

## **Psychology Syllabus**

Fall 2017/Spring 2018

Teacher: Ms. Stephanie Zavlanos

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### **Course Description:**

This course will introduce students to the systematic and scientific approach to the study of human behavior and mental processes. Students will explore a general overview of the various aspects of psychology including: research methods, biological basis of behavior, sensation and perception, learning, memory, motivation and emotion, personality, intelligence, developmental psychology and abnormal psychology and treatments. This will be accomplished through the use of case studies, videos, and hands on activities to better understand how we work and function as human beings.

**Texts:** Use of a class set of *Psychology*, David G. Myers, Chapters/Excerpts from: *40 Studies that Changed Psychology*, Roger Hock; *Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat*, Oliver Sacks; *DSM V (Diagnostics and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5<sup>th</sup> edition*, American Psychiatric Association, among others.

**Course Outline:** \*Subject to Change\*

**Unit 1: Introduction, Perspectives, Research, Nature v Nurture**

**Unit 2: Biology, Sensation & Perception**

**Unit 3: States of Consciousness, Stress & Health**

**Unit 4: Learning, Memory**

**Unit 5: Thinking & Language, Intelligence**

**Unit 6: Motivation & Emotion, Development, Personality**

**Unit 7: Psychological Disorders & Treatments**

**Unit 8: Social Psychology**

### **Grading:**

- 1) Class Activities/Participation/Discussions: 20%
- 2) Source Based Reading, Writing, and Critiques & Film/Video Analysis: 30%
- 3) Unit Projects: 30%
- 4) Gradable Experience/Final Exam: 20%

### **Class Rules:**

1. Be On Time to class each day.
2. Be Prepared by having all required materials and all completed work.
3. Be Focused on what is happening in our class, not worrying about your work for other subjects (I will take up homework, etc for other classes if you are doing them during our class).
4. Be Respectful of your peers, teacher and self. As comments, ideas and opinions are offered please be courteous in your feedback.
5. Be Ready to learn and contribute! This is your class, so help make it the way you want. Titans have compassion, integrity, personal responsibility, and a positive attitude :)

**CELL PHONE POLICY:** Phones are NOT allowed in class unless the teacher grants you specific permission to use it during a given class period for research. Follow your teacher's policy.

**CHROMEBOOK POLICY:** Please bring your Chromebook to class every day. Make sure to charge it every night so it can last through the entire school day. We will not necessarily use the Chromebooks every day. Wait until your teacher asks for you to open them up and start using them.

Please refer to the student handbook for other school policies and rules

### **ATTENDANCE & TARDIES:**

- Students are expected to be in class and ready to begin work when the second and final bell sounds. Upon the first tardy, you will be given a written warning. The second tardy will earn a private detention, the third tardy an administrative referral and two days public detention, and the fourth tardy will earn an administrative referral, Saturday school, and possible further consequences.
- If you are absent, you must obtain an admit slip from the attendance office before going to class. It is your responsibility to show your admit slip to your teacher, get it signed, and ask what you missed.

- Students with an excused absence will be granted an extension to complete all missed assignments equal to the duration of the absence, with no penalty. Students with an unexcused absence may make up missed assignments, but the work may be treated as late work for partial credit.
- If you are absent the day before an assessment is due, you are still expected to turn in the assessment **on the day you return!** If you are absent on the day of an assessment due you are expected to turn in the assessment on the day you return! This is because assessments are announced well in advance.
- Teachers reserve the right to give a comparable and fair alternate assessment to any student who is absent during a graded assignment of any kind, including quizzes or tests.

**LATE WORK POLICY:**

Students are required to submit assignments on the due date. If a student submits an assignment late, the penalty is as follows:

- 10% reduction in the score earned on that assignment PER DAY that the assignment is late
- After an assignment is 5 days late, there will be a 50% reduction in the score earned on that assignment. But, the deduction will never be more than 50%. So you are encouraged to turn in all assignments to still earn at least half-credit.
- **IMPORTANT:** To be eligible for recovery, ALL ASSIGNMENTS from throughout the semester must be turned in. There cannot be any 0s in the gradebook. Teachers will accept late work at any time until 10 days before the end of the semester. Please refer to the handbook for more details on this policy.

**Recovery Policy:** Recovery is for students who, despite a conscientious effort and communication with their teachers, have failed to demonstrate satisfactory understanding of course standards. It is not for the student who has been failing for many weeks and then wishes to recover during the final days of the course. Opportunities for students to recover from a 74 or below cumulative average will be provided when all work required to date has been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements. Students who have not attempted to complete all course requirements are not eligible for recovery. 2. Students may initiate recovery on major assessments starting with the second major assessment of the semester as long as they have made a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance. Unexcused absences may prevent this opportunity. 3. So that students stay focused on the content at hand and don't become overwhelmed and fall too far behind, they must initiate recovery on a major assessment within five school days of being informed of the grade on that assessment. Recovery work must be completed within ten school days prior to the end of the semester. The nature and type of recovery assignment is given at the discretion of the teacher. \*Grading guidelines for recovery assignments will vary by department. It is the responsibility of the student to fully understand the grading guidelines/highest possible score for completed recovery work.\*

**HONOR CODE:** Cheating has been defined as giving or receiving information relating to a gradable experience including the use of sources other than those specifically approved by the teacher. Plagiarism and the related act of allowing another student to use one's work are not to be considered inconsequential pranks. Such acts involve serious moral implications; they constitute lying and stealing. They are unjust to teachers who spend valuable time evaluating the paper. They are ultimately harmful to the student committing the act, who is deliberately undermining his/her integrity, destroying his/her reputation, and breaking the trust that must exist between a student and teacher. An honor code violation results in a zero on the assignment, no opportunity to make up the work, and disciplinary action. For the complete honor code policy, visit the Student Handbook on [www.northviewhigh.com](http://www.northviewhigh.com)

**Use of Films/Movies:** Throughout the course films, clips of films, as well as TV shows will be used as tool for students to apply the content we have learned. Anything used will have a clear connection to content/standards in the psychology course and have an assignment to complete that demonstrates students' knowledge. A permission slip will signed acknowledging permission to watch movies/clips from PG, PG-13, and R rated films. If permission is not granted alternate assignments will be provided.

**Teacher Availability:** Please do not hesitate to contact me at any point during the semester with your questions or concerns. The best way to get in touch with me is via email (see above). If at any time parents wish to arrange an appointment to discuss their student's progress, please let me know. I will be available before and after school by appointment for help sessions, make up exams, private detentions and conferences. ***Students, please let me know if you are confused or concerned so we can remedy the situation before it becomes a problem.***