



**School of Arts & Science
PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

**PSYC 130-section
Contemporary Issues
Semester/Year, eg, 2007F or 2007Q1**

COURSE OUTLINE

PSYCHOLOGY APPLIED TO CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL PROBLEMS

This course applies knowledge in psychology to current social problems. Topics such as education, the nature of madness, health, terrorism, drug abuse, AIDS, violence and the urban scene may be considered. Students will be asked to work on several social problems with methods that will prepare them to be actively involved in society. Topics vary with instructor and changing social problems. **Prerequisites:** English 12 or assessment.

1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Caldwell		
(b)	Office Hours:	TBA		
(c)	Location:	F306		
(d)	Phone:	370 3198	Alternative Phone:	
(e)	Email:	Caldwell@camosun.bc.ca		
(f)	Website:			

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

(No changes are to be made to this section, unless the Approved Course Description has been forwarded through EDCO for approval.)

Upon completion of this course the 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.

3. Required Materials

1. Text: Gerrig, R. J., Zimbardo, P. G., Desmarais, S., & Ivanco, T. (2009). *Psychology and life* (1st Canadian ed.). Toronto: Pearson Education Canada.
2. Lecture Workbook (available in bookstore)

4. Course Content and Schedule

There are two 3-hour classes per week.

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

Tests (75% course grade)

There are three tests in this course. Each test is worth 25% the course grade. The first test will cover Chapters 1, 11, and 12. The second test will cover Chapters 13 and 14. The last test will cover Chapters 15, 16, and 17. All tests are based on information from the lectures, seminar activities, and assigned readings. These tests will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions.

MAKE-UP TESTS WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED WITH PROPER DOCUMENTATION. YOU MUST CONTACT THE INSTRUCTOR, AND PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION, WITHIN 7 DAYS OF THE MISSED TEST DATE TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE MAKE-UP TEST.

Two Mini Projects (15% course grade):

There will be two short projects required in this course, each of which is worth 7.5% of the course grade. These project will involve applying the concepts and theories learned in the course to real-life situations. In both cases the student will choose among topic options provided by the instructor. The details of these projects will be provided in class.

Seminar Activities (10% of course grade):

The meeting times will be divided into two formats; lecture and seminar. For the seminars, there will be various class and small group activities. For each seminar, the students will be expected to hand in the results of the activity for marks. Students are expected to attend the seminars in order to receive marks for these activities. If a student misses a class because of a medical reason or another legitimate excuse, there will be the opportunity to make up one seminar activity at the end of the semester (the student must provide the proper documentation in order to make-up a seminar assignment).

LATE WORK WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED IN EXTREME CASES. PLEASE SCHEDULE YOUR TIME TO MEET ALL DUE DATES.

6. Grading System

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Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.	1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at camosun.ca for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	<i>Incomplete:</i> A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
IP	<i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that, due to design may require a further enrollment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. (For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3 rd course attempt or at the point of course completion.)
CW	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services or the College web site at camosun.ca.

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**.
It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services and on the College web site in the Policy Section.

PSYCH 130 - TIMETABLE – Spring 2009

Lecture	Topic and Readings
May 4 th	Chapter 1: Introduction to Psychology
May 6 th	Chapter 11: Development
May 11 th	Chapter 11: Development
May 13 th	Chapter 12: Motivation First Mini Project Assigned
May 18 th	Test #1 (Monday, May 18 th): Chapters 1, 11, and 12 Chapter 13: Emotion
May 20 th	Chapter 13: Emotion
May 25 rd	Chapter 13: Stress and Health First Mini Project Due
May 27 th	Chapter 14: Personality
June 1 st	Chapter 14: Personality
June 3 rd	Test #2 (Wednesday, June 3 rd): Chapters 13 & 14 Chapter 17: Social Psychology
June 8 th	Chapter 17: Social Psychology Second Mini Project Assigned
June 10 th	Chapter 15: Psychological Disorders
June 15 th	Chapter 15: Psychological Disorders Chapter 16: Therapy
June 17 th	Chapter 16: Therapy Second Mini Project Due
Final Exam Period	Test #3: Chapters 15, 16, & 17

****Note: this schedule is tentative and any changes will be discussed in class.**

No work will be accepted after 4:00 p.m. on Friday, June 19th, 2009.