



School of Arts & Science  
PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT  
PSYC 130-004  
Contemporary Issues  
Winter 2017

COURSE OUTLINE

The course description is online @ <http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/web/psyc.html>

\* Please note: the College electronically stores this outline for five (5) years only.  
It is **strongly recommended** you keep a copy of this outline with your academic records.  
You will need this outline for any future application/s for transfer credit/s to other colleges/universities.

**1. Instructor Information**

(a)	Instructor:	Lisa M Gunderson, Ph.D.		
(b)	Student Hours:	Wednesdays 9:30-10:00am & 12:50-1:10pm		
(c)	Location:	Classroom A111 – Belmont Secondary School		
(d)	Phone:	778-679-2229	Alternative Phone:	
(e)	Email:	GundersonL@camosun.bc.ca		
(f)	Website:			

Welcome to Psychology 130. Please use this syllabus as your source of information regarding the class throughout the semester. Any major changes to the syllabus will be discussed. If my office hours are not convenient for you, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or e-mail to make an appointment.

We begin with acknowledging and thanking the Coast Salish Nations – T’Sou-ke and Scia’new Nations here in Sooke and the Lkwungen, Esquimalt, and Songhees Nations for the honour and privilege to study, learn and work here on their traditional territory.

**2. Course Description and Intended Learning Outcomes**

This course acquaints students with major contemporary issues in psychology and considers their historical antecedents. Topics include: 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.

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**

Meyers, D.G. & Dewall, C.N. (2015). *Psychology* (11<sup>th</sup> ed). New York: Worth Publishers.

**4. Course Content and Schedule**

**COURSE FORMAT**

Each class begins with an overview of the lecture, including the objectives of the morning. Class will include lecture, group work, video, and class demonstrations to highlight various theories and concepts.

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>READING</b>
<b><u>Week 1: January 11</u></b>	<b><u>Thinking Critically with Psychological Science</u></b> Introduction & Course Review Definition, Subfields, & Perspectives of Psychology	Chapter 1 Appendices A & B Optional: Prologue
<b><u>Week 2: January 18</u></b>	<b><u>Thinking Critically with Psychological Science Continued</u></b> Scientific Method Research Design and Measurement	Chapter 1 Appendices A & B Optional: Prologue
<b><u>Week 3: January 25</u></b>	<b><u>Developing Through the Life Span</u></b> Prenatal & Physical Development Social, Cognitive, & Moral Development-Empathy?	Chapter 5
<b><u>Week 4: February 1</u></b>	<b><u>Developing Through the Life Span Continued</u></b> Adolescence Adulthood	Chapter 5 Continued
<b><u>Week 5: February 8</u></b>	<b><u>Developing Through the Life Span Continued</u></b>  <b>Discuss Writing Assignment</b>  <b>MIDTERM 1</b>	Discuss Writing Assignment  <b>Chapters 1, 5, Appendix B</b>
<b><u>Week 6: February 15</u></b>	<b>ENJOY READING BREAK</b>	
<b><u>Week 7: February 22</u></b>	<b><u>What Drives Us: Hunger, Sex, Friendship, and Achievement Continued</u></b> Communication & Relationships Social Networking Sex	Chapter 11
<b><u>Week 8: March 1</u></b>	<b><u>Personality</u></b> Perspectives <b><u>Social Psychology</u></b> Attitudes & Social Influence	Chapter 14  Chapter 13
<b><u>Week 9: March 8</u></b>	<b><u>Social Psychology Continued</u></b> Prejudice and Discrimination Attraction	Chapter 13 Continued
<b><u>Week 10: March 15</u></b>	<b><u>Psychological Disorders</u></b> Definitions <b>MIDTERM 2</b>	Chapter 15  <b>Chapters 11, 13, 14</b>
<b><u>Week 11: March 22</u></b>	<b><u>Chapter 12 Summary</u></b> Emotions, Stress, and Health	
<b><u>Week 12: March 29</u></b>	<b><u>Psychological Disorders Continued</u></b> Major Disorders  <b>CHAPTER 12 SUMMARY DUE</b> <b>PAPER DUE</b>	Chapter 15 continued
<b><u>Week 13: April 5</u></b>	<b><u>Therapy</u></b> Therapeutic Approaches and Models of Therapy	Chapter 16
<b><u>Week 14: April 12</u></b>	<b><u>Therapy Continued</u></b> Therapeutic Approaches and Models of Therapy <b>FINAL REVIEW</b>  <b>FINAL EXAM ON APRIL ____</b>	Chapter 16 continued  <b>Chapters 15 &amp; 16</b>

## **5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)**

### **I. Assignments – 33.3%**

#### **A. Emotions, Stress, and Health Summary – 8.3% (50 points)**

You will complete a 25 item (@ 2 points each) multiple-choice quiz based on the main points of chapter 12. You will be given in-class time to complete the assignment on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. You have two weeks to work on the chapter. Your chapter is due in class by 10:05am. If your chapter is

late, but turned in by the end of class, you will lose 5 points (10%). **Your chapter summary will not be accepted after 1pm.**

<b>Chapter #</b>	<b>Instructor Gives Summary</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
12	March 15 <sup>th</sup>	March 29 <sup>th</sup>

### **B. Discovering Psychology – 25% (150 points)**

This writing assignment is designed to aid you in critically thinking about psychology and making real connections between the class material and the “real world.” Your paper is 5-7 pages in length, excluding the bibliography and attachments.

We will discuss the assignment choices in detail during the 5<sup>th</sup> week of class and you will be given a grading sheet for the assignment. I will be happy to read outlines or drafts. All papers are due on Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. If you fail to turn in your assignment on the Wednesday it is due, you will incur the late penalties listed below.

<b>Due</b>	<b>Turned In</b>	<b>Deduction</b>
Wednesday	Wednesday after 10:05am but by 1pm	15 points (10%)
	Following Week March 29 <sup>th</sup>	45 points (30%)

Turn in your paper, even if it is late, because there is an additional 75-point deduction from your final score if you do not turn in a paper. PAPERS are NOT accepted after April 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **II. Examinations – 50% (300 points)**

There are two midterm exams and a non-cumulative final exam. Your first midterm consists of 36 multiple-choice items (@ 2.5 points each) AND 2 short answer questions (@ 5 points each). Questions are based on all assigned readings and class lectures. You are strongly encouraged to keep current on your reading, since some test questions will come directly from the reading and may not have been discussed in class. Exams are returned during the next class period. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your exam, you have one week to see me. There is a review sheet and session provided a week prior to the exam.

The composition of your second midterm and final exam is your choice. You can decide if you would like to keep the mixed composition (32 multiple choice items and 4 short answer questions) OR if you want to go to an all multiple-choice exam (40 questions @ 2.5 points each).

#### **Make-up Exams**

The exam dates are: February 8<sup>th</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup>. Please check your calendars now. If these dates conflict with religious observances or officially approved activities, please let me know by **Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>** to make alternative arrangements. If you miss an exam due to illness or a personal emergency, you must make-it up within the week on a Monday or Wednesday.

**Please save all of your exams until your FINAL grade is determined.**

### **III. Other – 16.7%**

#### **Attendance and Group Work – 16.7% (100 points)**

You are expected and highly encouraged to attend all classes. There are approximately 10 graded in-class & take-home assignments, designed to emphasize certain topics discussed in class. If you are not actively participating in your group, you will be given the assignment to complete on your own.

You may make up in-class/group assignments for full credit if you miss class due to a conflict with a religious observance, traveling for an officially approved activity, or a verifiable medical excuse. If you miss class for any other reason, you will receive a maximum of **50% credit** for the assignment. You have **ONE WEEK** to make up the assignment for credit. Your group assignment is determined the first day of class.

For the purpose of confidentiality and blind grading, you are assigned a psychology class ID to be used in place of your name throughout the semester. You will use this ID (e.g., name of a country) on all of your assignments and examinations. You will be given your ID the first week of class.

**Psychology Class ID:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Group Assignment:** \_\_\_\_\_

**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	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

There are **600 points** possible. There is no curve. At any point in the semester you can determine your grade to date simply by figuring out the percentage. You also will have a grade to date sheet to keep track of your grade. Final grades will be based on the scale below.

Points	Grade	Percentage Range	Grade Point Equivalency
540 or higher	A+	90-100 – Excellent	9
510-539	A	85-89	8
480-509	A-	80-84	7
462-479	B+	77-79 – Good	6
438-461	B	73-76	5
420-437	B-	70-72	4
390-419	C+	65-69 - Satisfactory	3
360-389	C	60-64	2
300-359	D	50-54 – Poor	1
299 or lower	F	0-49 - Failing Work	0.0

**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](http://camosun.ca) for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
<b>I</b>	<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.

<b>IP</b>	<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. <i>(For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3<sup>rd</sup> course attempt or at the point of course completion.)</i>
<b>CW</b>	<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](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 the College web site in the Policy Section.

#### **Final Notes**

##### **Cell phones, PDAs, Electronic Devices**

Texting and the use of electronic devices, including cell phones and any headphone-related musical device is prohibited in this class. DO NOT make calls or text others at any time during this class, including during a video or DVD. **If you are completing group work, you will be asked to complete the group work on your own for 1/2 credit.**

##### **Respect and Confidentiality**

Every effort is made to create a safe, comfortable atmosphere where we can discuss various topics freely and openly. Because students have widely differing values and beliefs, it is extremely important that we respect individual differences and refrain from judgment of others. In group and class discussions, you are in no way expected to share personal information unless you choose to do so, and any personal information discussed in groups and class should not be discussed outside the classroom.

##### **Cheating and Plagiarism**

Cheating and plagiarism is not tolerated – period. Every effort is being made to minimize an environment for cheating. If you are caught cheating during an exam or plagiarizing any aspect of your assignment, at the minimum you will receive a 0 for that test/paper and will be penalized according to Camosun regulations. Please read and familiarize yourself with the student's code of conduct definitions, rules, and regulations for cheating and plagiarism. You can find the student code of conduct on the Camosun website ([camosun.ca](http://camosun.ca)) in the policy section.

**Students with Exceptionalities:** If you have an exceptionality (i.e., disability) including learning disabilities or chronic disabilities, please come and see me after class or during my student hours to explain your needs and to discuss appropriate accommodations.

### Waste Reduction

In an effort to do my part, I will only supply one hard copy of your syllabus; you can retrieve additional copies of the syllabus by e-mailing me. Also, please feel free to double-side your assignments. Please reduce and reuse when possible and always recycle appropriate materials in the appropriate receptacle.

### Withdrawal from the class

The final deadline to withdraw from this class without academic penalty is March 13<sup>th</sup>. However, please speak with me BEFORE you decide to withdraw. The goal is to have you complete this class successfully and I want to facilitate that process to the best of my ability. Let's talk and find out if we can assist you in completing the course. **DON'T JUST WITHDRAW- PLEASE.**

### Be Responsible

Keep track of all your assignments. When you write your papers **SAVE** a paper copy **AND** a computer disk copy. Keep the hard copy of your chapter summary and your exam scantrons. **You will not receive credit for something you said you did if you do not have proof.**

**KEEP ALL YOUR WORK UNTIL YOU RECEIVE YOUR FINAL GRADE.**

### Come Fi A Chat!

We will discuss many interesting and controversial topics in class. Unfortunately, we do not have time to discuss them in depth. So, once a month, come and join me afterschool to discuss a particular psychological topic (e.g., "does reality TV make abnormality "fun"). This is a great time to discuss and share your views. Specific dates and topics will be determined in class. I hope you come "fi a chat".

### The Student Is...



“...the most important person on the campus.  
Without students there would be no need for the institution.  
...not a cold enrollment statistic but a flesh and blood human being  
with feelings and emotions like our own.  
....not someone to be tolerated so that we can do our thing. They are our thing.  
...not dependent on us. Rather, we are dependent on them.  
...not an interruption of our work, but the purpose of it.  
We are not doing them a favor by serving them.  
They are doing us a favor by giving us the opportunity to do so.”  
Author unknown

***I hope you will find this course a valuable, challenging, and enjoyable learning experience.***