



Psychology Course Outline

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Sycamore High School

Office Hours: Before school and then 2nd & 9th hours in my room OR stop in for A lunch. ☺

Course Description: While psychology is most often associated with clinical issues (e.g. personalities disorders), this makes up only a small portion of the field. Other specialties within psychology include, to name just a few, physiological, social, organizational, and developmental psychology. This course will serve as an overview of the major fields within psychology with an emphasis on developing an understanding of psychology as the science of human thought and behavior. Units of study will include theory, the bio-psychological basis of behavior (study of the brain), life span development, and psychiatric illnesses and disorders. Students will also critically examine “common sense” knowledge about how people function.

Objectives: Through completion of this course, students will:

- ✓ be aware of the major psychological approaches to the study of behavior.
- ✓ be introduced to the major aspects of behavior investigated by psychologists.
- ✓ be familiar with the theories and contributions of major figures in the field.
- ✓ become familiar with major research findings and theories of the field.
- ✓ become conversant in the unique language of psychology.
- ✓ learn the methodology of psychology and its limitations.
- ✓ learn how to locate, read and evaluate psychological resources.
- ✓ become an informed consumer of psychological information.
- ✓ gain self understanding and a greater understanding of others.
- ✓ recognize ways to apply psychological findings to everyday life.
- ✓ learn to appreciate the necessity of a multi-level explanation of behavior.

Course Outline:

Unit One: Introduction to Theory, Careers, and Research

Unit Two: Life Span Development

Unit Three: Introduction to Psychological Disorders/Abnormal Psychology

*** The above schedule is an outline, not an exact timeline. ***

Textbook: *Thinking About Psychology: The Science of Mind and Behavior.* Worth Publishers, 2008.

NCAA Accredited/Approved: Yes

Grading Calculation: Quarter grades will be 80% of the semester final grade and the final project will be the remaining 20%. Please be aware that in lieu of a traditional final exam (a test), students will instead create and present a presentation on a mental disorder of their choice.

Required Materials:

- ✓ A binder for class notes, handouts, etc.
- ✓ Spiral notebook or loose leaf paper for notes
- ✓ 2- Highlighters of different colors (e.g. one pink and one blue)
- ✓ 1- Book cover-- This cover can be the kind you buy at the store (check Wal-Mart), something you make yourself out of heavy paper, or anything in between, but the text must be covered and remain covered throughout the semester. A quick note: If you are buying a cover from Wal-Mart, Walgreens, etc. make sure that you buy the "jumbo" size as they are the only ones that will fit textbooks this large.
- ✓ Page Flags
- ✓ Earphones/earbuds
- ✓ Pen/Pencil
- ✓ Computer mouse- this is not required, but would be nice to have
- ✓ Your district provided Chromebook- We will have "E-Learning Days" every Friday and they may be used other days upon request.

Absences: It is the student's responsibility to see one of the classroom teachers on the **FIRST** day back to school to make arrangements for any missed material and/or makeup work. In accordance with the SHS attendance policy, students will be given a "day for day" when absent, so in other words, if you miss one day, you have one day to do the work and turn it in..

- ✓ If a student is going to be out of class due to a pre-arranged absence (e.g. a track meet, field trip, doctor's appointment, etc.), and there is homework due, it is the student's responsibility to get that homework in **BEFORE** leaving school. These types of absences are typically known about many days in advance, so it is up to the student to attend to their academic responsibilities before the absences occur. Simply being out of class is not an excuse for not turning things in on their due dates. In other words, if a student is in the building at any time on the day something is due, they are expected to turn the assignment in. All work submitted late after such an absence will be considered late and graded accordingly.
 - I realize that you have other classes and obligations, and I am willing to be flexible; however, please be aware that it is crucial to keep the lines of communication open, so please let me know of things as far ahead as you can.
- ✓ If a student is coded as "unexcused" through the Attendance Office, late work will not be accepted for points and grades will be assigned as zeroes.

Grading: All points given in this class are added together and divided by the total number given. Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

A+ = 100-99%	A = 98-92%	A- = 91-90%
B+ = 89-88%	B = 87-82%	B- = 81-80%
C+ = 79-78%	C = 77%-73%	C- = 71-70%
D+ = 69-68%	D = 67-63%	D- = 61-60%
F = 59% and lower		

Grades will be based upon, and weighted, as noted below:

- Tests- 45%
- Quizzes-15%
- Assignments- 15%
- Projects- 25%

*** Grades will be updated in the Parent Portal routinely as time allows. ***

Classroom Code of Conduct:

- ✓ All students are expected to maintain respect at all times for themselves, fellow students, as well as all faculty members. Maintaining respect includes keeping your hands to yourself, avoiding offensive/abusive words, and allowing others to speak without fear of being ridiculed and/or talked over.
- ✓ Respecting the school itself– its property, staff, and rules. This rule is to maintain a learning atmosphere that is friendly, educational, and respectful to all who enter it.
- ✓ Respecting the rights and privacy of your fellow students and your instructor is of the utmost importance. Due to this reason, there are to be no recordings or tapings of lectures or classes without the full consent and knowledge of your instructor(s).
- ✓ ***The use of iPods, cell phones, Chromebooks, or any electronic/noise-making devices is prohibited unless otherwise approved by the instructor. Use not requested or approved by the instructor will result in disciplinary action. You will get ONE warning to put your device away, after that it will be confiscated and taken to the office.***
- ✓ We will create a vibrant learning environment, so it is important that everyone has the space and opportunity to voice their ideas and analyses of concepts. If you are talking while another person is speaking (be that classmate, myself, guest speaker, or anyone else) I will address that violation immediately. Additionally, I do not expect you to be Snap Chatting, texting, Tweeting, or working on other things while I am teaching or at any point during our class.
- ✓ All work that you submit for this course should be your own. Plagiarism (submitting someone else's work or thoughts as your own) and other forms of cheating will be dealt with severely. If you are having problems with an assignment, please come see me BEFORE resorting to the short-sighted practice of cheating. I am here to help you learn and to help you develop the skills necessary to succeed. Because cheating and plagiarism are strict violations within all realms of academia, it will result in the following consequences: a failing grade on the assignment as well as a phone call home, which will be made by the student.
- ✓ Being prepared for class means having the textbook, any assigned homework, notes, pen/pencil, etc. when you enter the classroom. Students should be ready to begin class when the bell rings, and as a result, they will not be permitted to go to their locker, the bathroom, or anywhere else once class has started. **PLEASE USE THE RESTROOM AND STOP AT YOUR LOCKERS BEFORE CLASS STARTS.**

Homework and Late Work Policy:

- ✓ ***All assignments and classroom business will be posted on our Canvas Classroom pages. If you missed class, need access to your online text, forgot a handout at school, don't remember the homework, forget when something is due, etc. all of it can be found on our Canvas page. Check it as often as you can!***
- ✓ All work that you submit for this course should be your own. Plagiarism (submitting someone else's work or thoughts as your own) and other forms of cheating will be dealt with severely. If you are having problems with an assignment, please come see me BEFORE resorting to the short-sighted practice of cheating. I am here to help you learn and to help you develop the skills necessary to succeed.
- ✓ Assignments are expected to be turned in ON TIME, which is at the start of class. If it is not submitted on time, it is late- regardless of whether it is 30 seconds or 30 minutes. "I need to run to my locker" or "It's in my car" are not valid excuses, and if students retrieve it and bring it in at a later time, it is still late.
- ✓ Opportunities for extra credit may be given to students who have completed all of their assignments, but remember– I DO NOT GIVE GRADES, STUDENTS EARN GRADES. Extra credit may not be enough to save a student at the end of the semester.
- ✓ Late work that is submitted simply because it is incomplete or not done will be accepted ONLY within 24 hours of the original due date.
 - These assignments will be accepted, but they will only be worth half credit.
 - Once 24 hours have passed since the due date, late work will not be accepted for points. I will gladly take a look at it and correct it, but points will not be given for the assignment.
 - ***ANY LATE WORK SUBMITTED MUST HAVE A LATE FORM ATTACHED OR IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.***

Tips for Success:

- ✓ Come to class prepared.
- ✓ Make sure to bring all necessary materials to class each day.
 - For most units, I will distribute class notes; however, be aware that they are not all-inclusive of all of the material that may be covered and you will be expected to supplement and add to them as necessary. You should bring this note packet to class with you each day.
- ✓ Participate in our daily discussions.
- ✓ There are not a lot of assignments in this class, so be sure to do those that we have and submit them on time.
- ✓ Don't be afraid to ask for help! I genuinely want each of you to do well and succeed- both in my class and in life as a whole. However, there are times when you may need to ask for help. I encourage you to ask without hesitation or anxiety, as all issues and questions will be addressed and hopefully resolved promptly.
- ✓ You are to be commended for taking on this challenging class this semester! If you put the effort in, the rewards can be significant. It is my goal to create a level of understanding and interest in psychology that will benefit you not only in this class, but also in the rest of your classes and in life.
- ✓ Finally, make sure to think and question in this class.

"What sets worlds in motion is the interplay of differences, their attractions and repulsions. Life is plurality, death is uniformity. By suppressing differences and peculiarities, by eliminating different civilizations and cultures, progress weakens life and favors death. The ideal of a single civilization for everyone, implicit in the cult of progress and technique, impoverishes and mutilates us. Every view of the world that becomes extinct, every culture that disappears, diminishes a possibility of life."

--Octavio Paz, Mexican poet, writer and diplomat 1914-1998.

To Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

The attached list of classroom policies has been designed to help your student understand what is required of them while in our class. However, it is for you as well, as I want to communicate to you how our classes will operate and how your student will be assessed. After reviewing these policies yourself, please sign and return this page. I certainly welcome any questions or comments you may wish to include with your signature. If at any time you have questions regarding your student or their progress, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached most easily at sturner@syc427.org.

Please include an email address if you would like to communicate electronically in regards to your student, their performance, or class activities, as I have found that communicating via email is the most convenient, secure way of contacting parents.

Student's Signature & Date

Parent's Signature & Date

Parent's Email
Address