

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: PSYC-130: Contemporary Issues
CLASS SECTION: D.02
TERM: Fall 2023
COURSE CREDITS: 3
DELIVERY METHOD(S): *Asynchronously Online* through d2l

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here.
Learn more about Camosun's [Territorial Acknowledgement](#).

<https://camosun.ca/about/covid-19-updates>

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable explanation in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student.

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Dr. Randal Tonks
EMAIL: tonks@camosun.ca
OFFICE: Ewing 240
HOURS: online through Zoom upon request

As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course acquaints students with major contemporary issues in psychology and considers their historical antecedents. Topics include the application of psychological knowledge on life span 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.

PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

- C in English 12
- C in Camosun Alternative

CO-REQUISITE(S):

See Pre-requisites

EXCLUSION(S):

Not Applicable

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

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.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

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.

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS

The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	Readings
1	Introduction to the course	Ch 1
2	The story of Psychology	Ch 2 (browse Ch 3)
3	Intelligence	Ch 10
4	Development	Ch 7
5	Personality	Ch 12
6	Social	Ch 15
7	Review	
8	Midterm Exam	D2L
9	Motivation	Ch 11 (pp.446-459)
10	Emotions	Ch 11 (pp. 411-425)
11	Health & Stress	Ch 16 & Ch11 (pp. 426-438)
12	Disorders	Ch 13
13	Therapies	Ch 14

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	Readings
14	Review	
Exam week	Final Exam	D2L

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced notice is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html).
<http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Weekly Practice Quizzes	20
Midterm Exam	25
Final Exam	25
Weekly Activities	20
Discussion board activity	10
TOTAL	100%

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf) policy for more information.

<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

This course is held entirely on D2L through the Camosun portal <http://online.camosun.ca>. This course syllabus is found inside the course shell where there is also a link to the textbook, quizzes and exams and course content.

When starting the course it is important to begin with the *Start Here* link inside content of the D2L course and follow chronologically from week 1 to the end of the course. Specific links to Activities are found there along with links to lecture notes and accompanying audio podcasts of the lectures. There are also links to the **Quizzes** and **Activity** (Assignment) drop boxes inside D2L along with a link to the discussion board where posts for the activities will be made along with **discussion** of other student's posts.

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. The exams will be based upon both the readings and the lecture material.

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 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.

SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit <http://camosun.ca/students/>.

Academic Advising	http://camosun.ca/advising
Accessible Learning	http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning
Counselling	http://camosun.ca/counselling
Career Services	http://camosun.ca/coop
Financial Aid and Awards	http://camosun.ca/financialaid
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	http://camosun.ca/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	http://camosun.ca/indigenous
International Student Support	http://camosun.ca/international/
Learning Skills	http://camosun.ca/learningskills
Library	http://camosun.ca/services/library/
Office of Student Support	http://camosun.ca/oss
Ombudsperson	http://camosun.ca/ombuds
Registration	http://camosun.ca/registration
Technology Support	http://camosun.ca/its
Writing Centre	http://camosun.ca/writing-centre

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The College is committed to providing appropriate and reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities (i.e. physical, depression, learning, etc). If you have a disability, the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) can help you document your needs, and where disability-related barriers to access in your courses exist, create an accommodation plan. By making a plan through CAL, you can ensure you have the appropriate academic accommodations you need without disclosing your diagnosis or condition to course instructors. Please visit the CAL website for contacts and to learn how to get started: <http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/>

Academic Integrity

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.13.pdf> for policy regarding academic expectations and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Progress

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <http://camosun.ca/learn/fees/#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

Mandatory Attendance for First Class Meeting of Each Course

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable reason in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student. For more information, please see the "Attendance" section under "Registration Policies and Procedures" (<http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/procedures.html>) and the Grading Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf>.

Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal. Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services->

[and-support/e-2.8.pdf](#) to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun's Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence or misconduct occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student's right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun's Sexualized Violence and Misconduct Policy:

<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/sexual-violence. To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-3703841

Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College's Student Misconduct Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

Changes to this syllabus: Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.