



**CAMOSUN COLLEGE**  
**School of Arts & Science**  
**Department of Psychology**

**PSYC-130-D03**  
**Contemporary Issues**  
**Winter 2018**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

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

Ω Please note: This outline will not be kept indefinitely. It is recommended students keep this outline for their records, especially to assist in transfer credit to post-secondary institutions.

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**1. Instructor Information**

(a) Instructor	Randal Tonks	_____
(b) Office hours	Online "Office Hours": Wed 11:00-12:00	_____
(c) Location	E240	_____
(d) Phone	250 370-3197	Alternative: _____
(e) E-mail	Email through D2L	_____
(f) Website		_____

**2. Intended Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course a 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.
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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: Intelligence, 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.

### 3. Required Materials

**Course Text:** There is a free online ebook - **Introduction to Psychology: 1st Canadian edition** by C. Stangor & J. Waling - available inside [d2l](#) and through [BC Campus Open learning](#).

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.

### 4. Course Content and Schedule

Week 1 **Jan 10** - Introduction to [D2L](#) & Course Chapter 1

Week 2 **Jan 17** - The story of Psychology - Chapter 2 (*browse through Chapter 3*)

Week 3 **Jan 24** - Intelligence - Chapter 10

Week 4 **Jan 31** - Development - How do we become the people we are? - Chapt 7

Week 5 **Feb 7** - Personality - What makes us who we are? - Chapt 12

Week 6 **Feb 14** Social Psychology - Our psychosocial being and processes - Chapt 15  
*\*Note this is reading break*

Week 7 **Feb 21** - Review Week and Catch-up

Week 8 **Feb 28** - Midterm Exam by Mar 7th

Week 9 **Mar 7** - Motivation - What makes us do what we do? - Chapt 11 (pp. 446-459)

Week 10 **Mar 14** - Emotions - Why do we feel like we do? - Chapt 11 (pp. 411-425)

Week 11 **Mar 21** - Health - How can our minds & relations make us healthy or ill ? - Chapt 16  
(&Chapt 11 426-438)

Week 12 **Mar 28**- Disorders - What is a psychological disorder? - Chapt 13

Week 13 **Apr 4** - Therapies - How to help people with psychological problems? - Chapt 14

Week 14 **Apr 11** Review

**Exam Period Apr 16-20 Final Exam**

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

Marking Scheme:

**Exams:**

Online Practice Quizzes 20%

Midterm Exam: 25% - (Week 7)

Final Exam: 25% - (Exam period)

**Weekly Activities:** 20%

**Discussion Board Activity:** 10%

Evaluation: There will be **two exams**: a **Midterm**, and a **Final Exam**; both of which will be based upon the material covered in the textbook and the online lectures, assigned readings, and activities. These tests will involve various multiple-choice and short answer questions and will be completed through d2l. *There will be a limited amount of time for these exams*, so be sure to do the practice quizzes to prepare yourself for these larger ones.

The Midterm exam will be on or about the date indicated on the course syllabus and the Final exam will be during the first week of regular exam final exam period.

There will also be several regular online practice quizzes and weekly activities as well as ongoing discussion board activity, as part of their course work.

**Online Practice Quizzes:** There will be a collection of practice quizzes found through d2l - locatable through each section of contents or through quizzes. To get marks for the quizzes you simply need to complete one per chapter, where you need to get 50% or better on each. You may take these quizzes as many times as you like, your highest score will count. If you get 50% or better on all quizzes you get the full 20% if you get 50% or better on half of the quizzes you get 10%, and so on. Passing each quiz gets you approximately 2%.

**Weekly Activities:**

Various at-home activities will be assigned throughout the semester. Here students will be expected to complete the activities by the posted deadline, making sure that they have been submitted to the drop box for that given activity.

The activities will follow the course lecture material and will involve students making observations, conducting interviews, providing critical thoughts, reflections, and comments on their own specific topics as well as discuss with others in the class. Most activities will involve making a posting to the discussion board *as well as* commenting on the postings of other students. The goal here is the both generate experience and understanding as well as to enhance the on-line learning community.

As such the discussion board activity will involve commenting on the the activity postings of others as well as general discussion of the course materials. It is important that you *make a reply to someone else's posting for each activity in order to garner these activity points*. This is for an additional 10% towards your grade

**6. Grading System**

- Standard Grading System (GPA)
- Competency Based Grading System

**A. GRADING SYSTEMS** <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/index.html>

The following two grading systems are used at Camosun College:

**1. 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

## 2. Competency Based Grading System (Non GPA)

This grading system is based on satisfactory acquisition of defined skills or successful completion of the course learning outcomes

Grade	Description
COM	The student has met the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.
DST	The student has met and exceeded, above and beyond expectation, the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.
NC	The student has not met the goals, criteria or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.

## B. 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 <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/index.html> 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 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.

## 7. Recommended Materials to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

### 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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## STUDENT RIGHTS and RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Students are responsible for reading the assigned material according to the assignment dates so that they are prepared to participate in online discussions and group tasks. It is essential for students to consult the chapter study guides since they will reveal the topic activities that will form the basis of the tests.
2. If a student requires special accommodation to be successful in this course, please contact me the first week of class.
3. Students, and their prospective participants have the right not to participate in any given course research activity.
4. As part of the course, specifically in the seminar activities, you always have the right NOT to self-disclose any information.
5. Students are expected to follow certain standards of conduct:
  - a) Work must be used for this course only, and it must be original-authored by the student who submits the work.
  - b) Assignments that are copied (identical or plagiarized) between students will be given 0% for ALL students with identical work. If you want to work cooperatively, inform me ahead of time.
  - c) Fabrication of research data is not acceptable.
  - d) It is college policy that *"If an instructor remains convinced that there has been a violation [such as plagiarism or cheating], he or she may assign a grade of F for the work involved, or for the course..."*

## 8. College Supports, Services and Policies

### Immediate, Urgent, or Emergency Support

If you or someone you know requires immediate, urgent, or emergency support (e.g. illness, injury, thoughts of suicide, sexual assault, etc.), **SEEK HELP**. Resource contacts @ <http://camosun.ca/about/mental-health/emergency.html> or <http://camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence/get-support.html#urgent>

### College Services

Camosun offers a variety of health and academic support services, including counselling, dental, disability resource centre, help centre, learning skills, sexual violence support & education, library, and writing centre. For more information on each of these services, visit the **STUDENT SERVICES** link on the College website at <http://camosun.ca/>

### College Policies

Camosun strives to provide clear, transparent, and easily accessible policies that exemplify the college's commitment to life-changing learning. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of College policies. Policies are available on the College website at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/>. Education and academic policies include, but are not limited to, Academic Progress, Admission, Course Withdrawals, Standards for Awarding Credentials, Involuntary Health and Safety Leave of Absence, Prior Learning Assessment, Medical/Compassionate Withdrawal, Sexual Violence and Misconduct, Student Ancillary Fees, Student Appeals, Student Conduct, and Student Penalties and Fines.