

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
PSYCHOLOGY 1040 (PY 1040)
BASIC PSYCHOLOGICAL PROCESSES
COURSE OUTLINE

Fall Semester, 1999-2000

INSTRUCTOR : **DR. KENDEL TANG**
OFFICE NO. : **C427**
OFFICE PHONE NO. : **539 - 2867**
OFFICE HOURS : **10:00 - 11:30 AM, M & W or by appointment**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Basic Psychological Processes (PY 1040) is a general introductory course in psychology. It is designed to familiarize students with the terminology, concepts, principles, research approaches, and ethics of the science of behaviour and mental processes. Specifically, this course will examine the relationship between behaviour and brain processes, the nature and operational complexities of sensation, perception, consciousness, learning, memory, cognition, emotion, motivation, and language.

This course will analyze the results of empirical studies that attempt to describe, explain, predict, and control or influence behaviour with the ultimate goal of understanding human beings and enhancing their total (physical and psychological) functioning. Emphasis will also be placed on how psychologists and other related professionals approach the study of basic psychological processes. Students will also be encouraged to look for applications of psychological principles to daily life and the importance of psychology to future occupational endeavour.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course is intended to help students achieve the following objectives:

1. To acquire an adequate understanding of the relationship between various brain processes and behaviour as well as the methods used to study brain functioning
2. To analyze the psychological processes of sensation, perception, consciousness, learning, memory, emotion, and motivation
3. To understand the structure and function of language and the relationship between thought and language as well as to develop the ability to think critically and constructively
4. To assume greater responsibility for one's own learning through active involvement in class activities and course assignments
5. To develop an appreciation for the complexity of human behaviour and its basic underlying psychological processes
6. To demonstrate some applications of empirically established psychological principles to daily life,

TEXT

Kassin, S. (1998). Psychology (2nd ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc.
(Use of the accompanying Study Guide by Pamela Regan is highly recommended.)

GRADING SYSTEM

<u>SCALE</u>	<u>TRANSLATION</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE % EQUIVALENT</u>
9		90 - 100
8	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>80 - 89</u>
7		72 - 79
6	<u>Good</u>	<u>65 - 71</u>
5		57 - 64
4	<u>Pass</u>	<u>50 - 56</u>
3	<u>Failure</u>	<u>45 - 49</u>
2	Failure	26 - 44
1	Failure	0 - 25

Marks in the course will be weighted as follows:

Average of chapter tests	30%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	35%
Class Involvement (based on degree of participation in class discussions, asking questions and other learning activities)	5%
* Written Project (no longer than four typewritten pages, double-spaced)	<u>5%</u>
Total:	100%

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

Students will be held accountable for lectures delivered, readings assigned, and for any announcements that will be made in class. If a student is unable to attend a particular class, it will be his/her responsibility to find out what was missed. For optimal learning and readiness for class participation, students are expected to attend class regularly (no less than 80% attendance) and should read the assigned chapters before coming to class on the dates indicated on the timetable, except for the first session. Past class records show that very rarely can a grade of 8 be obtained by a student with less than 80% class attendance. Similarly, a grade of 5 can be rarely obtained by a student with less than 50% class attendance.

Due to limited class time, not everything in the assigned chapter readings can be discussed in class. Students are responsible for ensuring that they understand the contents of the assigned chapters by further discussing the material with the instructor and/or with fellow students outside of class time. Tests and exams will cover information presented in the lectures (which may or may not be found in the textbook) and/or material discussed in the textbook (which may or may not be covered in the lectures). This is intended to develop independent learning which is expected of mature learners. Students are strongly encouraged to seek clarification of facts, concepts and principles that they find difficult to comprehend by asking the instructor even outside of class time.

If a student foresees that he/she will be unable to write an exam or a test at a scheduled time due to illness or an emergency, the student should notify the instructor immediately, preferably one day in advance. A message may be left on the instructor's answering machine (539 - 2867) together with the 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. If a student is unable to write the final exam at the scheduled time because of illness or an emergency, he/she should notify the instructor immediately and submit an application to the Registrar's office for permission to write a deferred exam. (See the College calendar about deferred exams.) Students are strongly advised against making any plans that will prevent them from writing tests or exams on the scheduled dates.

Students are cordially invited to see the instructor after class either in his office or the hallway to talk about any concerns or to simply discuss further the course material. Appointments may be arranged outside of posted office hours. No appointment is necessary to see the instructor during the office hours indicated in this course outline.

Please keep this course outline for future reference.

Record of Test Marks

Test 1 _____	Test 2 _____	Test 3 _____
Midterm Exam _____	Final Exam _____	

- * This project consists of at least two applications of psychological principles in daily life. The observed behaviour, past or present, one's own or someone else's, should be described and then explained as to why it occurred using relevant psychological or learning principles discussed in the course. If space permits, prediction and control of the observed behaviour may be included in the paper. In other words, state how one can tell or state under what conditions the observed behaviour is more likely to occur again and how one can control or modify the behaviour.

TIMETABLE
PY 1040
Fall Semester, 1999-2000

<u>DATES</u>	<u>TOPICS</u>	<u>TESTS, EXAMS, AND PROJECT</u>
Sept. 9 - 17	Chapter 1: Introducing Psychology and Its Methods Appendix : Statistics in Psychological Research	
20 - 24	Chapter 2: Behavioral Neuroscience	Test 1: Sept. 28 (Tue.) (Ch. 1 - 2 & the Appendix)
30 - Oct. 5	Chapter 3: Sensation and Perception	
Oct. 7- 15	Chapter 4: Consciousness	Midterm Exam: Oct. 19 (Tue.) (Ch. 1 - 4 & the Appendix)
Oct. 21 - 29	Chapter 5: Learning	
Nov. 2 - 5	Chapter 6: Memory	
		Test 2 Nov. 9 (Tue.) (Ch. 5 - 6)
17 - 23	Chapter 7: Thought and Language	
Nov. 25 - 30	Chapter 8: Motivation	
Dec. 7 - 10	Chapter 9: Emotion	Test 3: Dec. 2 (Thur.) (Ch. 7 - 8)
Dec. 13 - 21	Final Exam Period	Project Due: Dec. 7 (Tue.)
		Final Exam: Date to be announced by the Registrar's Office

**Note: The final exam will include all assigned chapters and lecture materials.
This timetable is subject to change. Future changes to this timetable will
be announced in class.**