

COURSE: *Psychology*, ½ Credit, One Semester

INSTRUCTOR: Mr. Burkholder

TEXT: Psychology: Principles In Practice, Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1998

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The public has a long history of fascination with the subject matter of psychology, and much of popular culture today (movies, television, books and magazines) focuses on psychological topics. Psychology courses enjoy tremendous popularity in both high schools and colleges across the country. The American Psychological Association estimates psychology is one of two or three most popular majors on college campuses and Money magazine listed 'psychologist' fourth among promising careers for the next decade.

Despite its popularity, psychology faces major challenges in the foreseeable future, ranging from conserving our planet's resources, to reducing prejudice and discrimination, promoting healthier lifestyles, building stronger family ties, to meeting the demands of the new information era. However, the most serious problems facing the world today contain significant behavioral components that can not be solved by the natural sciences alone. Behavioral problems are difficult to solve and behavioral change is difficult to achieve. Nevertheless, as our understanding of human behavior grows, so does our ability to affect behavioral change. An educated citizenry versed in critical-thinking skills, the multiple causes of behavior, as well as some knowledge of the methods that can produce behavioral change can make an extreme influence to enhance the quality of their own lives as well as contribute more broadly to their world.

The course will focus on five psychological domains. The domains are 1) Methods, 2) Biopsychological, 3) Cognitive, 4) Developmental, and 5) Sociocultural. The goal is to foster learning through teaching, technological access and relevant research applications. Ideally, students will develop certain abilities and attitudes to satisfy their curiosity of human behavior.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Tests and other assignments will be evaluated both for accuracy and for clarity, grammar and effort. Other considerations for grading include the completeness of the assignment as well as the time and manner it is turned in. Quarter grades are weighted as follows;

Unit Tests	35%
Project	20%
Quizzes/other	25%
Notebook	10%
Participation	10%

A final grade is determined by computing each quarter grade with the final exam grade.

GRADING POLICY: A final grade is determined by computing each quarter grade (40%) with the final exam grade (20%). **YOU MUST PASS 2 OF THE 3 TO EARN CREDIT FOR THE COURSE.**

SCALE

93 - 100%	A	77 - 79%	C+
90 - 92%	A-	73 - 76%	C
87 - 89%	B+	70 - 72%	C-
83 - 86%	B	67 - 69%	D+
80 - 82%	B-	63 - 66%	D
		60 - 62%	D-

FEEDBACK TO STUDENTS: Assignments and Tests will be returned as soon as possible – usually 1-3 days. All papers should be placed in the student's notebook. Grade updates will be made available approximately every 2 weeks.

MAKE-UP WORK: Students are responsible to see the teacher to receive any assignments missed. **If you are absent, see me immediately when you return.** The number of days *excused* absent will generally be the number of days given to complete the missing work. **Tests must be made up within 5 days of your return after an excused absence.** Tests may be of different format. If a student has an In-School Detention before a test is given, the student will be responsible for the material presented and take the test the same day as the rest of the class. Students with an Out-of-School detention are responsible to obtain all work **before** their suspension and will take any make-up tests immediately upon returning to class while turning any missing assignments.

EXTRA HELP: Extra help is available by your request. See me to make arrangements.

EXTRA CREDIT: There will be opportunities for extra points throughout the marking period. These points will be offered to all students, usually in the form of bonus questions on tests. Individual extra credit will not be offered. Extra credit, by definition, is for points beyond the normal assignments, not instead of the assignment.

CLASSROOM RULES: In addition to the specific rules listed here, all regulations in the Student Handbook are to be followed. This includes the Tardy and the Attendance policy.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1. All students are expected to be moving to or in their seats when the bell rings.**
- 2. Be prepared for class daily. This includes a writing utensil, book, computer, notebook & completed assignments.**
Late assignments will be not be accepted.
- 3. Sit in your assigned seat unless otherwise instructed. Stay seated until directed otherwise.**
- 4. Food & drink (other than water) is not permitted in the classroom.**
- 5. Stay sitting up and alert. (head down is NOT acceptable).**
- 6. Do not write on the desks, other furniture, walls, friends, and books... Write on paper only.**
- 7. BE RESPECTFUL OF THE INSTRUCTOR, OTHERS AND YOURSELF!!!**
- 8. Absolute quiet during quizzes and tests.**
- 9. Remain quiet during any announcements that may be given.**
- 10. Ask permission to use belongings of others.**
- 11. Follow all rules and exhibit good behavior.**
- 12. DO NOT work on another class assignment during our classtime. I would not expect you to complete Psychology work in another class, so have the common courtesy to do the same in my class. This includes working on this class' assignments during notes or lecture.**
- 13. Have fun learning.**

LAPTOP NORMS

The purpose of developing norms for utilizing laptops in the classroom is to provide consistency in teaching for all students at PCHS. Consistency from teacher to teacher will reduce conflicts for students and provide for the best learning atmosphere where all students can learn appropriate boundaries with technology.

The staff has developed the following laptop norms:

Individual teachers have the authority to establish classroom procedures for the use of technology not specified in the acceptable use policy.

1. No bags in the room other than school provided laptop bags.
2. Only teacher approved programs and activities may be used.
3. Students are responsible for charging their computers. In the event that they don't have it charged, they must charge it in a safe location (i.e., the side of the room, the break out room, counters, etc.).
4. Digital citizenship is expected for all students.
5. All students must print to the media center only.
6. **All assignments must be printed prior to coming to class.**
7. When laptop privileges are revoked or if the student forgets his/her laptop, he/she is still expected to perform academically in the classroom.