AP Psychology Syllabus

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Grade Weight – 5.0
Course Length: Year

Course Description
The purpose of the AP Psychology course is to introduce the systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Included is a consideration of the psychological facts, principles and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. Students also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. Because this is a demanding, rigorous and fast-paced college-level course, students will have frequent short quizzes, essays, out of class projects and research and take rigorous tests covering large amounts of material. The aim of this AP psychology course is to provide a learning experience equivalent to that obtained in a college introductory psychology course. Students successfully completing this course will be prepared to take and pass the College Board’s Advanced Placement Psychology Exam. Class time will be devoted to reinforcing concepts, discussions, testing, writing and designing of experiments. Hand-outs and videos will be used to help facilitate greater understanding of difficult topics.

AP Course Standards:
The course is based upon the AP standards set forth by the College Board. They can be found at https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-psychology

Course Objectives
This course will help students:
- Understand the fundamental concepts and theories of psychology and relate these concepts and theories to their own lives.
- Learn the basic skills of psychological research and use these skills to devise research projects and interpret research results.
- Apply concepts and theories of psychology to their personal lives and relationships.
- Use their growing knowledge of psychology to carefully and objectively evaluate current theories, trends, and issues in the field of psychology.
- Prepare for successful completion of the Advanced Placement Psychology exam.

Textbook
Online version of textbook is available. (You are expected to bring the textbook to class each day.)

Supplies
- 2 three-ring binders
- Lined paper
- Blue/black pen, pencil, and highlighter
- A spiral notebook (for use as a vocabulary journal)

Classroom Policy
1. Follow directions the first time given
2. Respect everyone in this class unconditionally, including yourself.
3. No food or beverages in the classroom except for water.
4. No electronic devices of any sort are allowed in class for non-educational purposes.
   a. Wireless ear buds are NOT allowed to be worn or be visible in class.
5. Phones will be placed in phone holder located in classroom at the beginning of the period. Retrieve phone after class. Why? “There never has been a more dynamic learning context than face-to-face in close proximity. Everything possible should be done to protect this timeless learning environment from interruption and distraction”. Focus is necessary for learning. (http://mediashift.org/2011/09/cell-phones-in-classrooms-no-students-need-to-pay-attention264/)

Grading Policies
Students should expect to have homework assignments every night of the week. Most often, homework will consist of reading assignments from the textbook. Students are required to read the textbook actively, updating their vocabulary journal in their spiral notebook. There will be daily reading quizzes to assess your comprehension of the material.

In addition to daily homework assignments, students are expected to complete a study guide for each module and unit of study. The study guide questions will be provided, and the completed study guide will be due at the end of the module and unit. Late work will be accepted at a reduced grade or point value until the day of a unit test. After a unit test, assignments related to that unit will not be accepted late.
Grading Policy

The grade scale:
A: 90-100; B: 80-89;  
C: 70-79; D: 60-69;  
F: below 60

Each Quarter grade will be determined based on the following:
Homework = 20%  Tests and Quizzes = 60%  
Research/Projects = 10%  Work Habits Evaluation = 10%

Your final semester grade will be calculated as follows:
Quarter = 40%;  
Quarter = 40%;  
Final Exam = 20%

All tests will reflect the AP Psychology Test format and will include multiple choice questions and free response questions. You will be tested on each unit. Periodically, you will have a Comprehensive Exam. These are cumulative and are intended to ensure retention of material throughout the school year and to help prepare you for the AP Exam. Quizzes may be announced or unannounced. They may be on current material, or reviewing prior topics. There will be no re-takes or make-ups for quizzes but the lowest quiz score will be dropped each quarter. For Homework, you will need to read the chapters and take notes. These notes should be completed in a way that will help you to engage with the text and study the material. I will be checking your notes and will be giving periodic reading quizzes. Class discussion will often be based on the prior day’s reading assignment. We will be moving quickly, so it is important that you keep up.

Attendance

If students are not in class, they are not learning all of the material covered. Attendance and participation in class are an integral part of the student’s learning and grade. Attendance will be recognized based on category D of the Work Habits Evaluation form. Attendance requirements and guidelines can be found in the JHS Student Handbook: “Students are responsible for collecting all make-up work, and have the number of days equal to number of days absent to complete missing assignments.” If a student is going to be out for an extended period of time, arrangements for work to be sent home can be made through the office or via email. If you are absent on the day of a test or quiz, you must make it up the day you return.

Academic Responsibility

Misrepresenting others’ work as your own is intellectual dishonesty. Because research and learning are often best done in groups, collaboration with classmates is expected. However, all work on tests must be individual and all work must be written in your own words. You must properly cite resources and people used in your research. You will receive a zero and parents will be notified if any work is plagiarized. Refer to the JHS Student Handbook regarding academic misconduct policies and plagiarism.

Extra Help: Extra help is available to all students. Please come as soon as you feel the slightest concern: don’t wait until you are completely overwhelmed. We can schedule time during Zero Hour, study hall, after school, and for various review sessions to be announced. Always seek extra help.

Confidentiality and Respect: In order to ensure a comfortable and engaging learning environment, everyone must be responsible, accountable and respectful. Thoughts shared are to remain confidential to the class.

Student Signature and date:  
Parent Signature and date:

**Changes in this syllabus are at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be notified of any changes that may occur.**