



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2020

PY1040 (B3): Basic Psychological Processes– 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Katharine Stabb, **PHONE:** 780-539-2772
R.Psych.
OFFICE: H-121 **E-MAIL:** kstabb@gprc.ab.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Fridays 2:00pm-4:00pm, or by appointment

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. (2019). Principles of Psychology. Open-Sourced textbook. Chapters of the textbook are posted on this course Moodle site at: <https://moodle.gprc.ab.ca/>

DELIVERY MODE(S): Lectures, Class Discussion, Video Conference

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 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:

A list of institutions to which this course transfers (For example: UA, UC, UL, AU, GMU, CU, CUC, KUC. Please note that this is a sample and it must be replaced by your specific course transfer)

***Warning:** Although we strive to make the transferability information in this document up-to-date and accurate, **the student has the final responsibility for ensuring the transferability of this course to Alberta Colleges and Universities.** Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca> or, if you do not want to navigate through few links, at <http://alis.alberta.ca/ps/tsp/ta/tbi/onlineSearch.html?SearchMode=S&step=2>

**** 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	23%
Exam 2	Chapters	23%
Exam 3	Chapters	23%
Final Exam	Chapters	31%

Note: All exams may include questions from lecture discussion that may not be covered by your textbook.

GRADING CRITERIA: (The following criteria may be changed to suite the particular course/instructor)

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	90-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-89	C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72	F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Week	Topic(s)	Additional Information
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 23%: Chapters 1, 2
Week 5	Chapter 4: Altered States of Consciousness	
Week 6	Test 2 Chapter 5: Sensation & Perception	E2 23%: Chapters 3, 4
Week 7	Chapter 5: Sensation & Perception	
Week 8	Chapter 6: Learning & Behaviour Analysis	
Week 9	Test 3 Chapter 7: Memory	E3 23%: 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	
Week 15	Final Exam	Final Exam 31% Chapters 7, 8 *Final Exams are scheduled by the Registrar's Office

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Students are responsible to complete assigned readings prior to attending that class, except for the first class. As this course will depend heavily on in-class discussion, it is the student's responsibility to attend each class in order to have all information that may be included on exams.

If a student is having difficulty in this course or simply wants to discuss any aspect of the course with the instructor, please contact the instructor using the contact information listed above or visit during office hours.

If a student is unable to attend a midterm or final exam, the instructor must be advised before the test is administered. Voicemail or e-mail notification is acceptable. The test will usually then be written at a later time at the testing centre or pre-arranged location. Documentation may be required to validate/support the reason for the absence. Failure to notify the instructor of an absence prior to test administration, or failure to provide supporting documentation will result in a grade of 0 on that test/quiz.

It is expected that all students will display professional attitudes and behaviours in the classroom. This includes reliability, respect for and cooperation with your fellow students and the instructor, attention to fellow student questions and instructor's response, determination to achieve first-class work while meeting deadlines, and constructive response to criticism.

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 Calendar at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies>

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

Additional Information:

1. Dr. Stabb is a psychologist who works at GPRC in the Student Mental Health department. In accordance with the College of Alberta Psychologists professional ethics and standards of practice, every effort will be made to avoid dual relationships. **Therefore, for the duration of this course, Dr. Stabb will be unable to see any student of this class for personal counselling. If you are looking for professional personal counselling, please access MySSP program at <http://www.mystudentsupport.com/softLogin.html>. This program is free for**

GPRC students and provides access to mental health professionals for immediate or ongoing counselling support 24/7.

2. The format of each exam will be discussed in class.
3. Exam grades are final. There is no substitute work for low exam grades.
4. It is expected that students display professional attitudes and behaviours in accordance with the Student Conduct section of the College Calendar, and the not in violation of the College Policy on Student Misconduct. Any violation may result in dismissal from class. See policies here: <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies>