

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: PSYC-130-Contemporary Issues

CLASS SECTION: RH10 Belmont Secondary 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 Lək̓ʷəŋən (Songhees and Kosapsum) and WSÁNEĆ peoples. We honour their knowledge and welcome to all students who seek education here.

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS



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

EMAIL: kobelskyc@camosun.ca

OFFICE: Online (Zoom via D2L)

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

WEBSITE: TBA (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.

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.

PRE or CO-REQUISITE(S):

One of:

- C in English 12
- C in Camosun Alternative

CO-REQUISITE(S):

See Pre-requisites

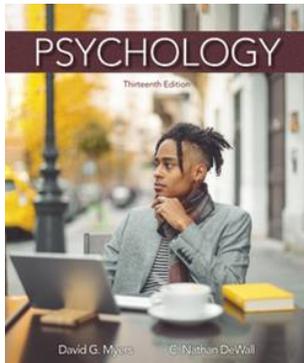
EQUIVALENCIES:

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 (required)

Myers, D. G. & DeWall C. N. (2021). Psychology (13th 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	Feb 3-7		Welcome/Intro Prologue/Ch 1 (pp. 2-5; 12-13) Ch 1 (pp.22-38)
2	Feb 10-14		Ch 5 (Development)
3	Feb 17-21	IWA #1 due Fri Feb 21 by 10PM	Ch 10 (Intelligence)
4	Feb 24-28		Ch 10 cont'd
5	Mar 3-7	IWA #2 due Fri Mar 7 by 10PM	Motivation (see PDF on D2L)
6	Mar 10-14	Review Quiz #1 due Tues Mar 11 by 10PM EXAM 1 (Ch 5, 10, Motivation) Wed Mar 12	Ch 12 (Emotions, Stress, Health)
SPRING BREAK			
7	Mar 31-Apr 4		Ch. 12 cont'd Ch 13 (Social Psychology)
8	Apr 7-11		Ch 13 cont'd Ch 14 (Personality)
9	Apr 14-18	IWA #3 due Fri Apr 18 by 10PM	Ch. 14 cont'd
10	Apr 21-25	Review Quiz #2 due Thurs Apr 25 by 10PM EXAM 2 (Ch 12, 13, 14) Fri Apr 26	Ch 15 (Psychological Disorders)
11	Apr 28-May 2		Ch 15 cont'd Ch 16 (Treatment)
12	May 5-9	IWA #4 due Fri May 9 by 10PM	Ch 16 cont'd
13	May 12-16	Review Quiz #3 due Tues May 13 by 10PM EXAM 3 (Ch 15, 16) Wed May 14	Course Wrap-Up

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

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

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%
	TOTAL
	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.
<https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/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 (kobeliskyc@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 (kobeliskyc@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 21**)

IWA #2: Research Methods & Article summary – 3% (**due Mar 7**)

IWA #3: Critical thinking – 3% (**due Apr 18**)

IWA #4: Final Assignment – 12% (**due May 9**)

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

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.

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

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>

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

Support Service	Website
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.