

PSYCHOLOGY

Fall 2016
Westlake High School
C232

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Course Description:

This class is designed to introduce students to the systematic study of human behavior and experience through study of the major perspectives in this field. Students will gain understanding of the methods used in development and verification of these theories based on human and animal behavior.

In this class, we will explore how to use psychology as a tool to better understand the world in which we live. We will focus specifically on how psychology can help us better understand our own behavior and the behavior of people around us. As you participate in this class I hope you will learn to apply your increased understanding and make changes in your behavior, while positively influencing the behavior of those around you. As we gain understanding, we will be able to identify incorrect generalizations, remove stereotypes, and eliminate prejudice and discrimination.

Classroom Rules:

This is an elective class many other students would like to take. Since you are not required to be in this class, show me through your willingness to participate in a positive way that you are indeed interested in learning about psychology. As your teacher, I will do everything I can to make this class interesting and relevant to your life. In return, I ask you to come to every class prepared to learn. I also expect all students to demonstrate qualities of discipline, responsibility, honesty, and respect. Cheating will not be tolerated. You will receive a zero grade on any test, assignment, or project that is not your work. If you have a question whether or not you are cheating, you probably are. If you still don't know, ask me. Respect yourself, your peers, your teacher, your materials, and your classroom, and this will be a wonderful year for you in Psychology. I'm excited to have you.

Attendance Policy:

You will receive an NC (no credit) in my class when you have one unexcused absence or four tardies. You are responsible for taking care of your absences and tardies with the attendance office. I do offer opportunities for "community service" in my classroom, but you must prearrange the time with me beforehand. Refer to the attendance policy on the school's website for further clarification. Attendance information can also be found in the student handbook.
<http://westlake.alpinedistrict.org/Attendance%20PolicyNew.html>

Grading Breakdown: (Subject to change)

Participation — 10%

You will be given 100 points at the beginning of each term. If I have to take your cell phone, ipod, or any other distraction away in class you will automatically lose 10 points. You will be just fine on participations points if you are present each day, and are participating in class. Please be respectful of classmates and teachers.

Quizzes— 10%

On any given day throughout the semester you could have a quiz at the beginning of class. The questions on the quizzes will mostly come from the previous class discussion. Pay attention in class, take notes, and review them daily to score well on the quizzes. Your lowest quiz score each semester will be dropped. If you are tardy, you may not make up the quiz you missed. Missing quizzes could have a significant negative impact on your grade.

Assignments — 40%

Most assignments for each unit will be turned in collectively on the day you take the corresponding unit exam. Assignments may consist of (1) group work, (2) class work, (3) handouts, (4) personal reflection summaries, (5) experiments or projects, (6) research papers, and/ or (7) video summaries. Complete the assignments the day they are assigned, instead of waiting until the night before they are due. You will score much better in this section if you avoid procrastination.

Assessments – 40%

At the end of each unit, you will take a unit test or complete a unit project. Tests will consist of multiple choice and possible essay questions. Projects will take the form of in class presentations. If you keep up with the reading, participate in class discussions, and complete assignments, you will score well.

Grading Scale:

A = 93% - 100%	C+ = 77% - 79.9%
A- = 90% - 92.9%	C = 73% - 76.9%
B+ = 87% - 89.9%	C- = 70% - 72.9%
B = 83% - 86.9%	D = 67% - 69.9%
B- = 80% - 82.9%	D- = 60% - 66.9%

Late Work Policy:

All projects, papers, and assignments are due before you take each unit test. You will be able to turn in late work after the due date, however, you will only receive partial credit for your work. No credit will be offered on non-mastery assignments two weeks past the due date.

Absent Work:

You may only make up quizzes if your absence is excused. You will be required to turn in the work that was due the day of your absence on the day you return. You will need to take tests within two class periods of when you return. You may take tests and quizzes either before or after school. Do not expect to catch me during lunch. Please discuss your schedule with me before coming to take tests.

If you will be absent, due to a Westlake extracurricular activity, it is your responsibility to speak with me beforehand about the work you will be missing. You will be able to predict what you will be missing from your unit plan, but speak with me before your absence for further clarifications about what you will be missing. I will be happy to work with you, as long as you prepare responsibly for your school-approved absences.

Extra Credit:

I will provide a few minor extra credit opportunities throughout each semester. However, if you would like to raise your grade one half step at the end of each term, you may create a PowerPoint presentation or video of one concept learned in Psychology. The PowerPoint presentations must be at least 15 slides, with pictures, and a presentation to the class. The videos must be at least five minutes long. All extra credit projects must be approved by me beforehand. You are only allowed one project per term. I will provide a specific rubric separately. Extra credit opportunities only raise your overall score. They never substitute for incomplete grades or failed TMUs.

Electronic Devices:

Cell phones, ipods, and other personal electronic devices must remain on silent in your backpacks, unless I specifically ask you to use them. If you choose to use them at any other time, you could (1) lose participation points (2) lose the opportunity to complete an extra credit project, or (3) force your parent or guardian to come pick up your phone or ipod from me. Be respectful towards me and your classmates, and we shouldn't have a problem. If I see you using your cell phone or ipod when you are taking a test, you will receive zero points on that unit test, and you will be required to make up the TMU on your own time.

Tentative Schedule

August

22/23 – Introduction to Psychology
24/25 – Personality
26/29 – Personality
30/31 – Memory

September

1/2 – Memory
6/7 – Review
8/9 – Unit 1 Test
12/13 – Sleep and Dreams
14/15 – Sleep and Dreams
16/19 – Hypnosis and Meditation
20/21 – Drugs and Addiction
22/23 – Drugs and Addiction
26/27 – Review
28/29 – Unit 2 Test
30/3 – Psychological Disorders

October

4/5 – Work Day
6/7 – Work Day
10/11 – Movie: Sybil
12/13 – Movie: Sybil
14/17 – Present disorders
18/19 – Present disorders
25/26 – Review
27/28 – Unit 3 QUIZ
31/1 – Introduce Connections

November

2/3 – Piaget & Cognitive development
4/7 – Cognitive development
8/9 – Erikson & Social development
10/11 – Moral development & Parenting styles
14/15 – Stages of Grief

16/17 – Movie: Tuesday's with Morrie

18/21 – Unit 4 Review

22/28 – Unit 4 Test

29/30 – Role Playing

December

1/2 – Conformity

5/6 – Obedience

7/8 – Prejudice & Discrimination

9/12 – Love & Attraction

13/14- Unit 5 Review

15/16 – Unit 5 Test

19/20 – Remediation

21/22 – Social Norms

January

3/4 – Connections Projects

5/6 – Connections Projects

9/10 – Remediation

