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AP Psychology Syllabus

Course Introduction: AP Psychology is the equivalent of a college introductory psychology course. This is a rigorous and demanding course, intended to provide the scope and level of accomplishment expected in a college/university setting. The curriculum for this course places a heavy emphasis on essential readings, assignments and frequent tests intended to prepare students for the AP exam. Please understand from the onset a fact of paramount importance: the most important person in this classroom is you. Acting as a college student, you are expected to charge ahead on your own, to seek, find and internalize knowledge on your own. In short, you must be the agent in your educational process. The instructor's role is to facilitate your drive and accomplishment by structuring learning situations and selecting learning tools to help you attain your goals: a successful score on the AP psychology Exam, an enrichment of your life through the acquisition of psychological knowledge and enjoyment of the course.

Course Objective: To prepare students to successfully take the AP exam.

Workload Expectation: The AP Psychology curriculum is constructed to mirror that of a three credit general psychology course at the college level. One college credit is defined as equivalent to an average of three hours of learning effort per week necessary for an average student to achieve an average grade (C) in the course. Thus, a student taking a three credit course that meets for three hours a week should expect to spend an additional six hours a week on coursework outside the classroom. This, of course, is a general guideline. The amount of time necessary outside of class varied greatly, and is dependent on both the individual and the letter grade sought.

Topics/Units to be Covered in AP Psychology I:

- History and Approaches to Psychology
- Research Methods
- Biological Bases of Behavior (the Brain)
- Abnormal Psychology
- Treatment of Psychological Disturbances
- Learning/Memory
- Personality

Topics/Units to be Covered in AP Psychology II:

- Developmental Psychology
- States of Consciousness
- Testing and Individual Differences
- Sensation and Perception
- Motivation and Emotion
- Social Psychology
- Cognition/Thinking/Language

Text: Psychology, Seventh Edition, Myers, David G., Worth Publishers, 2004 (with accompanying study guide/CD)

*Other applicable readings will also be provided in class or researched and provided by the student

*It is strongly suggested that students purchase a copy of an AP Psychology prep course at a local book store if intending to take the AP exam.

Grading: Grades will be assigned on a straight percentage basis with the top and bottom 2% in each grade category being +/-.

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	<60%

Grade Categories:

Unit Tests	45%
Reading Quizzes	20%
Written assignments & class activities	20%
Final Exam	15%

Reading Quizzes – Each year I ask the students several questions upon their return from the AP Psychology Exam. One of those questions is, “What would you do differently if you had to do it over again?” The most frequent response is, “I wish I had read more closely – page for page – word for word!” Students in this course are fortunate to be studying from a textbook that is considered by most psychology instructors to be the most readable text on the market. David Meyers writes in a way that is creative, personal and easy-to-follow. Success in this course is highly dependent upon not only reading the assigned chapters in a timely manner, but also comprehending the material. Each chapter has been dissected into chunks in an effort to assist students in better managing the chapters and promote understanding. It is essential students read the assigned material on or before the due date. Open note quizzes will be given on a variable schedule. Thus, students will be reinforced for reading on time, taking notes and approaching every class as a “quiz day”. Students will also be reinforced for continued study as these quizzes may occur anytime between the assigned date and the end of the unit. Students may use any **hand-written** notes on these quizzes – computer-generated notes/photo-copied notes may not be used without prior approval from the teacher(sometimes students like to type up their written notes and that would most likely be acceptable). Quizzes will be 10 – 15 questions in length and students will have 10-15 minutes to complete them. I know some students don't like timed quizzes or tests – but the AP exam has similar time restraints and students need to practice using their time in that manner.

Written Assignments:

-Assignments vary between quarters and classes and will be posted on the class calendars along with required readings.

-All essays need to be word-processed and may be emailed to me at any time. If bringing in a hard copy, please do not wait to print off your paper the morning something is due and find out your printer doesn't work or is out of ink. If you do, these are your options: email me (put the assignment in the text of the email as well as attaching it as a Word document), fax it to the school (506-7303), bring it on a flash drive or email it to yourself and print it off **before school** in the library. A paper is considered on time if it is handed in by the beginning of the period on the date due. If you are going to be gone from school on the day something is due – turn it in early.

Unit Tests:

Tests will be held on the day scheduled even if class has not been in session the previous day (e.g. snow day). In order to keep on pace to meet the rigors of the AP Exam we need to stay on schedule. Students will receive a reading list with test dates included - unless a change has been announced in class, those dates will be followed. Exams cover the assigned reading as well as everything covered in class during that unit.

*This is a college-level class - there is no retesting in this class and late work will be accepted for ½ credit (except for excused absences or if arrangements have been made ahead of time with the teacher) Please be prepared on the day something is due. Remember that school activity absences do not give you extra time - assignments are due before you leave on your activity ... please see me before you go!

Plagiarism/Scholastic Misconduct Policy: Plagiarism is copying or taking specific ideas from any source without giving credit. In this course I expect all work and ideas to be your own. Copying, letting someone else copy, or turning in another's work as your own are all examples of plagiarism. CRHS policies for plagiarism will be followed (see the student handbook). If you are having difficulty please see me ... copying from another student or source is not helping you learn ... and that is what is most important!

General Expectations:

- Be respectful of others and property that is not yours
- no electronic devices at any time for any reason (this includes headphones for music purposes!) unless approved for a class activity
- If you missed class, you missed something important! You are responsible for obtaining all the information presented on the date of your absence ... see me before or after class
- Please bring all necessary materials to class and be engaged from “bell to bell”!!!

AP Psychology

I have **reviewed** the above course syllabus and **understand** the guidelines/expectations presented:

Student Name Printed _____

Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian:

signature _____

current parent email _____
(if seen on a regular basis)

****Student's first assignment is to have this syllabus signed and returned.**

****students – please let me know in this space if there is anything I should know which may affect your performance in this class (e.g. job/work hours, will be moving, first AP or honors class, troubles with_____)**
