

# *Psychology*

2021-2022

Dear Students,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Psychology!!! We are about to dive into the depths of the human mind. I hope this experience will captivate, challenge and excite you. Over the next few months we will be studying various aspects of the human mind and how it functions. It is my goal that you will all leave this course with an understanding and appreciation for why people act as they do. I also hope that you will learn skills that will help you think critically and continue your education after leaving my class. I have attached a list of Frequently Asked Questions for your benefit. Please keep this guide with you as a reference throughout the semester. I am looking forward to a great year with each of you!!!

Sincerely,

Steve Harris

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## ***Frequently Asked Questions About Psychology Class***

### **What materials will I need to succeed in this class?**

Once we start in person, you will need to provide a **1 inch binder OR Strong folder** that you devote ONLY to this class. You may turn this binder in periodically for a grade! Feel free to decorate the outside of this binder in a way to positively express yourself. This notebook will be used for notes, class activities and journaling and is essential to staying organized. In this notebook you must have either a **spiral notebook or loose leaf paper**. Of course you should come with a **pencil or pen** to every class. I highly recommend keeping **sticky tabs** in your notebook to help separate units.

### **What is expected of me in Room 206?**

#### ***Come to class prepared each day.***

Each class period, you will need to have something to write with, your textbook and your Psychology binder. Of course I'd love for you to also come with a big smile and an eagerness to learn.

#### ***Actively participate in class each day***

My interactions with you, and your interactions with your peers are one of the best sources of information for how much you know, vs. what you need help on. Actively participate, try your best, even if you get a wrong answer, that helps you learn!

#### ***Plan to be in class for all 50 minutes.***

With very few exceptions, you are expected to be present for the entire class. This means you should use the restroom and take care of any other issues prior to the start of class

#### ***Respect:***

This should be self explanatory. I expect you to respect the classroom, other students and myself, but most of all, respect yourself. I strive to maintain an environment where everyone feels safe sharing their opinion. Therefore negative comments about anyone in the classroom (including you) will not be tolerated.

#### ***Focus, and keep your brain thinking about psychology and our world now.***

I cannot always see if your mental focus is entirely on the classwork. Research overwhelmingly shows that students who attempt to multi-task (including checking your phone, or another tab) have more difficulty learning and retaining information. It also shows that the higher your confidence in your ability to multi-task, the worse you actually are at doing so. Focus is a skill, and we will discuss strategies to continue improving it.

#### ***Stay awake during class***

#### ***Cell Phones and other electronic devices: Hang them up in my room or put them away***

Research overwhelming shows that people are less focused and more distracted by the presence of phones. Take the steps to ensure that your device is not a distraction to you (or anyone else in the room). Problematic electronic devices will spend their time in the office.

#### ***Practice Academic Honesty (meaning do your own work).***

Cheating and Plagiarism hurt your education, regardless of whether you get caught or not. In addition to disciplinary actions, academic dishonesty severely damages trust between you and me, which is difficult, if not impossible to repair. Please don't put yourself in that position.

### How will I be graded?

#### **Major Assessments will make up 63% of your grade.**

This includes tests, quizzes and projects. This part of your grade is based on total points earned on the major assessments.

#### **Learning Activities will make up 7% of your grade.**

This includes homework assignments completed to show mastery of material as well as in-class activities, notebook checks, etc.

**Special Note: Assignments in this category can be corrected to improve your grade** at any point during the unit in which it was assigned. However, assignments that have not scored Basic (1) or better will receive NO CREDIT until you have demonstrated proficiency on that assignment. (In other words, if you don't get it, you won't get credit until you get it. I'll always be willing to help!)

#### **The Cumulative Final Exam will make up 30% of your final grade for the semester**

### Can I redo assignments or retake tests if I do not like my scores?

**YES!!! YOU CAN ALWAYS CORRECT YOUR WORK TO EARN A HIGHER SCORE AT ANY TIME DURING THAT UNIT!**

You can apply for a test retake for any test except the final exam. This will require a MINIMUM of 2 meetings with Mr. Harris and demonstration that you will be more successful on the retake than the original test. See the retake ticket for more information. You should also be aware that your retake will COMPLETELY REPLACE the original score and that questions will be different from the original test.

### How will my homework be graded?

Each assignment will evaluate your progress on at least one major class objective, using the 4 point scale below. Each objective for the assignment will be worth 10 points, regardless of the length of the assignment. (In other words, if it covers 1 objective its worth 10 points, if it covers 3 objectives its worth 30 points). Classwork and Homework fall into the "Learning Activities" portion of your grade (10%).

**Special Note:** All homework is valued equally based on objectives covered. Some assignments will take longer than others. That is because it is a more complex objective. That assignment will also be something that is worth more on the test!

### What is this 4 point scale you keep referring to?

- 4 = A:** You have total mastery of the content, with few, minor errors. You know it so well that you can apply your knowledge to something we have not directly discussed
- 3 = B:** You understand what you need to. You may not have supported your ideas as well, or you made some errors, but you showed solid understanding of this standard.
- 2 = C:** You understand the main ideas, but may have made some major errors or left out some very important pieces of information.
- 1 = D-:** You have showed very little understanding. You really need to get some help to make sure you keep improving this score
- NTY = 0 = F:** You have not shown any understanding of this standard in relation to what was being asked.

### What is your policy on Zeros?

**ZEROS ARE NEVER PERMANENT!!!! YOU CAN ALWAYS FIX IT!!!!**

A zero in my grade book may mean two things.

- 1) You didn't turn in an assignment yet.
- 2) You turned in the assignment, but did not answer all questions or did not score basic or better.

The solution for both is simple. Complete or correct the work and turn it in. **There is no reason you should ever have a zero, because you can ALWAYS fix it for credit.**

### How much homework will I have?

In-person teaching: You should expect homework 0-2 nights per week. Unless instructed otherwise, I expect assignments turned into the box in the back of the room at beginning of class. If it is not turned in at that time it is considered late and must be completed as soon as possible.

Virtual Learning: You will have the week's work assigned on Infinite Campus. You will usually have 5 days worth of course work, but many assignments will allow you to work at your own pace, as long as you meet deadlines.

### What happens in my homework is late?

Since assignments are meant to show that you learned the material, I will not penalize you if you need extra help. Assignments turned in before the unit test is taken will not lose any points. However, you lose the right to expect my feedback as quickly and should expect the burden of having multiple assignments to complete.

Since assignments are designed to help you on the test, all assignments must be turned in before the test for that unit in order to receive full credit. Any assignments turned in after the test date will receive a 40% point reduction.

If you make a habit of not completing assignments or turning assignments in late, you should expect additional consequences, including, but not limited to, contacting your parents and/or mandatory time with me after school (aka: Detention) to complete missing work.

### What do I do if I miss a class?

Attendance is very important to the study of psychology. If you happen to miss a class, you are responsible for making up all work missed while you were gone. When you return, turn in any work that was due the day you missed. You will need to get the homework from the appropriate binder and complete it as soon as possible. You will also need to get the class notes from another student. I will be glad to get you caught up if you come see me outside of regular class time. **If you miss a review day, you will still be required to take the test on the day you return. If you miss a test day, you will be required to take the test the day you return during academic advisory or after school. Once we have completed another test, you will not be permitted to make up any previous exams.**

### What we will study this semester?

*The Basics of Psychology	Chapters 1-2
8 Major approaches of psychology	
Methods used in psychological studies	
*The Brain and how it works	Chapter 3
Memory	Chapter 7
Thinking and Problem Solving	
##Sleep, Dreams and Consciousness	Chapter 5
##Sensation and Perception	Chapter 4
#Positive Psychology	
#Psychological Disorders and Therapy	Chapters 18-19
#Developmental Psychology and Personality Theories	Chapters 10-12, 14
#Motivation, Emotion and Stress	Chapters 13, 17
#Learning and Behavior (Conditioning)	Chapter 6

\*Denotes required units that we will complete

# Denotes that we will chose TWO of these units based on student interest

**Please note, I have taught this class without a textbook long enough that we will not be strongly relying upon it. These chapters should be considered supplemental readings as necessary, but units will not necessarily be based upon the textbook chapters.**

### How can I bring up my grade?

Starting the 6<sup>th</sup> week of each semester, I hold SWAT (students with after school tutoring) each Monday after school. During SWAT, you will receive work personalized to your situation that will help you increase understanding and raise your grade.

### What if I still have trouble with something we are learning?

**I want each of my students to succeed: in my class, in school and in life. Feel free to come by for help before or after school or during academic advisory. I will always be willing to help you succeed!**