**Advanced Placement Psychology**

**Course Syllabus**

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***Course Overview***

The purpose of the Advanced Placement course in Psychology is to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes of human beings and animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the methods psychologists use in their science and practice. (Taken from the Advanced Placement Course Description in Psychology by the College Board.)

***Course Objectives***

1. Students will prepare to do acceptable work on the Advanced Placement Examination in Psychology.

2. Students will study the major core concepts and theories of psychology. They will be able to define key terms and use these terms in their everyday vocabulary.

3. Students will learn the basic skills of psychological research. They will be able to devise simple research projects, interpret and generalize from results and evaluate the validity of research reports.

4. Students will be able to apply psychological concepts to their own lives. They should be able to recognize psychological principles when they are encountered in everyday situations.

5. Students will develop critical thinking skills. They will become aware of the danger of blindly accepting or rejecting any psychological theory without careful, objective evaluation.

6. Students will build their reading, writing, and discussion skills.

7. Students will learn about psychology as a profession, and become aware of the educational requirements, which must be met to pursue such careers. They will learn about the ethical standards governing the work of psychologists.

***Course Textbook***

Myers, David G. (2010). *Myers’ Psychology For AP\*.* New York: Worth.

***Supplemental Readings***

Supplemental readings will be provided throughout the year by the teacher. These will be from a variety of sources and are required readings.

***Evaluation & Grading***

Grading will follow the standard Methacton School District formula with all graded material evaluated on a percentage basis with an ultimate percentage grade for each marking period. ***The MHS Academic Honor Code is enforced in this classroom.***

Students will be evaluated in the following areas:

1. **Quizzes**  -

Quizzes may or may not be announced. **All quizzes must be made up within *one week* of absence or the quiz will not be allowed to be made up and will be issued a zero for a grade.**

2. **Tests** –

At the end of each unit an AP-style test will be given consisting of multiple choice questions and a Free Response Question. All tests will be cumulative in nature in preparation for the AP Exam in May. **All tests must be made up within *one week* of absence or the test will not be allowed to be made up and a zero will be issued for a grade.**

3. **Quarterly Projects** –

In each marking period students will be required to complete at least one class project. Each project will be announced and sufficient amount of time to complete will be given. These assignments will vary in type and may require group work.  ***Projects will not be accepted late.*** *Students need to make arrangements to hand in projects on the due date even if they will not be in school/class on that date unless provisions have been made ahead of time with the teacher.*

*4.* **Homework**-

The majority of the homework assignments for this class will consist of nightly reading. ***No graded homework assignments will not be accepted late.*** If work is late due to illness, the student will have two days to turn in work for every day absent. Any work due to absences not turned in within the time limit does not have to be accepted by the teacher. Additionally, if the student is in school, just not in class (such as leaving early or on a field trip), then the homework will be expected to be turned in on the due date. *Homework is posted in the classroom, and will generally be listed on the monthly homework calendar, which students receive a copy of and posted on the teacher’s website and Google Classroom.*  It is the **student’s responsibility** to make sure after an absence that he/she receives all required work.

*5.* **Participation** –

Class participation is very important in this class. Participation includes but not limited to class discussion, lab work,and class work. Each quarter a participation grade may be entered at the very end of the marking period which will reflect the effort of the student during that time period. *While points are not awarded or removed on a daily basis, a student’s refusal to participate in any activity will result in a lowered participation grade. Any student caught on his/her cell phone, sleeping, working on another class’s assignment or some other inappropriate activity should expect a lowered participation grade.*

***Required Materials***

1. Three- ring binder or a separate section in a binder

2. Note paper

3. Pens/Pencils

4. Materials as needed for Quarterly Projects

***Classroom Rules***

***1.*** ***NO PHONES IN CLASS*. All communication devices, including but not limited to cell phones, smart watches and Chromebooks will be placed in a teacher provided location as all students walk into class. All communication devices, as listed above will be turned off and not accessed until the end of class. Any and all use of cell phones or other communication devices will result in the loss of the phone/device. The phone/device will be turned into the Assistant Principal office to be handled according to the MHS rules. *Phones/devise use during a test or quiz, even if the student has completed the test/quiz will result in a zero (0) for that assessment, in addition to the loss of phone/device.***

***2.*** Respect yourself and others at all times. During class there may be discussions that do not support your personal beliefs, please be respectful of the viewpoints of others.

***3.*** Be on time and prepared for class. *Repeated lateness will result in disciplinary action.*

***4.*** ***NO EATING OR DRINKING IN CLASS.*** Closed top bottles of water are acceptable.

***5.*** Bathroom privileges **must not be abused** or will result in **loss of privilege.** Students will not be permitted to sign out during tests or quizzes until he/she has completed the assessment.

***6.*** **All head coverings** (other than for religious observation) must be removed upon entering the classroom. This includes all hats, hoodies, scarves and bandannas.

***7.*** **Classroom Dress Code.** No underwear is to be visible. No midriffs are to be visible. No clothing promoting drugs or alcohol may be visible. These items are disruptive to the learning process and should not be in my classroom.

***8.*** **Cheating/Plagiarism will not be tolerated**. The first offense will result in a zero (0) for the work completed. The second offense will result in a failure for the marking period as per school rules.

**UNITS Overview**

1. Psychology’s History and Approaches

2. Research Methods

3. Biological Bases of Behavior

4. Sensation and Perception

5. States of Consciousness

6. Learning

7. Cognition

8. Motivation and Emotion

9. Developmental Psychology

10. Personality

11. Testing and Individual Differences

12. Abnormal Psychology

13. Treatment of Psychological Disorders

14. Social Psychology

**Movie Permission**

As a way to supplement the AP Psychology curriculum the teacher plans to incorporate several Hollywood movies rated PG, PG-13 or R. Movies combined with activities and in-class discussions enable the students to have a well-rounded opportunity to examine how psychology is viewed by our culture. The following movies are examples of movies shown in class, but are not a complete list: *Rain Man, Benny & Joon,* and *As Good As It Gets.* Please contact the teacher if you have any questions about the movies used as part of the educational experience in psychology.

**A parent’s initial is needed below.**.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I give my child permission to view all movies shown in Psychology class.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No, I do not give my child permission to view all movies shown in Psychology class.

**I have read and understand all the above statements.**

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Parent/Guardian Signature & Date Student’s Signature & Date

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Student’s Name Printed