GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE <u>PSYCHOLOGY 1040 (PY1040)</u> BASIC PSYCHOLOGICAL PROCESSES

Winter Semester, 1999 - 2000

Instructor :

Dr. Kendel Tang

Office Number:

C427

Office Phone No.: 539-2867

Office Hours :

10:00 - 11:00 a.m., MWF, or by appointment

Course Description

Basic Psychological Processes (PY1040) 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 brain processes and behaviour, 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 functioning (physical and psychological). Emphasis will also be placed on learning how psychologists and other related professionals approach the study of psychology. Students will be encouraged to look for applications of psychological principles and theories to daily life and their importance to future occupational endeavour.

Course Objectives:

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

 To acquire an adequate understanding of the methods and sub-fields of psychology and the relationship between various brain processes and behaviour.

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.

 To analyze the psychological processes of sensation, perception, consciousness, learning, memory, cognition, emotion, and motivation.

 To assume greater responsibility for one's own learning through active involvement in class activities and course assignments.

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 living.

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:

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

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 oral and written question	
and other learning activities)	5%
Typewritten Project	5%
Total:	100%

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

Students will be held accountable for lectures delivered 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 should attend class regularly (no less than 80% attendance) and should read the assigned chapter in the course outline before coming to class on the dates indicated on the timetable, except obviously 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 rarely be 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 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, principles, and theories that they find difficult to comprehend by asking the instructor in class or outside of class, orally or in writing. Emailed questions are welcome as long as they do not require lengthy answers. Otherwise, a face-to-face or telephone interaction is highly recommended.

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 in the instructor's voice mail or at his email address (tang@gprc.ab.ca) together with the phone number or email address where the student may be reached to arrange for an alternative date to write the test. A doctor's note or any verifiable proof of illness or emergency (e.g., a note from a nurse or any person in a position of authority or trust) will be required to write a test that was missed. If the student is unable to write the final exam at the scheduled time, he/she should notify the instructor in advance and submit an application to the Registrar's office for permission to write a deferred exam (see the College calendar about the policy on deferred exams).

Lastly, students are strongly advised against making any plans that will prevent them from writing tests and exams, especially the final exam, which are scheduled in the course outline.

Students are cordially invited to see the instructor after class either in the hallway, the cafeteria, or in his office to talk about any concerns or to simply further discuss the course material. Appointments may be arranged outside of posted office hours.

Please keep this course informatio course.	n sheet for future reference.	This is a kind of contract for the
Student's Record of Test Marks:	Test 1	Test 2
	Midterm Exam	Final Exam

TIMETABLE - PY1040, Winter Semester, 1999 - 2000

<u>Dates</u>	Topics	Tests, Exams, and Project
Jan 3 + 13	Introducing Psychology and Its methods (Appendix : Statistics in Psychological Res	
17 - 25	Behavioral Neuroscience (ch.2)	
nowing or here are	933 17	Test 1: Jan. 26 (ch. 1-2 & the Appendix)
31 - Feb 3	Sensation and Perception (ch. 3)	0.550.000
Feb 7 - 15	Consciousness (ch.4)	
	A STATE OF A RESERVANCE OF A STATE OF A STAT	Midterm Exam: Feb. 16 (ch. 1-4 & the Appendix)
Feb 21 - 25	Winter Break	(cir. 144 ce the Appendix)
Feb 28 - Mar 2	Learning (ch. 5)	
Mar 6 - 9	Memory (ch. 6)	
	and the second s	Test 2: Mar. 13 (ch. 5 - 6)
15 - 21	Thought and Language (ch. 7)	165(2), (viai, 15 (cli. 5 - 0)
22 - 28	Motivation (ch. 8)	
		Test 3: Mar. 29 (ch. 7 - 8)
Apr 3 - 13	Emotion (ch. 9)	Project Due: April 5
14 - 26	Final Exam Period	Final Exam:
	Date to be announced by the Registrar's Office	
		Final Exam Content: Ch. 1 - 9

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 in consultation with students present.

*The written project consists of at least two applications of psychological or learning principles in daily life. The observed human or animal behaviour should exemplify the principles or theories discussed in class. The behaviour may be one's own or someone else's and it may be a past or presently occurring behaviour. It should be accurately described and then explained as to why it occurred or is occurring using relevant psychological and learning principles learned in class or from the textbook. If space permits in the paper, how the observed behaviour can be predicted or controlled or modified, again using principles of learning, may be included. In other words, state how one can predict when and under what conditions the behaviour will likely occur again and how one can control, change, or modify it. Remember to limit your discussion to four typewritten pages (double spaced). Cite the page number in the textbook that contains the principle on which you base your explanation for the behaviour (e.g., Kassin, 1998, p. 177). Use side headings in you paper to separate the description from the explanation of the behaviour. For example, use "Description of the Behaviour" as one side heading and "Explanation of the Behaviour" as another side heading. For more information, ask the instructor.