IB PSYCHOLOGY SL YEAR 1 SYLLABUS

Teacher: Ms. L. James

Email address: lanora.james@pgcps.org

Phone Ext: 404

Class website: http://teacherweb.com/MD/CrosslandHighSchool/LJames/

INTRODUCTION

Psychology is the study of behavior and mental processes. The origin of the field of psychology comes from biology, philosophy, and physiology. The fundamental questions of "Why do people behave the way that they do in certain situations?" and "How can people change their behaviors?" will be addressed along with research methodology.

Students are expected to develop their critical thinking and research skills throughout the course. Each student will be required to complete an "Internal Assessment." The Internal Assessment includes researching background information and planning a research experiment.

DESIRED STUDENT OUTCOMES/OBJECTIVES:

- Demonstrate a systematic and critical study of: human experience and behavior; physical, economic and social environments; and the history and development of social and cultural institutions.
- Identify, analyze critically and evaluate theories, concepts and arguments about the nature and activities of the individual.
- Collect, describe, and analyze data used in studies of society, test hypotheses, and interprets complex data and source material.
- Recognize that the content and methodologies of psychology are contestable and their study requires the tolerations of uncertainty.
- Develop an awareness of how psychological research can be applied for the benefit of human beings.
- Ensure that ethical practices are upheld in psychological inquiry.
- Develop an understanding of the biological and cognitive influences on human behavior.
- Develop an understanding of alternative explanations of behavior.
- Understand and use diverse methods of psychological inquiry.

COURSE SCOPE & SEQUENCE

I. History of Psychology
   a. The science of psychology
   b. Timeline of key psychologists and theories
   c. Famous psychologists: Freud, Skinner, Watson, Maslow…

II. Research Methodology
   a. Overview of quantitative and qualitative methods
   b. The experimental method
   c. Design, sampling, variables, validity, reliability, and ethics
   d. Analysis of empirical studies

III. Biological Structure of Analysis
    a. Methodology – animals, genetics, case studies, ethics
    b. Brain development – critical periods, prenatal, deprivation, and neuroplasticity
    c. Brain function and location – Sperry & Wernicke or Broca
    d. Neurotransmission and endocrine system
    e. Emotion/cognition – frontal lobes – criminal behavior
    f. Memory – biological factors
    g. Emotion – happiness
    h. Aggression
    i. Genetics –temperament
    j. Gender identity – biological differences in genders
    k. Adolescence – physical changes and identity
IV. Cognitive Level of Analysis
    a. Overview
    b. Memory – 2 models
    c. Memory and culture
    d. Emotion: cognitive appraisal, effects on memory, happiness, learned helplessness
    e. Criminal behavior
V. Abnormal Psychology
    a. Overview
    b. Method of identifying abnormality
    c. Categories of abnormal behavior
    d. Therapies
VI. Health Psychology
    a. Overview
    b. Effects of Stress on the Human Body
    c. Effects of Stress on Cognitive Processes
VII. Social Psychology
    a. Overview
    b. Social interaction
    c. Relationships
    d. Social Phenomenons

TEXTBOOK(S):

Crane, J. and Hannibal, J. (2010). *IB psychology course companion: International baccalaureate diploma programme.*

Myers, D.G. (2004). *Psychology* (8th ed.). New York, NY: Worth Publishers.

SUGGESTED SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES:

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (5th or 6th ed.)

www.apastyle.org

Dictionary of Psychology

MATERIALS NEEDED:

1” 3-ring binder

Notebook paper

Journal book

Copy paper

Standard blue/black ink pens

Highlighter pens (at least 2)

USB/Flash/Thumb drive

Internet access (MANDATORY – must be able to research and email during the school week and on weekends!)

METHODS OF EVALUATION OF COURSE OUTCOMES/OBJECTIVES:

- Classroom activities
- In – Class writing assignments
- Current Events – Psychology in the News
- Homework
- Quizzes
- Internal assessment (experiment)
- Individual projects/presentations
- Tests (mostly essay questions)
- Final Exam

GRADING SCALE:

Classwork - classroom activities, in-class writing assignments: 25%

Homework – Psychology in the News, short and long term research assignments: 25%

Quizzes – 20%

Individual Projects/Presentations , Tests, Final Exams – 30%

CLASSROOM RULES:

1. **Come to class prepared with all materials (i.e. textbook, notebook, paper, pens, etc.) every class.**
2. **Be seated in your desk quietly when the late bell rings.**
3. **Respect everyone and their property at all times.**
4. **Turn in all work ON TIME and in the correct location BEFORE leaving class.**
5. **Raise your hand and wait to be acknowledged before speaking.**
6. **All electronic devices MUST be turned completely off and kept in pockets, purses, bookbags at all times.**
7. **Stay seated in your desk until Ms. James dismisses the class.**

CONSEQUENCES FOR MINOR CLASSROOM BEHAVIORAL INFRACTIONS:

1st time → Warning

2nd time → One-on-one private conference with student and possible documentation on SchoolMax Notes.

3rd time → Parent/Guardian will be contact via email or phone and documentation on SchoolMax Notes.

4th time → Request for conference with parent/guardian (email or phone communication may be substituted) and documentation on SchoolMax Notes.

5th time →Discipline administrator will be notified.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Dishonesty on a class assignment (i.e. homework, classwork, quiz, test) includes any occasion that a student passes another students work off as their own or gives another student an answer or his/her work to be passed off as their own. Plagiarism is the passing off of any research information for a project, presentation, or paper as one's own without proper documentation. Plagiarism includes word-for-word copying or paraphrase information that is not common knowledge without proper documentation. (See the class website for the APA reference style.) Any incident of dishonesty or plagiarism on any given work will result in a **zero** on the assignment, and parental/guardian notification via email or phone and SchoolMax Notes.

PLEASE NOTE THAT PARENTS AND STUDENTS CAN NOW ACCESS THE STUDENT'S GRADES, ATTENDANCE/TARDIES, AND CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR CONCERNS DAILY THROUGH SCHOOLMAX. PLEASE USE THIS RESOURCE!

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

This year students will be given the opportunity to earn community service hours throughout the school year by participating in social awareness projects and activities implemented through Club Psi, our new psychology club. Check the class website and listen for updates from Ms. James in the near future!

PARENT INFORMATION & SIGNATURE FORM

(Please return this completed form for a homework grade)

<table>
<tr><td colspan="4">Student Name: (please print)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Parent/Guardian Name: (please print)</td><td colspan="2">Parent/Guardian Name: (please print)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Home phone:</td><td>Cell phone:</td><td>Home phone:</td><td>Cell phone:</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Email address:</td><td colspan="2">Email address:</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">It is important that we establish the best educational opportunities for your student from the beginning of the school year. Below please indicate any concerns you may have about your student in this class (i.e. location of his/her desk in the classroom, vision/hearing problems, learning disabilities, behavioral issues, medical issues, etc.). Knowledge of this information will help me to address those issues or concerns as early as possible. Please note that this parent information and signature form will be kept confidential and will only be shared with administration, if needed.</td></tr>
</table>

By signing this form, you are confirming that you:

- **Have read the attached course syllabus;**
- **Have knowledge of how to contact Ms. L. James through email and course website for updates on your student behavior, academic progress, or any other concerns;**
- **Have knowledge of stay abreast of your student's grades through SchoolMax;**
- **Have knowledge of Community Service opportunities through Club Psi; and**
- **Have knowledge of the PGCPS Cell Phone Policy**

Student's Name (please print):_____ _____ Name of Course: _____

Parent's/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____