

Psychology 130 Psychology 130 Camosun College

Course Outline Winter 2003

Dr. R. G. Tonks

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Office Hours: Mondays 10:30-12:20 * or by appointment

Section 03: Thursdays 13:30-15:20 Fisher 268

Seminar times: A - Tues: 13:30-14:20 (E342) B - Thurs: 15:30-16:20 (E342)

Psychology Applied to Contemporary Issues. This course acquaints students with major contemporary issues in psychology and considers their historical antecedents. Topics includes the application of psychological knowledge on lifespan 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-requisites: English 12 or assessment.

Beginning with a brief overview of the nature of psychology and a sample of the diverse areas of human life that it touches, this course aims to provide students with a foundation in understanding how the basic research methods from psyc 110 can be applied to everyday social issues. This course also aims to help students develop critical thinking skills needed to understand the social issues to which we would like to apply our research. An emphasis is placed on understanding psychology as an applied social science, covering topics such as:

social influence, motivation & emotion, cultural and ethnic psychology, psychological disorder and therapies, health psychology and personality human development. Along with providing students with some 'hands-on' training in carrying out psychological research applied to social issues, there is an opportunity for students to become fluent with psychological theories and concepts through seminar activities that accompany the lectures.

Course Text: Myers, D. G. (2001). Psychology (6th edition). New York: Worth.

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. Students are responsible to read the assigned chapters as the material is covered in class, however students are also encouraged to read the assigned material before it is covered in class.

Evaluation: There will be two exams: a midterm, and a final; both of which will be based upon the material covered in lecture, the assigned readings, and the seminar activities. These tests will involve various multiple-choice and short answer questions and will be done on Web-CT. The midterm exam will be on or about the dates indicated on the course syllabus and the final exam will be during the regular exam final exam period. There will also be several seminar assignments and a group research report and presentation that students will be expected to complete as part of their course work.

Marking Scheme:

Exams

Midterm Exam: 25% - Feb 27th

Final Exam: 25% - (April 14-25)

In Class

Seminar Activities: 12%

Class participation: 8%

(home) Web-CT quizzes 5%

Group Research Project: 25% April 10th

Proposal: 3%

Presentation: 7%

Report : 15%

Grading Scheme: (Camosun Standards)

A+ 95 - 100 C+ 65 - 69

A 90 - 94 C 60 - 64

A- 85 - 89 D 50 - 59

B+ 80 - 84 F 0 - 49

B 75 - 79 I = Incomplete*

B- 70 - 74 *(Missing 6 weeks from the end of the semester: I = F).

Seminar Activities:

Various class and small group activities will be carried out in seminar. It is expected that students show up to class as marks will be allotted for work completed during and for seminars. Some of these seminars will be held in Ewing computer labs and you will be expected to learn Web-CT. Should a student be unable to attend class, missing an important activity due to illness or some other legitimate excuse, they may be permitted to make up for it in a suitable fashion such as a take home essay or exercise. The class will be divided into seminar groups where some topics will be take-home assignments.

Group Projects:

Students will be organised into groups early in the semester in order to carryout projects on terrorism from a psychological perspective. In light of recent world events this topic has been selected for the semester research projects. In these groups students will examine the relationship between terrorism and psychology from one of the major orientations to the field. As such there will be presentations and reports made on terrorism and the following perspectives: social psychology (i.e., propaganda, persuasion, conformity, obedience, ...), motivation (what makes people do it? or help others?) & emotion (how it makes us react and feel), personality (individual differences), health (how does it affect health?), psychological disorders & therapies (psychological problems that arise), and human developmental (What impact on children or seniors?). Students will review literature on their topic and present their reviews to the class. There is a choice of the format and type of project where students can review previous studies that can be applied to recent events or they can develop their own reserch or psychological application related to their topic. The exact nature of the projects will be negotiated with the instructor based upon the project proposals.

Academic Honesty

Beyond learning basic concepts and research strategies, students are expect to produce some original written work that stands as an example of their expressed understanding of psychology as it has been applied to a specific area of research. As such students will write article summaries and group reports in their own words, making use of standard psychological styles of referencing and reporting psychological information. Plagiarism, or the unacknowledged use of

another person's ideas or words represents academic dishonesty and is grounds for expulsion from the college. Camosun policy states "If an instructor remains convinced that there has been a violation [plagiarism or cheating], he or she may assign a grade of F for the work involved or in the course..." Let's avoid that!

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