**AP Psychology Course Syllabus**

**Instructor: Mrs. Holly White**

**2019-2020**

Advanced Placement Psychology is designed to give you a survey course equivalent to what you will earn in college. Because of the vast scope of the curriculum and time limitations, some areas of Psychology maybe skimmed over. You will be responsible for independent readings and outside class assignments. You are expected to spend more time doing homework for this course than you may be anticipating!

The most important difference between this course and the single-semester Psychology course is that you will assume all of the responsibility for your learning! I will present the framework for you to study and I will help you understand the concepts, but you have to do the hard work. Other major differences are: the amount of details you will be expected to know, the in-depth understanding of interrelationships among the concepts and the overarching focus of AP Psychology, and the shear amount of studying and note taking expected during and outside of class. I am not going to sugar coat this- this will be a hard class. However, you will find this class to be highly rewarding and incredibly applicable to both your personal and academic life.

\*ALL students in AP Psychology MUST take the AP exam. If you cannot or will not take the exam, you will be required to take an alternative exam AND you will not receive the bonus points on your grade or GPA. In addition, the AP classification will be removed from your transcript.

**COURSE OUTLINE**:

Unit 1: Scientific Foundations of Psychology

Unit 2: Biological Basis for Behavior

Unit 3: Sensation and Perception

Unit 4: Learning

Unit 5: Cognitive Psychology

Unit 6: Development Psychology

Unit 7: Motivation, Emotion, and Personality

Unit 8: Clinical Psychology

Unit 9: Social Psychology

Unit 10: AP Study and Test Preparation

1. **Materials needed:**
2. Pencils or pens
3. Notebook(s)
4. AP Psychology Study Booklet
5. School assigned laptop
6. Poncho or umbrella (portable classroom)
7. **Required Textbooks:**
8. *Myers’ Psychology for AP* (Class set provided)
9. *You are Not so Smart* by David McRaney (purchase by Sep. 1st)
10. **Special Requirements**:
11. Be an energetic student, eager to explore, in depth, the wonders of the human brain and psyche!
12. Have a sense of humor and an alert mind.
13. Complete projects: 1 or 2 per nine weeks.
14. Have a willingness to spend EXTRA time completing observations and data interpretations.
15. Have a willingness to participate fully in group work and activities.
16. **Classroom Rules:**
17. Respect yourself and others.
18. Come to class prepared to learn and to contribute.
19. Only submit **authentic** work.
20. Take care of our classroom.
21. Do not spray fragrance in the classroom (I get migraines)
22. Adhere to all school rules in this classroom.
23. Communicate any problems/issues/ideas appropriately.
24. **Conduct Expectations:**
25. This class discusses topics that require maturity and respect. Racism, sexism, and/or bigotry is not permitted. This class encourages healthy conversations about important topics in Psychology that may push the boundaries of personal comfort. You are not required to share your opinion, but what you say matters.
26. We will practice the Humanistic concept of *Positive Unconditional Regard*. During some parts of this class, we will discuss and analyze mental illnesses and treatment. We are NOT talking about ‘crazy’, ‘evil’, ‘lazy’ or ‘weak-willed’ people. We are just talking about people that need love, understanding, and help.
27. **Procedures:**
28. **Classwork:** I will only assign exactly what I believe you will need to understand our content at a mastery level. With that said, there will be a lot of work. Submit your work with honesty and punctuality and you will succeed in this class.
29. **Submitting Work:** All work should be turned into the appropriate basket located on the labelled bookshelf. Late work must be submitted directly to me.
30. **Makeup Work:**
31. When absent, you have as many days to make up work as you missed from school.
32. It is *YOUR RESPONSIBILITY* to check with me for the missed assignments. I will have a notebook and massive calendar with assignments. You have NO excuses for unfinished work.
33. If you are absent on a quiz or test day, be prepared to take the test the FIRST day you return. *IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ASK FOR A MAKEUP QUIZ/TEST.* If you miss this window of opportunity, you will FAIL the test or quiz.
34. You CANNOT makeup tests or quizzes after 1 week post-test date.
35. Late work is NOT ACCEPTED. Get your work done on time!
36. **Attendance**: You are expected to attend class every day. Any absences will hurt your success in class. Students that do not miss ANY days, including no excused absences or school-business, will receive 50 bonus points at the end of the semester.
37. **Grades:** I use a total-points system in this class. This means your assignments may be worth a variety of points, but all you need to do to keep up with your average is to divide the total points you have earned for your grades by the total points that were possible. You can also use PowerSchool.
38. **Conferences with parents/guardians:** I will be glad to meet with your parents/guardians. They may call RHS or email me to make an appointment for afternoons (after 2:35 PM).

I look forward to getting to know you. We will all work hard and benefit from our time together. Do your best, maintain your integrity, and ask questions. I will do the same, but it is you who will earn every grade you receive in this course.

Sincerely,

Holly White

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