

# COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: PSYC-130-Contemporary Issues

CLASS SECTION:

TERM: 2024F

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): Asynchronous Online

Camosun College respectfully acknowledges that our campuses are situated on the territories of the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Kosapsum) and WSÁNEĆ peoples. We honour their knowledge and welcome to all students who seek education here.

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## INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

**NAME:** Dr. Randal Tonks  
**EMAIL:** tonks@camosun.ca  
**OFFICE:** Ewing 240  
**HOURS:** online through Zoom upon request

*As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.*

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## CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course acquaints students with major contemporary issues in psychology and considers their historical antecedents. Topics include the application of psychological knowledge on life span development, personality, abnormal behaviour, social cognition, social influence, and social relations to a variety of contemporary social issues. Topics vary with instructor and changing problems.

## PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

- C in English 12
- C in Camosun Alternative

## CO-REQUISITE(S):

See Pre-requisites

## EXCLUSION(S):

Not Applicable

#### COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course a student will be able to:

Describe major contemporary issues in psychology and explain their historical antecedents.

Apply psychological theories and understanding of current psychological issues to personal experience.

Conduct impartial studies of psychological topics and arrive at logical inferences and conclusions from collected data.

#### REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

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##### **Course Text:**

There is a free online ebook - Introduction to Psychology: 1st Canadian edition by C. Stangor & J. Waling - available inside d2l and through BC Campus Open learning.

#### COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

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The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

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WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	Readings
1	Introduction to the course	Ch 1
2	The story of Psychology	Ch 2 (browse Ch 3)
3	Intelligence	Ch 10
4	Development	Ch 7
5	Personality	Ch 12
6	Social	Ch 15
7	Review	
8	Midterm Exam	D2L
9	Motivation	Ch 11 (pp.446-459)

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	Readings
10	Emotions	Ch 11 (pp. 411-425)
11	Health & Stress	Ch 16 & Ch11 (pp. 426-438)
12	Disorders	Ch 13
13	Therapies	Ch 14
14	Review	
Exam week	Final Exam	D2L

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced noticed is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](#).

<https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams>

#### EVALUATION OF LEARNING

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DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Weekly Practice Quizzes	20
Midterm Exam	25
Final Exam	25
Weekly Activities	20
Discussion board activity	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

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This course is held entirely on D2L through the Camosun portal <http://online.camosun.ca> . This course syllabus is found inside the course shell where there is also a link to the textbook, quizzes and exams and course content.

When starting the course it is important to begin with the *Start Here* link inside content of the D2L course and follow chronologically from week 1 to the end of the course. Specific links to Activities are found there along with links to lecture notes and accompanying audio podcasts of the lectures. There are also links to the **Quizzes** and

**Activity** (Assignment) drop boxes inside D2I along with a link to the discussion board where posts for the activities will be made along with **discussion** of other student's posts.

While we will be following along with the chapters of the textbook, as indicated on the attached syllabus, the lecture topics may stray from the material covered in the weekly readings. The exams will be based upon both the readings and the lecture material.

**Evaluation:** There will be two exams: a Midterm, and a Final Exam; both of which will be based upon the material covered in the textbook and the online lectures, assigned readings, and activities. These tests will involve various multiple-choice and short answer questions and will be completed through d2I. There will be a limited amount of time for these exams, so be sure to do the practice quizzes to prepare yourself for these larger ones.

**The Midterm exam** will be on or about the date indicated on the course syllabus and the **Final exam** will be during the first week of regular exam final exam period.

There will also be several regular online practice quizzes and weekly activities as well as ongoing discussion board activity, as part of their course work.

**Online Practice Quizzes:** There will be a collection of practice quizzes found through d2I - locatable through each section of contents or through quizzes. To get marks for the quizzes you simply need to complete one per chapter, where you need to get 50% or better on each. You may take these quizzes as many times as you like, your highest score will count. If you get 50% or better on all quizzes you get the full 20% if you get 50% or better on half of the quizzes you get 10%, and so on. Passing each quiz gets you approximately 2%.

#### **Weekly Activities:**

Various at-home activities will be assigned throughout the semester. Here students will be expected to complete the activities by the posted deadline, making sure that they have been submitted to the drop box for that given activity.

The activities will follow the course lecture material and will involve students making observations, conducting interviews, providing critical thoughts, reflections, and comments on their own specific topics as well as discuss with others in the class. Most activities will involve making a posting to the discussion board as well as commenting on the postings of other students. The goal here is the both generate experience and understanding as well as to enhance the on-line learning community.

As such the **discussion board activity** will involve commenting on the activity postings of others as well as general discussion of the course materials. It is important that you make a reply to someone else's posting for each activity in order to garner these activity points. This is for an additional 10% towards your grade.

## SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

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### STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

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Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

### SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

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Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit [camosun.ca/services](https://camosun.ca/services).

Support Service	Website
Academic Advising	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/academic-advising">camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/academic-advising</a>
Accessible Learning	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning">camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning</a>
Counselling	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/health-and-wellness/counselling-centre">camosun.ca/services/health-and-wellness/counselling-centre</a>
Career Services	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/co-operative-education-and-career-services">camosun.ca/services/co-operative-education-and-career-services</a>
Financial Aid and Awards	<a href="https://camosun.ca/registration-records/financial-aid-awards">camosun.ca/registration-records/financial-aid-awards</a>
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres">camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres</a>
Indigenous Student Support	<a href="https://camosun.ca/programs-courses/iecc/indigenous-student-services">camosun.ca/programs-courses/iecc/indigenous-student-services</a>
International Student Support	<a href="https://camosun.ca/international">camosun.ca/international</a>
Learning Skills	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills">camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills</a>
Library	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/library">camosun.ca/services/library</a>
Office of Student Support	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/office-student-support">camosun.ca/services/office-student-support</a>
Ombudsperson	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/ombudsperson">camosun.ca/services/ombudsperson</a>

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Support Service	Website
Registration	<a href="https://camosun.ca/registration-records/registration">camosun.ca/registration-records/registration</a>
Technology Support	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/its">camosun.ca/services/its</a>
Writing Centre	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills">camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills</a>

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If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

## COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

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### Academic Integrity

Students are expected to comply with all College policy regarding academic integrity; which is about honest and ethical behaviour in your education journey. The following guide is designed to help you understand your responsibilities: <https://camosun.libguides.com/academicintegrity/welcome>  
Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.13.pdf> for Camosun's Academic Integrity policy and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

### Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Camosun College is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging appropriate academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a documented disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) and register as early as possible. Please visit the CAL website for more information about the process of registering with CAL, including important deadlines: <https://camosun.ca/cal>

### Academic Progress

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2023-02/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

### Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <https://camosun.ca/registration-records/tuition-fees#deadlines>.

### Grading Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

### Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

### Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal (see [Medical/Compassionate Withdrawals policy](#)). Please visit <https://camosun.ca/services/forms#medical> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

### Sexual Violence

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun's Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student's right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun's Sexualized Violence Policy: <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.9.pdf> and [camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence-support-and-education](https://camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence-support-and-education).

To contact the Office of Student Support: [oss@camosun.ca](mailto:oss@camosun.ca) or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-370-3841

### Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College's Student Misconduct Policy

at <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

### Looking for other policies?

The full suite of College policies and directives can be found here: <https://camosun.ca/about/camosun-college-policies-and-directives>

**Changes to this Syllabus:** Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.