

Psychology
Course #212
Mr. O'Brien
Room #114

Psychology is the scientific study of mental processes and behavior. This course will cover aspects of psychology from biological based behavior to sensation and perception; from the mind and consciousness to memory and cognitive process; from intelligence to motivation; from human personality to psychological disorder; from human development to learning and behavior analysis.

Expectations

Come prepared, work hard, be respectful, be responsible. Any questions?

Grading

A	94	C	74
A-	90	C-	70
B+	87	D+	67
B	84	D	64
B-	80	D-	60
C+	78	NC	Unacceptable

- 80% of grade- Concepts, Application, and Analysis
 - This includes the ability to identify and differentiate concepts, the ability to make personal connections between course concepts and everyday life, the ability to use critical thinking to further understanding and comprehension of course content.
- 20% of grade- Work Habits
 - This includes homework being turned in on assigned date, respectful and active class participation.
 - I will accept late assignments, but it will affect your grade!
 - In the past year I have had a number of students finish below their expectations because of late assignments. If you miss class it is **your** responsibility to find out what you missed.
- Expect homework on a regular basis. Students are responsible for checking with me to get makeup work.
- Grades will be updated and posted on a regular basis.
- Thoughtful class participation is expected and can make the difference between an 'A' and an 'A-'.
- Cheating is unacceptable and will earn a zero. School policy will be enforced.

Rules

- All school policies and procedures will be followed.
- No food, pop, energy drinks, etc. in the classroom. Water is fine.
- Absolutely no cell phones, no exceptions.
- Passes are required in the hallways at all times.

Lastly, if there are any questions, don't be afraid to ask. I am usually available before or after school and my semester schedule is posted outside my room and on my website. Also, this is the first time this course is being offered and we will be learning together.

The Game Plan

Week 1- Approaches to Psychology: Introduction and Methods

~What are you doing here? This week will be an exploration of the basics of Psychology including approaches and basic research methods

Week 2- The Workings of the Mind and Body: Body and Behavior

~Amber S says if you have had Anatomy to be ready for a little repetition. This week will look at the Nervous System, the Brain, and the nature/nurture debate

Week 3- The Workings of the Mind and Body: Altered States of Conscience

~A look at sleep, dreams, hypnosis, meditation, and drugs and their effect on consciousness.

Week 4- The Workings of the Mind and Body: Sensation and Perception

~Not sensation in the Justin Beiber vein, rather a look at how stimuli shape our perceptions.

Week 5- Learning and Cognitive Processes: Principles and Application

~Pavlov's dogs and Classical Conditioning, Skinner's box and Operant Conditioning, and Social Learning will be the focus of the week.

Week 6- Flex Week

Week 7- Learning and Cognitive Processes: Memory & Thought; Thinking & Language

~Why can you remember what happened on Glee four weeks ago, but can't find your car keys?

Memory is explored, as well as a look at the foundations of language.

Week 8- Learning and Cognitive Processes: Motivation and Emotion

~Why won't you do your Math homework? Why are you crying in the bathroom again, Dominic? Motivation and Emotion!

Week 9- Personality and Individuality: Psychological Testing

~Do these tests work? Do you even know what they are? Well, you will.

Week 10- The Chapter Three, Four, and Five Group Project

Week 11- Presentations from Week 10

Week 12- Adjustment and Breakdown: Stress and Health

~Sources, reactions, and coping with stress.

Week 13- Adjustment and Breakdown: Psychological Disorders

~This week will explore definition and classification and feature DSM Charades and The Devil and Daniel Johnston.

Week 14- Flex Week

Week 15- Adjustment and Breakdown: Therapy and Change

~How are serious psychological illnesses dealt with? Featuring One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest.

Week 16- Social Psychology: Individual Interaction

~Interpersonal Attraction, Social Perception, and Personal Relationships; this should be easy, right?

Week 17- Social Psychology: Group Interaction

~Why do teenage boys get dumber when they are in larger groups? Let's find out...

Week 18- Social Psychology: Attitudes and Social Influence

~Did society make you? Let's find out.

Week 19- Review and Final

~Put on your big boy pants, you'll need them.