

# COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: PSYC-130: Contemporary Issues  
CLASS SECTION: RH-08 Royal Bay Secondary School  
TERM: Winter 2024  
COURSE CREDITS: 3  
DELIVERY METHOD(S): In-person

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: Carrie Kobelsky, M.Sc. (she/hers)

EMAIL: [kobelskyc@camosun.ca](mailto:kobelskyc@camosun.ca)

OFFICE: Online (Zoom via D2L)

HOURS: Tuesday after class (by request) or by appointment via email; will meet in classroom or on Zoom

WEBSITE: <https://online.camosun.ca/d2l/home/278930> (our D2L site)

- To access D2L click on 'D2L' at the top right  
Log in with C number and password, click on PSYC 130

*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

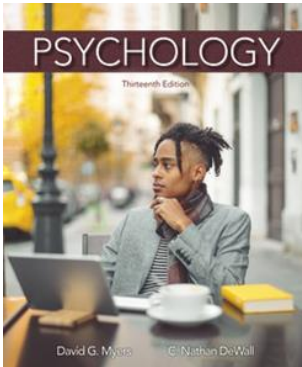
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Upon completion of this course a student will be able to:

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

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### (a) Textbook (required)

**Myers, D. G. & DeWall C. N. (2021). Psychology (13<sup>th</sup> ed.). Worth Publishers.**

You will be provided with a copy of the textbook through your classroom teacher.

### (b) Course Readings (required)

Additional course readings will be provided in PDF format on D2L for some topics.

## 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.

WEEK	DATES	ASSIGNMENTS/DEADLINES	CHAPTERS
1	Jan 29-Feb 2		Welcome/Intro Prologue (pp. 2-5; 12-13) Ch 1 (pp.22-38)
2	Feb 5-9		Ch 5 (Development)
3	Feb 12-16		Ch 5 cont'd
4	Feb 19-23	IWA #1 due Fri Feb 23 by 10PM	Ch 10 (Intelligence)
5	Feb 26-Mar 1		Motivation (see PDF on D2L)
6	Mar 4-8	IWA #2 due Fri Mar 8 by 10PM	Motivation cont'd
7	Mar 11-15	Review Quiz #1 due Thurs Mar 14 by 10PM EXAM 1 (Ch 5, 10, Motivation) Fri Mar 15	Ch 12 (Emotions, Stress, Health)
<b>SPRING BREAK</b>			
8	Apr 1-5		Ch. 12 cont'd
9	Apr 8-12		Ch 13 (Social Psychology)
10	Apr 15-19	IWA #3 due Fri Apr 19 by 10PM	Ch 13 cont'd Ch 14 (Personality)
11	Apr 22-26		Ch. 14 cont'd
12	Apr 29-May3	Review Quiz #2 due Mon Apr 29 by 10PM EXAM 2 (Ch 12, 13, 14) Tues Apr 30	Ch 15 (Psychological Disorders)
13	May 6-10	IWA #4 due Fri May 10 by 10PM	Ch 15 cont'd Ch 16 (Treatment)
14	May 13-17		Ch 16 cont'd
15	May 20-24	Review Quiz #3 due Wed May 22 by 10PM EXAM 3 (Ch 15, 16) Thurs May 23	

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](#) policy for more information.

<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

## EVALUATION OF LEARNING

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DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Exams (3 non-cumulative exams)	50%
Review Quizzes (3 review quizzes)	15%
Individual Written Assignment (IWA)	20%
Participation (best 15 of 20)	15%
	<b>TOTAL</b>
	100%

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](http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf) policy for more information.  
<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

### BREAKDOWN OF STUDENT ASSESSMENT

#### **Exams (Exam 1 – 15%; Exam 2 – 20%; Exam 3 – 15%)**

You will write three **in-class** exams. Exams are non-cumulative which means they will only cover material since the previous exam. All course material is testable (lectures, textbook chapters, supplementary materials). The format of all three exams will be multiple choice and short answer and will take place during class time.

*What to do if I miss an exam due to illness?*

Contact me ([kobelskyc@camosun.ca](mailto:kobelskyc@camosun.ca)) as soon as possible and a make-up exam will be scheduled. Please note that the make-up exam differs from the exam provided in-class.

*What to do if I require special arrangements for exams due to a disability?*

Arrangements will be made with your classroom teacher prior to exams. Please be sure to let us know if you require any accommodations.

#### **Review Quizzes (3 quizzes x 5% each) = 15% of final grade**

Quizzes will be offered before each Exam (see Course Schedule for dates) and are meant to assess your understanding of the course material. These quizzes will also help prepare you for the format of the exams. **All quizzes will be completed on your own time.** All quizzes are timed will be offered online through D2L and will consist of multiple-choice questions. After the first attempt, students will be able to determine where they have made mistakes and can re-take the quiz. The average of the two marks will become the final mark. Additional information will be provided in-class and on D2L.

*What if I have technical issues logging on or completing the quiz?*

Contact me ([kobelskyc@camosun.ca](mailto:kobelskyc@camosun.ca)) and I will work with you on a solution. Please note that it is best to attempt the quizzes at least one day prior to the due date, to allow us enough time to sort out any issues.

#### **Participation (best 15 of 20) = 15% of final grade**

Participation activities will be completed **in class**. These participation activities are intended to reinforce the lecture material, provide interactive examples of concepts, and allow students to connect to the material through personal experience. All participation activities are graded as complete/incomplete, and no makeup participation points will be provided. Additional information on participation points will be provided in class.

## **Individual Written Assignment (IWA) = 20% of final grade**

Students will be asked to debunk a common psychological myth by reading and writing about psychological research on that topic. The individual written assignment will be broken down into the following smaller components:

IWA #1: APA formatting – 2% (**due Feb 23**)

IWA #2: Research Methods & Article summary – 3% (**due Mar 8**)

IWA #3: Critical thinking – 3% (**due Apr 19**)

IWA #4: Final Assignment – 12% (**due May 10**)

Students will complete the assignments listed above to help them prepare to write their IWA #4. These components are meant to introduce students to common aspects of writing in psychology including APA formatting (rules regarding the writing style of psychology assignments), research methods (how we gather data in psychology), and critical thinking (how we evaluate claims made in psychology), and a final project. All IWA's will be formatted as D2L quizzes but will not be timed. You are welcome to use your textbook, notes, and videos provided on D2L to support your answering of questions.

All assignments are due by 10pm on the due date and will be completed using the Quizzes feature in D2L. Additional information will be provided in class and on D2L.

### *IWA Late Policy*

Students are responsible for their IWA assignments before the deadline. Assignments will lose 5% for each 12 hours that they are late, to a maximum of 40%. After that, the grade will be assigned as a 0%.

## **COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS**

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Part of my role in this course is ensuring that students are succeeding! If you have questions about the course material, please ask me during class, contact me via email, or arrange for a one-on-one meeting (via Zoom).

### **What Students can Expect from Me**

- **I'm available to help!** I am very responsive to email, expect an answer from me within 24 hours (including weekends). Sometimes I will ask for an in-person or online meeting as it can be challenging to convey information over email. If you do not hear a response from me, please send a gentle reminder email. **It is better to contact me earlier in the term rather than later if you are struggling so we can work on an education plan together.**  
**\*NOTE:** Please DO NOT email me through D2L, as emails do not always make it to my inbox.
- All course material will be provided in D2L. This includes lecture slides, additional readings, assignment details, some participation activities, and all quizzes. Materials will be released on a per-chapter basis
- I will give and receive feedback. I will provide written feedback on the IWA components and am happy to meet with you to discuss the feedback. I'm also open to receiving constructive feedback about your experiences within the course.

### **What I Expect from Students**

The main expectation I have of students is that you dedicate time to this course. This can be done in several ways:

- Attend all class sessions, when possible (but please do not attend class if you are ill), **on time**
- Manage your time → dedicate time to course readings, studying, and assignments
- Check the D2L page often → all course materials will be provided on D2L
- Provide constructive feedback → let me know if certain formats are not working well for you, if you are interested in certain topics, or if you are not interested in some topics

- Let me know if you have any special circumstances → we all learn in different ways and with varying degrees of success. **If you find that you are struggling in the course, contact me and we can work towards a solution.**
- Conduct yourself appropriately during class → this includes listening to and interacting with others in a respectful manner. We are all very diverse and have different values, beliefs, and opinions. Within this course, we will aim to approach topics in psychology with a scientific, critical mind.

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## SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

### Camosun Psychology Club Information

Everyone interesting in discussing psychological questions/problems is welcome! For further information, please contact the Student Society's Club's Coordinator, Tagg Kelt: [keltt@camosun.ca](mailto:keltt@camosun.ca)

### Canadian Psychological Association

The Canadian hub of our discipline <https://cpa.ca/>

### Co-operative Education & Career Services

Learn about how to access a co-op experience for your career. <https://camosun.ca/services/co-operative-education-and-career-services/contact-co-operative-education-and-career>

### Journal of Camosun Psychology Research

Discover how to publish research. <https://cc.arcabc.ca/islandora/object/cc%3Apsycjournal>

### American Psychological Association

The hub of our discipline <https://www.apa.org>

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## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

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.

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## SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

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>

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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>

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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.

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

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### Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The College is committed to providing appropriate and reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities (i.e. physical, depression, learning, etc). If you have a disability, the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) can help you document your needs, and where disability-related barriers to access in your courses exist, create an accommodation plan. By making a plan through CAL, you can ensure you have the appropriate academic accommodations you need without disclosing your diagnosis or condition to course instructors. Please visit the CAL website for contacts and to learn how to get started:

<http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/>

### Academic Integrity

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.13.pdf> for policy regarding academic expectations and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

### Academic Progress

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/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 <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <http://camosun.ca/learn/fees/#deadlines>.

### Grading Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

### Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

### Mandatory Attendance for First Class Meeting of Each Course

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable reason in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student. For more information, please see the “Attendance” section under “Registration Policies and Procedures” (<http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/procedures.html>) and the Grading Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf>.

### 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. Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.8.pdf> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

### Sexual Violence and Misconduct

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 or misconduct 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 and Misconduct Policy: <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.9.pdf> and [camosun.ca/sexual-violence](http://camosun.ca/sexual-violence). To contact the Office of Student Support: [oss@camosun.ca](mailto:oss@camosun.ca) or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-3703841

### 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 <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College’s expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

**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.