

Psychology Course Syllabus

Dr. L. James/ Crossland High School/ Room #220

Class website: [http:// http://teacherweb.com/MD/CrosslandHighSchool/LJames/apt1.aspx](http://http://teacherweb.com/MD/CrosslandHighSchool/LJames/apt1.aspx)

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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 during the course. Each student is sure to find one or more topics of interest that will hopefully motivate them to pursue individual research.

The following are class expectations:

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The following are the course objectives:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of perspectives in psychology, research methods, terminology, and concepts in psychology.
2. Improve writing skills in regards to psychological content and technical aspects of writing.
3. Critically evaluate psychological issues presented to them in class.

COURSE GOALS:

- Utilize a variety of study aids to increase overall memory level
- Analyze and research psychological issues
- Review scholarly publications in the field of psychology
- Think critically and logically about research findings using psychological terms
- Evaluate strengths and weaknesses in their own academic performances
- Be critical consumers of scientific research
- Improve writing skills
- Compare scholarly publications
- Analyze, interpret, and respond to stimulus-based data including charts, graphs, cartoons, and quotes

TEXTBOOK:

Rathus, S.A. (2010). *Psychology: Principles in practice*. Austin, TX: Holt McDougal.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- 1" 3-ring binder, notebook paper, copy paper, standard blue/black ink pens, highlighter pens (at least 2), and a USB flash/thumb drive

STUDENT EVALUATION

- Quizzes will be periodically given on reading assignments and vocabulary.
- Test format: multiple choice and free-response (essay) questions
- Homework – most homework will consist of defining terms, researching, and reading. Written homework will be given a deadline that will be strictly adhered to. Late assignments will be penalized!
- Each student will be given a copy of the unit homework assignments at the beginning of each unit AND can be accessed via the class website.
- Pair-Share Class Work – assignments will be given periodically where 2 students are required to collaborate and give a class presentation or turn in final work. Individual Class Work
- Final Exam –will be comprehensive for all material covered during the semester.

GRADING SCALE:

***Parents and students are advised that if a student is not earning a passing grade by the issuance of the 1st Quarter progress report, a parent-teacher-student meeting will be scheduled to discuss a strategy for how the student can be successful in this course.

Class Work (writing, group, and individual assignments): 25%

Homework: 25%

Reading & Vocabulary Quizzes: 20%

PROJECTS, UNIT TESTS and SEMESTER & 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.

DISHONESTY AND PLAGIARISM

Blatant dishonesty on any class assignment (i.e. homework, classwork, quiz, test, project, essay) will not be tolerated.

- Plagiarism is → any occasion that a student passes another student's 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 is → word-for-word copying or paraphrasing information that is not common knowledge without proper documentation. (See the class website for the APA reference style.) Rule of thumb...if you are not sure, "cite it."

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 psychology club. Check the class website and listen for updates from Dr. James in the near future!