/files/forms_documents/StudentRightsandResponsibilities.pdf)

**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.

**Student Printing Policy:** Students wishing to print off course materials should refer to the policy at the following link <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/files/policies/admin/StudentPrintingPolicy.pdf>