

PSYCHOLOGY
Fall 2018
Westlake High School
Room C232

Teacher: Ms. Cathy Miner

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Consultation time: Tuesdays (2:15-2:45)

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. 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.

Grading Breakdown (Subject to change)

Participation: 5%

You will be given 100 points at the beginning of each term. If you are late or refuse to participate appropriately I will dock participation points. Using cell phones at inappropriate times is a quick way to lose points. You will be just fine on participation points if you are present each day, and are participating in class. Please be respectful of classmates and teachers.

Quizzes: 5%

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. If you are tardy, you may not make up the quiz you missed.

Assignments: 50%

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 analysis of case studies. Projects will take the form of in class presentations. If you keep up with the classwork, participate in class discussion, and complete assignments, you should score well.

Grading Scale:

A = 93% - 100	A- = 90% - 92.9%	
B+ = 87% - 89.9%	B = 83% - 86.9%	B- = 80% - 82.9%
C+ = 77% - 79.9%	C = 73% - 76.9%	C- = 70% - 72.9%
D = 67% - 69.9%	D = 63% - 66.9%	D- = 60% - 62.9%

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 two weeks past the due date.

Absent Work Policy

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 you overall score. They never substitute for incomplete grades.

Electronic Devices

Cell phones and other personal electronic devices must remain on silent at all times. If you choose to use them 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 from me. Be respectful toward me and your classmates, and we shouldn't have a problem. If I see you using your phone when you are taking a test you will receive zero points on that test, and you will be required to make it up on your own time.

Tentative Schedule

August

20/21 – Introduction to Psychology

22/23 – Color Code

24/27 – MBTI

28/29 – History of Personality

30/31 – Personality Profiles

September

4/5 – Unit 1 Review

6/7 – Unit 1 Test

10/11 – Intro to Consciousness

12/13 – Sleep

14/17 – Hypnosis and Meditation

18/19 – Drugs and Addiction

20/21 – Drugs and Addiction

24/ 25 – Unit 2 Review

26/27 – Unit 2 Test

October

28/1 – Abnormal Psychology

2/3 – Work day

4/5 – Work day

8/9 - Guest Speaker

10/11 - Presentations

12/15 - Presentations

16/17 – Remediation

23/24 – Cognitive development

25/26 – Attachment

29/30 – Social development

November

31/1 – Stages of Grief

2/5 – Tuesday's with Morrie

6/7 – Unit 4 Review

8/9 – Unit 4 Test

12/13 - Remediation

14/15 - Role Playing

16/19 – Conformity

20/26 - Obedience

27/28 - Blue Eyes, Brown eyes

29/30 – Prejudice and Discrimination

December

3/4 – Love and Attraction

5/6 – Unit 5 Review

7/10 – Unit 5 Test

11/12 – Remediation

13/14 - Activity

17/18/19 – Last day wrap up!