

# COURSE SYLLABUS



**COURSE TITLE:** PSYC-130: Contemporary Issues

**CLASS SECTION:** RH08

**TERM:** 2025W

**COURSE CREDITS:** 3

**DELIVERY METHOD(S):** Face-to-Face

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here.

Learn more about Camosun's [Territorial Acknowledgement](#).

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## INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

**NAME:** Duncan McCurrach, M.Sc.

**EMAIL:** McCurrachD@camosun.bc.ca

**OFFICE:** Online

**HOURS:** By appointment. Email is the best way to contact me with questions or set up an appointment for office hours.

*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.*

## 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 behavior, 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:

1. Describe major contemporary issues in psychology and explain their historical antecedents.
2. Apply psychological theories and understanding of current psychological issues to personal experience.
3. Conduct impartial studies of psychological topics and arrive at logical inferences and conclusions from collected data.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

Walters, S. (2020). *Psychology* (1st Cdn. ed.). BCcampus. <https://psychology.pressbooks.tru.ca/>

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

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

<b>Class Dates:</b> Tuesdays 12:30pm – 1:50pm Thursdays 12:30pm – 1:50pm Fridays 12:35pm – 1:30pm	<b>Lecture Topics</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Feb. 07	Course Introduction	Course Outline
Feb. 11 & 13	Lifespan Development	Chapter 13
<b>Feb. 14</b>	<b>Pro D Day – No Class</b>	
Feb. 18, 20, & 21	Lifespan Development	Chapter 13
Feb. 25, 27, & 28	Intelligence	Chapter 9
Mar. 04, 06, & 07	Emotion and Motivation	Chapter 11
<b>Monday, Mar. 10</b>	<b>Practice Exam 1 and Assignment 1 Due by 11:59pm</b>	
<b>Tuesday, Mar. 11</b>	<b>Exam 1</b>	
Mar. 13 & 14	Stress	Chapter 12
<b>Mar. 17 to Mar. 28</b>	<b>Spring Break – No Class</b>	
Apr. 01	Stress	Chapter 12
Apr. 03, 04, 08, & 10	Social Psychology	Chapter 7
Apr. 11, 15, & 17	Personality	Chapter 14
<b>Apr. 18</b>	<b>Good Friday – No Class</b>	
<b>Monday, Apr. 21</b>	<b>Practice Exam 2 and Assignment 2 Due by 11:59pm</b>	
<b>Tuesday, Apr. 22</b>	<b>Exam 2</b>	
Apr. 24, 25, 29, May 01, & 02	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 15
May 06, 08, & 09	Treating Psychological Disorders	Chapter 16
<b>Tuesday, May 13</b>	<b>Mock Patient Interview</b>	
<b>Wednesday, May 14</b>	<b>Practice Exam 3 Due by 11:59pm</b>	
<b>Thursday, May 15</b>	<b>Exam #3</b>	

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 notice is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams). <https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams>

## EVALUATION OF LEARNING

<b>Student Evaluation</b>	<b>Percentage of Final Grade</b>	<b>Date</b>
Exam 1	25%	Mar. 04
Exam 2	25%	Apr. 22
Exam 3	20%	May 15

Practice Exams	9%	See course schedule for dates.
Assignments	15%	See course schedule for dates.
Mock Patient Interview	6%	May 13

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf) policy for more information.  
<https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf>

## COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

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### LECTURE FORMAT:

This course will consist of lectures presented to you during the scheduled class times. PowerPoint slides and lecture notes will be posted to D2L before class; however, additional content may be discussed in class. Therefore, it is important that you attend class and take further notes.

### EXAMS:

The exams will consist of 80 multiple-choice and true-or-false questions. You must write the exams during the scheduled class time in person. You must inform me before an exam if you cannot write it at the scheduled time. A make-up exam will only be scheduled if you can provide documentation for your absence. The exams will not be cumulative.

Exams	Topics Covered
Exam 1	Lifespan Development, Intelligence, and Emotion and Motivation.
Exam 2	Stress, Social Psychology, and Personality.
Exam 3	Psychological Disorders and Treating Psychological Disorders.

### PRACTICE EXAMS:

There will be three practice exams that must be completed online through D2L outside of class time. The practice exams are open-book and there is no time limit for completing the practice exams. You will be allowed two attempts for each practice exam. Each practice exam will count towards three percent of your final grade (3 x 3% = 9%). Practice exams will be due the night before each exam. See the course schedule for practice exam due dates.

Practice Exams	Topics Covered
Practice Exam 1	Lifespan Development, Intelligence, and Emotion and Motivation.
Practice Exam 2	Stress, Social Psychology, and Personality.
Practice Exam 3	Psychological Disorders and Treating Psychological Disorders.

### ASSIGNMENTS:

There will be two assignments that must be completed outside of class time and submitted through D2L. Detailed instructions regarding assignments will be posted to D2L. Assignments will require you to apply, analyze, and critically evaluate concepts discussed in lectures. Each assignment will count towards 7.5 percent of your final grade (2 x 7.5% = 15%). Assignments will be due the night before each exam. See the course schedule for assignment due dates.

### MOCK PATIENT INTERVIEW:

During the semester you will be introduced to a mock patient during class (May 13). Your task will be to ask the 'patient' questions to determine the disorder(s) you think he is presenting with and to take notes. At the end of the interview, you will then submit your determination along with a brief write up of the symptoms

presented by the mock patient that led you to that determination. The mock interview will count towards six percent of your final grade.

### SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

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Please view <https://camosun.ca/programs-courses/school-arts-science> for further information regarding the School of Arts and Science at Camosun College.

Please view <https://camosun.ca/programs-courses/find-program/psychology-associate-arts-degree> for further information regarding the Psychology Department at Camosun College.

### 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 <http://camosun.ca/students/>.

Academic Advising	<a href="http://camosun.ca/advising">http://camosun.ca/advising</a>
Accessible Learning	<a href="http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning">http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning</a>
Counselling	<a href="http://camosun.ca/counselling">http://camosun.ca/counselling</a>
Career Services	<a href="http://camosun.ca/coop">http://camosun.ca/coop</a>
Financial Aid and Awards	<a href="http://camosun.ca/financialaid">http://camosun.ca/financialaid</a>
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	<a href="http://camosun.ca/help-centres">http://camosun.ca/help-centres</a>
Indigenous Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/indigenous">http://camosun.ca/indigenous</a>
International Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/international/">http://camosun.ca/international/</a>
Learning Skills	<a href="http://camosun.ca/learningskills">http://camosun.ca/learningskills</a>
Library	<a href="http://camosun.ca/services/library/">http://camosun.ca/services/library/</a>
Office of Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/oss">http://camosun.ca/oss</a>
Ombudsperson	<a href="http://camosun.ca/ombuds">http://camosun.ca/ombuds</a>
Registration	<a href="http://camosun.ca/registration">http://camosun.ca/registration</a>
Technology Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/its">http://camosun.ca/its</a>
Writing Centre	<a href="http://camosun.ca/writing-centre">http://camosun.ca/writing-centre</a>

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

### 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 <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.