



**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

A study of the science of psychology: its methods, concepts, and theories, including the topic areas of 1) brain, consciousness, sensation, and perception; 2) learning and memory; 3) intelligence, thought, and creativity; 4) motivation. Psychological concepts will be studied with a view towards how they can be applied to enhance the student's understanding of psychological adaptation and the causes and consequences of human behaviour.

**II. LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ELEMENTS OF THE PERFORMANCE:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Identify and describe the major approaches to psychology, the contributors, and the research methods.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- identify the key names in the history of psychology and their main contributions
- list and differentiate the five major approaches to psychology
- list and describe various methods of research design, including factors affecting research

2. Describe and explain the role that biology plays in the field of psychology.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- describe the structure and function of the central nervous system
- describe the structure and function of neurons and the roles played by neurotransmitters and receptors
- list and describe the structure and function of the peripheral nervous system
- explain the specialization of the cerebral hemispheres and the effects of brain damage
- describe the major endocrine glands, the hormones they secrete, and their principle functions

3. Describe and explain the relationships between sensation, perception, and behaviour.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- list the senses and describe how sensory stimuli are experienced as sensations
- describe the Gestalt principles of perceptual organization
- identify factors that influence perception and categorize them according to biological, psychological, or environmental factors

4. Describe the different levels of human consciousness and the factors that influence them.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- distinguish and explain the different levels of sleep and consciousness
- describe and differentiate how consciousness can be altered by hypnosis and drugs
- describe and differentiate sleep disorders

5. Identify and describe the major learning theories.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- explain and differentiate classical, operant, and cognitive learning theories
- explain the concept of operant conditioning and describe the main influencing factors
- describe the various types of cognitive learning theories

6. Describe the systems and processes involved in memory.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- explain and distinguish the different systems and processes involved in memory
- compare the nature of remembering with forgetting
- evaluate and apply current research to memory improvement

7. Recognize various concepts and controversies of intelligence and its measurement.

Potential elements of the Performance:

- explain the nature-nurture issues of intelligence
- identify issues of cultural diversity as it relates to the use and misuse of IQ testing

8. Describe the physiological, cognitive, and behavioural components involved in the main theories of motivation.

Potential elements of the Performance:

- describe and identify the main theories of motivation
- describe the “social motives” for achievement and competence

**III. TOPICS:**

1. Discovering Psychology
2. Psychology and Science
3. The Brain's Building Blocks
4. The Incredible Nervous System
6. Perception
7. Consciousness, Sleep, and Dreams
8. Hypnosis and Drugs
9. Classical Conditioning
10. Operant Conditioning and Cognitive Learning Theory
11. Types of Memory
12. Remembering and Forgetting
13. Intelligence
15. Motivation

**IV. REQUIRED RESOURCES/TEXTS/MATERIALS:**

Introduction to Psychology (2007) 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, Rod Plotnik. Brooks/Cole Publishing Company

**V. EVALUATION PROCESS/GRADING SYSTEM:**Evaluation

Students will be responsible for regular attendance and class participation in all areas of the course, as well as all readings and tests as requested. The course content and evaluation can be modified at the discretion of the professor.

The final course grade will be determined as follows:

<b>A. Tests</b>	<b>70%</b>
(using a variety of techniques including recognition and recall testing)	
<b>B. In-class Assignments</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>C. Final Exam/Assignments</b>	<b><u>20%</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Further details related to the assignments will be distributed in week two of classes.

If a student misses a test due to a verifiable illness or incident, the professor will determine if the student is eligible for an extension for an assignment or re-scheduling of a test. The student is ultimately responsible and obligated to contact the professor by phone, in person, or in writing **prior** to the assigned due date or test time. The College touch-tone/24-hour voice mail number allows you to immediately notify the professor with your name, message, and phone number.

Upon returning to college (your first day back), the student will **immediately** contact the professor to make arrangements for the assignment or test. Phone, or come by the professor's office, or leave a note under his/her office door with a telephone number where you can be reached. **Failure to do so will result in a zero grade.**

Notification policy in brief: **Mutual respect, courtesy, and accountability.**

Students are responsible for obtaining any materials missed due to absenteeism.

***The following semester grades will be assigned to students in post-secondary courses:***

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Grade Point Equivalent</u>
A+	90 – 100%	
A	80 – 89%	4.00
B	70 - 79%	3.00
C	60 - 69%	2.00
D	50 – 59%	1.00
F (Fail)	49% and below	0.00
CR (Credit)	Credit for diploma requirements has been awarded.	
S	Satisfactory achievement in field /clinical placement or non-graded subject area.	
U	Unsatisfactory achievement in field/clinical placement or non-graded subject area.	
X	A temporary grade limited to situations with extenuating circumstances giving a student additional time to complete the requirements for a course.	
NR	Grade not reported to Registrar's office.	
W	Student has withdrawn from the course without academic penalty.	

**Note:** For such reasons as program certification or program articulation, certain courses require minimums of greater than 50% and/or have mandatory components to achieve a passing grade.

It is also important to note, that the minimum overall GPA required in order to graduate from a Sault College program remains 2.0.

## VI. SPECIAL NOTES:

### Special Needs:

If you are a student with special needs (e.g. physical limitations, visual impairments, hearing impairments, or learning disabilities), you are encouraged to discuss required accommodations with your instructor and/or the Special Needs office. Visit the Special Needs office in Room 1101 or call extension 2703 so that support services can be arranged for you.

### Retention of course outlines:

It is the responsibility of the student to retain all course outlines for possible future use in acquiring advanced standing at other postsecondary institutions.

### Communication:

The College considers **WebCT/LMS** as the primary channel of communication for each course. Regularly checking this software platform is critical as it will keep you directly connected with faculty and current course information. Success in this course may be directly related to your willingness to take advantage of the **Learning Management System** communication tool. (Note: not all courses have adopted this channel yet.) (Please consult with your professor.)

### Plagiarism:

Students should refer to the definition of “academic dishonesty” in the *Student Code of Conduct*. Students who engage in “academic dishonesty” will receive an automatic failure for that submission and/or such other penalty, up to and including expulsion from the course/program, as may be decided by the professor/dean. In order to protect students from inadvertent plagiarism, to protect the copyright of the material referenced, and to credit the author of the material, it is the policy of the department to employ a documentation format for referencing source material.

### Course outline amendments:

The Professor reserves the right to change the information contained in this course outline depending on the needs of the learner and the availability of resources.

Substitute course information is available in the Registrar's office.

**VII. PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT:**

Students who wish to apply for advance credit transfer (advanced standing) should obtain an Application for Advance Credit from the Social Sciences Coordinator or academic assistant regarding a general education transfer request. Students will be required to provide an unofficial transcript and course outline related to the course in question.

Credit for prior learning will also be given upon successful completion of a challenge exam or portfolio.

**VIII. CELL PHONES** must be turned off during class time. No cell phones are allowed in class on test days.