

NOUVEL HIGH SCHOOL
Psychology I
COURSE SYLLABUS

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| <p>COURSE DESCRIPTION:</p> | <p>This Psychology course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to psychological facts; principles and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the ethics and methods that psychologist use in their science and practice.</p> |
| <p>MAJOR COURSE GOALS:</p> | <p>Students are introduced to the discipline of psychology by emphasizing the history of psychology as a science, the different theoretical approaches that underlie explanations of behavior, and the many different subfields within psychology.</p> <p>Students also learn about the many different fields within psychology and about the importance of ethics in both scientific research and the practice of psychology.</p> <p>Students need to understand the relationship between psychology and behavior. The course also helps students gain an understanding of how the nervous system functions on a cellular level, and explore the interrelationship of the nervous system and the endocrine system. The study of sensation and perception often begins with the concept of threshold. Coverage includes anatomy and function of the eye and ear, color theories of vision, audition, perceptual acuity, sensory adaptation and sensory disorders such as deafness and color blindness.</p> <p>Students are introduced to the differences between learned and unlearned behavior. It covers basic learning processes of classical conditioning and operant conditioning and discusses Skinner, Pavlov, and more recent figures in learning theory. In studying motivation, students learn about the forces that influence the strength and direction of behavior.</p> <p>Students also explore the nature of and responses to conflicting motives.</p> |
| <p>COURSE ASSESSMENT PLAN:</p> | <p>Tests and chapter projects will be given for every chapter. A formal research paper will be assigned in place of a final exam.</p> |
| <p>SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS NEEDED:</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Utensil • 3-ring binder (tabs: notes, journal, graded papers) |

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| EXTRA HELP: | Extra help is available before or after school, or through www.edmodo.com . |
| INSTRUCTIONAL PHILOSOPHY: | I understand that our students are multifaceted and approach their studies from a broad spectrum of emotions, attitudes, backgrounds, experience and needs. However, I believe that sound curriculum coupled with consistent and effective teaching and learning methods will enable every student to: apply critical thinking skills in solving problems of everyday life, participate intelligently in civic affairs, and compete in the high performance future demands. Specifically I believe that each student can be successful in learning. |
| MAJOR COURSE PROJECTS AND INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journal Entries • Psychological Articles • Tests/Unit Projects • Experiments • Research Paper |
| CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS: | Every Student is expected to arrive on time with the appropriate materials ready to participate. Active participation is required of all students. Plagiarism is unacceptable and will result in a failing grade. |
| HOMEWORK POLICY AND GRADING SCALE: | Various methods of evaluation will be used. The purpose is to give exposure and experience to a variety of procedures. All work will be assigned point values as determined by their importance. The final paper will be worth 20% of the semester grade. The grading scale used is published in the Nouvel student handbook. Absolutely no late assignments will be accepted except in the case of excused absences. |
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