



**School of Arts & Science
PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

**PSYC 130
Contemporary Issues
Fall 2009**

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Bev Lenihan		
(b)	Office Hours:	One hour before and class. Other times arranged by appointment to accommodate student schedules.		
(c)	Location:	Fisher 106-E		
(d)	Phone:	370-3200	Alternative Phone:	721-1259
(e)	Email:	lenihan@camosun.bc.ca		

2. Intended Learning Outcomes:

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

(a)	Texts	Gerrig, R., Zimbardo, P., Desmarais, S., & Ivanko, T. (2009). Psychology And Life (1st. Canadian ed.). Toronto: Prentice Hall/Pearson Publishers.
(b)	Other	Student Manual/Lenihan (available in Campus Bookstore)

4. Course Content and Schedule

Acquaints the student with major contemporary issues in psychology and considers their historical antecedents. Topics in Life Span Development, Personality, Abnormal Behaviour, Social Cognition, Social Influence, and Social Relations are considered.

Prerequisites: English 12 or assessment.

Course Organization:

Classes will be comprised of lectures and experiential work. Material from the text and selected readings related to current psychological issues and treatments will be examined. Experiential work includes discussions, activities, and student presentations. Attendance and participation are very important for learning. **DOING THE ASSIGNED READING BEFORE CLASS WILL HELP IN THE UNDERSTANDING OF LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS. ASSIGNED READING IS PERTINENT TO DOING WELL ON THE MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS, ON QUIZZES.**

*Five quizzes will comprise multiple choices, true and false and short answer. Quizzes expect you to apply the terms and concepts of the course, not just recognize definitions. The best four of five quizzes will make up 40% of course grade. There will be **NO MAKE UP QUIZZES**.

Completion of two assignments are required, each of which is worth 15% of the course grade. Each assignment will involve applying the concepts and theories learned in the course to personal situations. In both cases, students choose from among topic options provided by the instructor. Please refer to separate package distributed in class for further details.

Both written assignments require a running head, pagination, title page including: title of topic, course name and section, instructor's name, student's name, and date. (APA style)

Late or Missed Work:

No late work will be accepted without prior negotiation. No assignments will be accepted after the last class. There are **no makeup quizzes**. A late presentation or assignment will have a maximum grade of C+.

Note: **Two readings of each chapter: one prior to class and one reading following class is recommended.**

PLEASE SCHEDULE YOUR TIME TO MEET ALL DUE DATES

E-mailing assignments:

Assignments sent as attachments will only be accepted to avoid enforcement of late penalty. **A hard copy is required, for grading purpose**, and is to be submitted the beginning of the following class.

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

(a)	Assignments	Experiential Assignments (15% each)	30%
(b)	Quizzes	Five quizzes (10% each/best four)	40%
(c)	Other (eg, Attendance, Project, Group Work)	Oral presentation of a Contemporary Issue (with a group of three)	30%

6. Grading System

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		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 at camosun.ca or 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 are designed to have an anticipated enrollment that extends beyond one term. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course.
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.

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.

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.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Reading the assigned material is required, prior to class, in order to prepare for tests and to participate in class discussions and group tasks. Attendance is essential since key concepts will be covered in the lectures that are not covered in the course readings and will be on the tests.
2. Special accommodation, if required, is given under extreme circumstances. The student must contact the instructor and provide documentation, within three days of the missed assignment, if consideration is to be granted.
3. All work is completed for this course only. Any work that is copied, plagiarized, or fabricated will automatically receive an "F" grade. All work submitted needs to be referenced, according to APA guidelines and should include a title page with course, instructor, date, and name.

PSYCHOLOGY 130 SCHEDULE

Week	Chapter	Topics
01	Introduction	Expectations, Psychological Research, Psychology as a Science
02/03	11 Life Span Development Adolescent/Adulthood	Life Span Development
04/05	14 Personality	Intelligence and Differences in Intelligence Personality Theory and Assessment
06/07	15 Abnormal Behavior Psychological Disorders	Classifying Abnormal Behavior Psychological Disorders
08/09	16 Therapies	Approaches to Treatment & Therapy Psychoanalytic, Biological, Medical Cognitive, Behavioral & Humanistic
10/11	17 Social Psychology	Attitudes & Attribution causes Norms & Roles, Conformity & Obedience
12/13	13 Emotions/Stress and Health	Stress and Health and Coping with stress
14	Final Quiz	