



**School of Arts & Science**  
**PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT**  
**PSYC 130 (005)**  
**Contemporary Issues in Psychology**  
**Fall 2011**

## COURSE OUTLINE

### 1. Instructor Information

Instructor:	Cate Pelling		
Office Hours:	Tuesday after class; other times by appointment		
Location:	Fisher 344A		
Phone:	370-		
Email:	pellingc@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

Gerrig, R.J., Zimbardo, P.G, Desmarais, S., & Ivanco, T. (2012). *Psychology and Life* 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Edition. Toronto: Pearson Education Canada

### Optional Materials

D2L online course content

MyPsychLab – easy to navigate site provides students with valuable learning resources

---

#### 4. Course Content and Schedule

Classes are comprised of lectures and experiential work. Experiential work includes discussions, activities, and student presentations. Attendance and participation are very important for learning. Material from the text and selected readings related to current psychological issues and treatments will be examined.

***Doing the assigned reading before class will help in the understanding of lectures and discussions. Assigned reading is pertinent to doing well on tests.***

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Required Reading</b>	<b>Activities</b>
1	Introduction		
2	Human Development Across the Lifespan	Chapters 1 & 11	
3	Human Development Across the Lifespan	Chapter 11	In-class assignment
4	Understanding Human Personality	Chapter 14	
5	Understanding Human Personality	Chapter 14	
6	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 15	test #1
7	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 15	
8	Therapies for Psychological Disorders	Chapter 16	in-class assignment
9	Therapies for Psychological Disorders	Chapter 16	
10	Social Psychology	Chapter 17	test #2
11	Social Psychology	Chapter 17	
12	Emotions, Stress, and Health	Chapter 13	in-class assignment
13	Emotions, Stress and Health	Chapter 13	
14	Presentations		project
15			test #3

Tests will be held at the start of class on weeks 6 and 10 and during the final exam period (Dec 12 -20)

---

## 5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

(a)	Assignments	Three experiential assignments (10% each)	30%
(b)	Tests	Three tests (20% each)	60%
(c)	Project	Written/Oral report of a Contemporary Issue	10%

**Examination - Tests:** There are 3 tests in this course. They will be composed of short answer, fill in the blank, and multiple-choice questions. Each test is worth 20% of your final grade. The first test covers Chapters 1, 11 and 14; the second test covers Chapters 15 and 16; the third test covers Chapters 17 and 13. There is no comprehensive final exam. All tests are based on information from the lectures, class activities and assigned readings. Students are encouraged to take advantage of study materials available through MyPsychLab to prepare for tests.

**Assignments:** Completion of three assignments is required. Each assignment is worth 10% of the course grade. Each assignment will involve applying the concepts and theories learned in the course to “real life” situations.

**Project:** Toward the end of the semester, students will be required to complete a project, worth 10% of the course grade. This project will involve choosing among several topic options provided by the instructor. Students will work by themselves or with a partner. Further information will be provided in class.

### Late or Missed Work

No late work will be accepted without prior negotiation. No assignments will be accepted after the last week of classes.

### E-mailing assignments

Assignments sent as attachments will only be accepted in order to avoid a late penalty. ***A hard copy is required for grading purposes*** and is to be submitted to the instructor.

---

## 6. Grading System

Percentage	Grade	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+	9
85-90	A	8
80-85	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	0

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](http://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](http://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.

## 8. Technology Policy

No electronic devices are allowed during tests. This includes, but is not limited to, computers, electronic dictionaries, electronic translators, cell phones, pdas, and other personal electronic devices.

Student's use of lap tops in class is restricted to note taking.

Please consider your fellow students – set cell phones to vibrate during class. Exceptions, for emergency purposes only, must be discussed with the instructor ahead of time.

---

