

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: PSYC-130-Contemporary Issues

CLASS SECTION: RH09 (Parkland High School)

TERM: 2025W

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): in person

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.

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Sarah Davis, PhD

EMAIL: DavisS@camosun.ca

OFFICE: Online (Microsoft Teams will be posted in D2L)

HOURS: Mondays and Fridays before and/or after class or by appointment.

WEBSITE: We will be using D2L extensively for this course and you can access it here:

<https://online.camosun.ca/d2l/home/305415>

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 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:

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

(a) Textbook

You can purchase a physical copy of this text through the Camosun bookstore at:

https://www.camosuncollegebookstore.ca/buy_textbooks.asp. The physical copy also includes access to Achieve (see below) and the e-book. You can purchase a digital-only copy of this text through the Camosun bookstore at: https://www.camosuncollegebookstore.ca//buy_access_codes.asp. This digital access also includes access to Achieve (see below).

(b) Course Readings

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

(c) Achieve

Achieve is the online study resource that comes bundled with the online version of the textbook. All students who purchase a new textbook will have access to Achieve. A step-by-step guide to access our class Achieve is posted to D2L in the Getting Started section. Our course Achieve can be accessed at: <https://achieve.macmillanlearning.com/courses/dy864r> Achieve ID: dy864r

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 with student consultation.

WEEK	DATES	TOPIC AND CHAPTER	ASSIGNMENTS/DEADLINES
1	Feb 7	Welcome to the course and syllabus overview	
2	Feb 10	Chapter 1 – Thinking Critically	
	Feb 12	Chapter 1 – Thinking Critically	

WEEK	DATES	TOPIC AND CHAPTER	ASSIGNMENTS/DEADLINES
3	Feb 19	Chapter 1 – Thinking Critically	Chapter 1 Quiz due by Feb 23 at 11:59 PM
	Feb 21	Chapter 5 - Development	
4	Feb 24	Chapter 5 - Development	
	Feb 26	Chapter 5 - Development	Chapter 5 Quiz due by Mar 1 at 11:59 PM
	Feb 28	Chapter 10 - Intelligence	Psychological Myth Assignment Part 1 due by Feb 28 at 11:59 PM
5	Mar 3	Chapter 10 - Intelligence	
	Mar 5	Chapter 10 - Intelligence	Chapter 10 Quiz due by Mar 9 at 11:59 PM
	Mar 7	Chapter 11 - Motivation	
6	Mar 10	Chapter 11 - Motivation	
	Mar 12	Chapter 11 - Motivation	
	Mar 14	Midterm Exam – Chapters 1, 5, 10, 11	Midterm Exam
	Mar 15 – 30	March Break	School Closed
7	Mar 31	Chapter 12 - Emotions	
	Apr 2	Chapter 12 - Emotions	
	Apr 4	Chapter 12 - Emotions	Chapter 12 Quiz due by April 8 at 11:59 PM
8	Apr 7	Chapter 13 – Social Psychology	Psychological Myth Assignment Part 2 due by Apr 7 at 11:59 PM
	Apr 9	Chapter 13 – Social Psychology	
9	Apr 14	Chapter 13 – Social Psychology	
	Apr 16	Chapter 13 – Social Psychology	Chapter 13 Quiz due by April 20 at 11:59 PM
10	Apr 23	Chapter 14 - Personality	Psychological Myth Assignment Part 3 due by Apr 23 at 11:59 PM
	Apr 25	Chapter 14 - Personality	
11	Apr 28	Chapter 14 - Personality	Chapter 14 Quiz due by May 1 at 11:59 PM
	Apr 30	Chapter 15 – Psychological Disorders	

WEEK	DATES	TOPIC AND CHAPTER	ASSIGNMENTS/DEADLINES
	May 2	Chapter 15 – Psychological Disorders	
12	May 5	Chapter 16 - Therapy	
	May 7	Chapter 16 - Therapy	Psychological Myth Assignment Part 4 due by May 8 at 11:59 PM
	May 9	Psychological Myth Assignment Presentations	
13	May 12	Psychological Myth Assignment Presentations	
	May 14	Final Exam – Chapters 12, 13, 14, 15, 16	Final Exam

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

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Midterm Exam	15%
Chapter Quizzes (5 x 6% = 30%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be 6 quizzes and only the best 5 of those quizzes will count toward your final grade in the course. 	30%
Final Exam	15%
Psychological Myth Assignment (40%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part 1: Myth selection Part 2: Research the myth Part 3: Apply the scientific method Part 4: Present your findings 	5% 5% 10% 20%
	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](#) policy for more information.

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

More information about all assignments in the course can be found on our class D2L site.

Chapter Quizzes (5 x 6% = 30%)

- There will be 6 quizzes and only the best 5 of those quizzes will count toward your final grade in the course.
- Quizzes will be completed on your own time online and are due within 3 days of finishing each chapter in class.

Midterm Exam (15%)

- This exam will cover content from the first half of the course and will be completed during class time.
- It may contain multiple choice questions, true/false questions, matching questions, short answer, and/or fill in the blank questions. The number and type of questions will be confirmed closer to the date of the exam. The midterm may also include questions based on class activities and exercises. More information about the exam will be available on D2L.

Final Exam (15%)

- The final exam will cover content from the second half of the course and will be completed during class time.
- It may contain multiple choice questions, true/false questions, matching questions, short answer, and/or fill in the blank questions. The number and type of questions will be confirmed closer to the date of the exam. The midterm may also include questions based on class activities and exercises. More information about the exam will be available on D2L.

Psychological Myth Assignment (40%)

- In this assignment, you will choose a common psychological myth (e.g., "Humans only use 10% of their brains," "Introverts are shy," or "Memory works like a video camera") and critically analyze it using the scientific method.
- Your goal is to research and apply psychological concepts to debunk the myth, demonstrating your understanding of how psychology relies on empirical evidence to shape our understanding of human behavior and cognition.
- This assignment will be completed during the semester in four parts and will culminate in students sharing their assignments with the class at the end of the semester:
 - Part 1: Myth selection (5%)
 - Part 2: Research the myth (5%)
 - Part 3: Apply the scientific method (10%)
 - Part 4: Present your findings (20%)

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.

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 camosun.ca/services.

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

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 camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence-support-and-education.

To contact the Office of Student Support: 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.