

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: PSYC-130: Contemporary Issues

CLASS SECTION: D.05

TERM: Fall 2025

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): *Asynchronously Online through d2l*

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.

PRE or CO-REQUISITE(S):

One of:

C in English 12

C in Camosun Alternative

CO-REQUISITE(S):

EQUIVALENCIES:

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

- Upon completion of this course a student will be able to:
- Describe major contemporary issues in psychology and explain their historical antecedents.
- Apply psychological theories and understanding of current psychological issues to personal experience.
- Conduct impartial studies of psychological topics and arrive at logical inferences and conclusions from collected data.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

[INSERT TEXT HERE] **Course Text:**

There is a free online ebook - **Introduction to Psychology: Cummings, JA. & Sanders, L. (2025)** - available inside d2l and through d2l. <https://www.saskoer.ca/introductiontopsychology/>

Or you can purchase

Psychology (14th Edition) by D.G. Myers, C.N. Dewall & J. Gruber (2024) from the Camosun bookstore.

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

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
14	Review	

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	Readings
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](https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams). <https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams>

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. These are CLOSED BOOK exams and as such 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 the date indicated on the course syllabus and the **Final exam** will be during the first week of regular 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. You may take these quizzes up to three times, your highest score will count. *Quizzes for the first half of the course must be completed by the midterm exam date, and students who complete these quizzes after that date will not be given credit for them.*

Quizzes for the second half of the course must be completed by the final exam date and students completing these quizzes after that date will not be given credit for them. It is recommended that each quiz be taken once during the week of the specific topic for that quiz and the other attempts may be taken as practice in preparation for the midterm or the final exam.

Weekly Activities:

Various 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. Late assignments will be given a penalty.

The use of artificial intelligence in this course is strictly prohibited. If a student is detected to having used AI in an assignment they will receive a grade of 0 on that assignment.

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 to both generate experience and understanding as well as to enhance the on-line learning community. **Half of the marks will be given for the discussion board post and half for the assignment posted to the drop box.**

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. It is expected that the discussion replies will be made within two weeks of the topic being covered, otherwise they will be considered to be late and will not be graded.

SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

[INSERT TEXT HERE]

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 camosun.ca/services.

Support Service	Website
Academic Advising	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/academic-advising
Accessible Learning	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning
Counselling	camosun.ca/services/health-and-wellness/counselling-centre
Career Services	camosun.ca/services/co-operative-education-and-career-services
Financial Aid and Awards	camosun.ca/registration-records/financial-aid-awards
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	camosun.ca/programs-courses/iecc/indigenous-student-services
International Student Support	camosun.ca/international
Learning Skills	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills
Library	camosun.ca/services/library
Office of Student Support	camosun.ca/services/office-student-support
Ombudsperson	camosun.ca/services/ombudsperson
Registration	camosun.ca/registration-records/registration
Technology Support	camosun.ca/services/its

Support Service	Website
Writing Centre	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills

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.

COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to comply with all College policy regarding academic integrity; which is about honest and ethical behaviour in your education journey. The following guide is designed to help you understand your responsibilities: <https://camosun.libguides.com/academicintegrity/welcome>
Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.13.pdf> for Camosun's Academic Integrity policy and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Camosun College is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging appropriate academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a documented disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) and register as early as possible. Please visit the CAL website for more information about the process of registering with CAL, including important deadlines: <https://camosun.ca/cal>

Academic Progress

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2023-02/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 <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <https://camosun.ca/registration-records/tuition-fees#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

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 (see [Medical/Compassionate Withdrawals policy](#)). Please visit <https://camosun.ca/services/forms#medical> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence

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 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 Policy: <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence-support-and-education.

To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-370-3841

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 <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

Looking for other policies?

The full suite of College policies and directives can be found here: <https://camosun.ca/about/camosun-college-policies-and-directives>

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.